

Australia Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Agriculture House
70 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601



12 May 2023

Submission: Transition to phase out Live Animal Exports in Australia

Dear Minister Watt

I write in support of the Government ending live animal export and the upcoming consideration of the timeframe and logistics to phase it out. I supported Labor at the last election because Labor stated it will end live animal export.

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.

Australians want certainty that this trade will end; That the phase-out be legislated and commenced in this term of parliament and I support farmers receiving government support to help them to transition.

The impact of this horrendous trade on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation is an indictment especially now given New Zealand's brave precedent in ending live export. Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

I understand the government's policy to end the trade is not being considered this time around but I would like to further underline that this trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

I look forward in anticipation to Australia's shift away from this very cruel trade.

Yours faithfully

