

## Ending Live Sheep Export

### Submission to the Federal Government Independent Panel (Public Consultation phase) May 2023



Dear Panel

I am greatly heartened and appreciative of this Government finally working to bring this inhumane trade to an end.

I strongly support the phase-out of live sheep export, and would like it extended to live cattle export (although I understand the Government is not, as yet, prepared to act on that).

Multiple investigations since at least 2003 (Animals Australia) have shocked the nation, which had little knowledge of the harsh and brutal treatment of our animals.

This trade is inherently cruel. Despite Australia having regulations in place we have no guarantee these are followed. Sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and we have little if any jurisdiction over the brutal handling and painful, un-stunned and often barbaric slaughter overseas.

We have to ask what sort of a nation are we to allow this to continue? Defending or doing nothing about this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. What is the impact of this trade on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation? Surely if New Zealand can do it, we can?

Australians want certainty that this trade will end and the issue won't be pushed off the agenda or derailed by vested interests. I urge the Government to commence preparation of legislation to phase-out this trade within this term of parliament.

In enacting the legislation I also urge the Government to commence that as soon as possible, along with oversight and public accountability to ensure compliance.

I understand farmers will need support in various forms to transition to alternative farming or provision of animals for the fresh/frozen meat export trade. I support Government action here, be it direct financial assistance, or investment in more processing facilities for fresh/frozen meat.

I supported Labor at the last election largely because of this policy. Please pursue it with determination.

Yours sincerely

