

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Thursday 11 May 2023

Dear Minister

This is a disgusting topic which I do not wish to think or write about, yet I must.

I wish to see as quick a beginning and end to the live export phase-out, as possible. Every delay subjects more sheep to inexcusable suffering, from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

It is intolerably cruel, that sheep should be cooked alive in transit. Australians want certainty that this trade will end, through the phase-out being legislated and commencing in this term of parliament, beginning and ending as soon as possible. I support farmers receiving government support to help them transition.

This trade is a stain on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation, particularly since New Zealand ended live export. Also, this trade has undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

I supported Labor at the last election, partly because of this policy. This trade is inherently cruel. Even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

Thank you for acting on this important issue.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.