

Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in the live sheep export phase out plan. I am in support of the phase out and I am pleased that the Government is taking steps to fulfil their election commitment to end this practice for Australian sheep.

I am disappointed that the Government will not proceed with this policy until they re-elected for another term. This clearly puts this phase out at risk should the government not be re-elected in 2025 as the opposition have an alternative view to ending live export of sheep. As a member of the Australian community that holds significant concern for our Australian farm animals subjected to the live export trade, I feel it is necessary to share my expectations of this Government to **set the end date** of live sheep export **in this term of Parliament**.

It is so important that a date is set and that this date is as early as practicable to limit the number of sheep that must continue to endure this inherently cruel and unnecessary voyage as well as avoid prolonged uncertainty for Australian farmers. Prior to this defined end date, the government should start to phase out live sheep exports by sea immediately with ongoing reduction in sheep exports leading up to the end date.

I was overjoyed to hear of New Zealand's progress in ending live export in their Country and I think Australia must follow in their footsteps quickly to avoid further impact of this trade on our international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. If the Government continues to allow this trade to continue much longer, it will continue to undermine public trust in Australia agricultural sector.

I think it is important for this Panel to understand the impact of this phase out in NZ and how they have been able to successfully end this trade including what the Government did to support those impacted by this phase out to transition away from the trade. I would expect the Government invest in:

- Increasing the capacity of meat processing in Australia, preferably as close to the point of production as possible to eliminate lengthy road transport which also has a negative impact on sheep welfare.
- Investigate the international market for processed meat and look to expand this market including discussions with Countries Australia currently engages with for live animals and incentivising a transition to processed meat products. Considering that NZ has moved away from the trade and Australia is also planning a phase out, other Countries involved in live sheep export may find pressure increasing to end the trade in these Countries as well.
- Invest in organisations like Farm Transitions Australia to assist Australia farmers with the transition away from live animals and towards plant based products.

Although I appreciate that the merits of the governments' policy to end the live sheep export trade are not being considered by this panel, it is necessary to consider the significant negative impacts that this trade has on each individual animal that is exposed to it. Forcing these gentle, sentient animals (approx. 500,000 from Fremantle as live animals last year) to continue to endure this inherently cruel trade is deeply upsetting. Despite regulations that are intended to manage this trade, sheep continue to suffer and die during these journeys by sea and this trade must therefore end as soon as possible.