

14 May 2023

The Australian Government
Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry

Submission: Phase out live sheep exports by sea

I feel passionately about this subject, this trade is inherently cruel, even when all the regulations are followed animals suffer terribly. I find the idea of sea transporting animals in horrendous conditions abhorrent and those that survive the horrific journey are met with cruel and inhumane slaughter.

I have been a vocal supporter to end of live animal exports for more than a decade, lobbied my Federal MP over many years and voted Labor in the last two federal elections with the election promise of ending live sheep exports top of mind.

Australian's need certainty that this trade will end, that the phase out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament and that the phase out begins and ends as soon as possible. I support that farmers receive government support to help them transition.

This year New Zealand became the first country to end live animal exports by sea and The Federal Court in Brazil ordered to end live cattle exports. The tide is turning, continuing to defend this trade undermines Australia's international reputation as a compassionate nation along with public trust in Australia's agriculture sector.

The phase out must begin and end as soon as possible. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature block]