

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned member of the public who has been distressed numerous times over several years at news coverage of the abhorrent manner in which Australia animals are exported and slaughtered overseas, I commend the Albanese government on its commitment to phase-out the live export of sheep. Whilst it is very upsetting that other animals including cattle will still be subjected to this sickening process, I implore the Albanese government to set a start and end date for the phase out of sheep exports within this term of government.

There has been a palpable shift in the way the Australian public views animal welfare issues and we want certainty, as will the farmers and others who are affected, as to when Australian sheep can finally be free from the horrors of live export.

The bureaucratic wheels often turn so unnecessarily slowly – let this be an exception and serve to show the rest of the world that Australia is a decisive, compassionate and fair country that is clever enough to balance the needs of industry and the welfare of voiceless, defenceless animals. If New Zealand with its massive sheep industry can do it, so can we!

Animal welfare is the number one issue for me when I vote at state and federal elections and I know many others for whom it is the same. The speed with which the private sector adapted when covid hit Australian shores demonstrates that when the need arises business can and will adapt quickly – but no one will while they don't have a deadline.

The daily news is so sadly full of stories of people treating their fellow humans and animals cruelly. The government has an opportunity here to set an example, and send a compelling message, not just to Australians but to the entire global population that we must, and will, do better in the way we treat all living creatures. The quicker that happens the better.