

I applaud the Australian Labour Government for committing to phase out live sheep exports from Australia by sea. It is sad it takes so much work and time by NGOs to get this on the table but having the government commit to this is a great start.

It saddens me that this does not include all live export of animals that go to countries who do not have the same values, attitudes and processes in place for treating animals as humanely as possible. However, it is a start and a message to the variety of businesses involved in this industry to start thinking outside the box and coming up with new policies, processes and other business strategies and industries. Change is inevitable and hopefully this process will bring people along to work together strategically and in a civil manner and be adaptable and innovative with this change that will contribute to all live animal exports being phased out. If New Zealand can do it, we can too.

Obviously it will involve the livelihood of a lot of the Australian population but provide opportunities for the start of businesses and manufacturing in this country and that is where the government can support research and development and new innovative businesses. Hopefully the panel and stakeholders can strive for the end goal and come up with strategies that can be evaluated and learned from.