

To: Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 28 May 2023
Re: Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

I am writing to express my profound concern around the live sheep export phase-out timeline. I voted Labour at the last election believing that this trade was to end and the phase-out would start and end as soon as possible. At the very least, the phase-out should be legislated and commence in this term of parliament. Delaying this action, will result in continued animal cruelty with more live sheep experiencing the horrors of heat stress, pain, panic, and painful slaughter processes. It would be abhorrent for Australia to be seen locally and internationally as allowing this practice to continue due to a delayed phase-out schedule. Surely this would further damage Australia's international reputation of being a compassionate, caring, and fair nation, as our neighbour New Zealand manages to lead the way.

I understand that some farmers impacted by this change will need government support to help with the transition. And that it is an issue that requires careful planning impacting humans who are invested, but the extension of subjecting sheep to the trauma of live export, is just unnecessary and unacceptable. As an engaged Australian citizen, it is also exasperating and confusing. I have rallied and lobbied for the end of this trade. My trust in our government and the agricultural sector will be further shaken if the phase-out is not swiftly actioned.

We do not have control over importing countries, but we do have control over how we conduct ourselves and our businesses.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my heartfelt concern about the treatment of sheep, the reputation of this country, and the urgent nature of ceasing this trade in its current form. In short, the phase-out needs to be implemented as soon as humanly possible.

Regards
[REDACTED]