

Thank you to the Australian Labor Government for your election promise to phase out the live export of sheep by sea.

Before deciding my vote in the 2022 Federal Election, I reviewed the policies of each party, and Labor's policy to end live export was the primary reason I voted for Labor.

Noting that there is still uncertainty about how long this trade will continue, and no firm commitment as to when the phase out begins or how long that will take, I now request certainty and action to fulfil that election promise. Specifically, I request that the phase out is legislated and commences in this term of parliament, with the trade ending as soon as reasonably practicable.

Every delay results in inexcusable cruelty and suffering. These animals suffer immense stress at sea for weeks or months and in many importing countries, are fully conscious at slaughter without any oversight of the practices welfare standards Australians expect. We have seen the secret footage, the exposés and supported many campaigns to end the live export trade. If Labor does not move quickly and decisively on this election promise, there is a real risk that a coalition government will get back into power and would most likely not implement or would repeal legislation.

Other than the few who profiteer from this trade, the vast majority of Australians want it to end as soon as possible.

Profit is never the reason to not do the right thing. We can and should follow New Zealand's precedent of being the first country to ban live exports by sea, which came into force 30 April 2023. We should follow New Zealand's example of how a country makes decisions based on morality, and acts in the interests of the public rather than being swayed by the vested interests of a few.

We Australians also want to be proud of being a compassionate and humane nation. We want the decisions of

our leaders to reflect those values. We do not want the excoriated status of being the largest live exporter in the world. We do not want to be ranked the 49<sup>th</sup> worst of 50 countries (equal to Belarus) in the Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index (VACI).

This is a source of shame for Australians and a blight on our international reputation, as other countries also move to legislate against this abhorrent trade. I urge you take action to legislate the phase out of live export in this term of parliament, and complete that phase out with the urgency that Australians want and voted for.