

**Subject: Urgent Call for the Immediate Phase-Out of Live Sheep Export**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the live sheep export trade. As an Australian citizen, I believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure the welfare of all animals, and it is with this conviction that I urge the Australian Federal Government to initiate an immediate and definitive phase-out of live sheep export.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. With each passing day, more sheep are subjected to the distressing conditions of sea transport and the inhumane practices of fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. This is a situation that is not only ethically unacceptable but also tarnishes Australia's international reputation as a compassionate nation.

I am not alone in my views. A significant number of Australians are seeking certainty that this trade will end. We urge the government to legislate the phase-out of live sheep export and ensure its commencement within this term of parliament. The process must begin immediately and conclude as swiftly as possible to prevent further animal suffering.

I also wish to express my support for our farmers during this transition. It is crucial that the government provides adequate support to farmers to help them adapt to this change. This support could take the form of financial aid, resources, and guidance to transition to more sustainable and humane farming practices.

The continuation of live sheep export not only impacts our nation's global standing but also undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. New Zealand's precedent in ending live export serves as a testament to the positive impact such a decision can have on a nation's reputation. We must follow suit to uphold our image as a fair and compassionate nation.

In the last election, I supported the Labor party primarily due to their policy on this issue. I believe it is essential to note that the political will of the people is leaning towards more humane treatment of animals.

While I understand that the merits of the government's policy to end the trade are not under consideration, I still feel compelled to highlight the inherent cruelty of this trade. Even when all regulations are adhered to, sheep continue to suffer from heat stress at sea and endure painful, un-stunned slaughter overseas. This is a clear indication that the trade, in its very nature, is incompatible with the principles of animal welfare.

In conclusion, I implore the Australian Federal Government to take immediate action to phase out live sheep export. This is not just a matter of animal welfare, but also a reflection of our values as a nation. I trust that you will give this matter the urgent attention it deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

