

I am writing in support of a complete phasing out of live export of sheep.

I understand that sheep farmers may need compensation for loss of income when we put an end to this incredibly cruel practice. For no matter what regulations are in place, it is true that the animals suffer greatly when they are packed on board a ship for many weeks.

It may be appropriate to expand domestic processing of Australian sheep, and invest in promotion of export of frozen meat products. That would be a better alternative to the suffering of animals in overseas transport.

I voted Labor in the last election because I have hopes that this government will put an end to the live export of animals. We know that animals slaughtered in other countries are often killed without stunning before being slaughtered, and they can experience great cruelty.

I support our Government's assistance to farmers who may have to modify their farming, and even reduce the numbers of sheep they produce.

Like New Zealand, let Australia be a leader in bringing about compassionate treatment of the animals we raise, and kill for our benefit. We know that animals are sentient beings, and in a humane world, we need to respect those creatures that we raise for our consumption.