

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to have my say on the ending of the live export trade.

Firstly, I would like to express how very happy I am that this Government has taken this election promise seriously and has kept their word that they will end this trade. It was one of the election commitments that I took very seriously when I chose to vote for a Labour Government.

And I do hope that this consultation process on the how and when of implementing this promise is emblematic of the Government's commitment.

This trade, as we have seen over many years and obtained footage, is grotesquely cruel. The phase-out must begin and end as soon as possible. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

As such, Australians are seeking assurance that this particular trade will come to an end. They want the process of phasing it out to be officially regulated and to commence within the current term of parliament. Furthermore, they desire for the trade to conclude as quickly as possible.

I feel strongly that it is important that the government provides assistance to farmers during the transition period. This support would aid them in adapting to alternative practices.

Continuing this trade has implications for Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. Taking into account the precedent set by New Zealand in discontinuing live exports, it becomes apparent that ending this trade aligns with our values.

Defending the continuation of this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. It is essential to consider the concerns expressed by those who supported the Labor party in the last election due to their stance on this issue.

I'd like to conclude by noting that this trade is inherently cruel. Even when all regulations are followed, sheep still endure heat stress during transportation and undergo painful un-stunned slaughter overseas. The sooner this trade is ended, the fewer Australian animals will need to endure such inhumane treatment.

I thank you for taking the time to read my submission and I look forward to a speedy cessation of the live export trade in the near future.

Best regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the submitter.