

Dear Mr Phillip Glyde, the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton, and Ms Heather Neil

I was relieved to learn our government has made a commitment to end live sheep export (by sea). The fact Australia supported and took part in this industry for so long was disappointing. Australians are now aware of the horrific cruelty live animal export entails, and thus want certainty this trade will end. I supported Labour last selection because of their policy in relation to phasing out live export – thus I would hope the phase-out will be legislated and commenced within this term of parliament.

Similarly, I sincerely hope the phasing out process begins and ends as soon as possible. The live export trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas. Thus, the government's allowing of the inhumane live export trade has negatively impacted Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. New Zealand has set a powerful precedent having already banned live export.

I understand swift changes to industry legislations, even if they are more than warranted as in this case, inevitable impacts those working in the sector. Thus, I would support the idea of impacted farmers receiving government support to help them transition into a new area of employment. Looking into how New Zealand managed the transition out of live export could provide some insight into what strategies would be best in this regard.

Most of all, I do believe we need to uphold our reputation as a humane and ethical nation, and thus phase out live export swiftly. Meanwhile, I trust with the right expert strategies, any major negative impacts on those working in the industry can be appropriately managed.

Thank you