

To whom it may concern

**RE: Phase-out of live sheep export**

This submission to your consultation is in support of ending the phase out of live sheep export. I have been following this issue for several years and support a legislated end to this trade, in this term of Parliament, as soon as possible. I supported Labor in the last election because of this policy.

I also support that farmers should receive government support for this transition, as key stakeholders in this industry. I am well aware this transition will affect their livelihoods and they need support to continue working.

Animal welfare remains an important issue worldwide. New Zealand has set the precedent in ending live sheep export, an inherently cruel trade. Australia could follow this model to end the trade. Live export has a significant impact on Australia's reputation as a fair and compassionate country. Continuing this trade lowers public trust in our agricultural sector. Even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

We are the 'lucky' country and can surely figure out a way to help both our animals and people - including options to expand domestic processing of sheep meat.

I look forward to the recommendations of the expert panel for when and how the phase-out should occur. For a kinder future for Australian animals.

Kind regards  
Member of the public  
NSW