

Phasing Out Live Sheep Export.

I have been speaking out against live animal export for many years (and not just sheep, but it's a good start). My principal reason is the sheer cruelty of the practice – right from the time they are loaded onto trucks to be transported to ships – and we have seen footage of the conditions on these ships, only to meet with untold horrors at the other end. Perhaps not “untold”, because we have seen footage and reporting of that, too. As I have been saying for years, these animals are sentient beings, not commodities. Would decision-makers treat their household pets like that? There is no difference from the animal's perspective. Thankfully, the government has followed through on its promise to stop live sheep export. Congratulations. I welcome the phase-out with open arms.

Given the extreme suffering of every animal which will still be transported live during the phase-out process, it obviously needs to begin as quickly as possible and the process completed as quickly as possible. We need the phase-out to be legislated, and to commence in this term of parliament.

I think it is very important for farmers to receive government support to help with the transition. It also makes more sense to me to be value-adding before sending the meat overseas, and surely that could open up more local markets.

I note with great interest that New Zealand has ended live animal export. This has marked them out as a fair and compassionate nation. Don't we want the same reputation on the world stage?

A caring and compassionate society is what is needed, and this includes banning live export, taking big and urgent action on climate change, social housing, and so on. They all tie in together.

One farmer up the ██████ said to me that he used to export his sheep live, but when he heard about the conditions during and after the journey, he stopped immediately and found local markets for his animals. But for those farmers who do not do this, the changes must be forced upon them.

\$8.3 million going to Vietnamese abattoirs – what’s that about? Use it for building the appropriate abattoirs at home.