

I make this submission as a concerned member of the community.

I overwhelmingly support the phase out of live sheep export and respectfully request the phase out process begins and ends as soon as possible.

I am pleased the Albanese Government promised to phase out the live export of sheep. **I voted Labor solely on this election promise** which is why I want to see the phase out end in your first term of government.

Each day that passes, is another day our beautiful Australian sheep are subjected to inexcusable and terrible suffering. The journey is horrendously stressful to the animals with many dying cruel deaths at sea. Sheep that are pregnant are also forced onto the ship with many giving birth in abhorrent conditions, and in many instances the mothers die slowly and painfully deaths as do her babies. The sheep that do manage to survive, are then subjected to terrible welfare standards of importing countries including conscious slaughter. This is completely unconscionable.

This phase out must be legislated in your first term in government. I strongly feel that inaction, in your first term in government, will affect your reputation as a government and our reputation as a nation. Election promises are terribly important and the reason why governments get elected. Please don't let us, your voters down, and more importantly the many millions of sheep subjected to this cruelty. As a first world country I am also saddened to read that Australia is considered a very poor performer under the Voiceless Animal Cruelty Index. And under the Animal Protection Index, Australia is rated a "D" due to having limited national animal protection laws and policies, allows live export of animals, allows battery cages for laying hens and allows painful husbandry procedures without the use of anaesthetic to occur.

To ensure the success of this phase out I am supportive of the government providing support to farmers to help them transition into other avenues including plant based agriculture, as it is not only good for our sheep, but good for our planet and people. With animal agriculture being one of the leading causes of global warming, water usage, oceanic dead zones, land clearing, and species extinction, this will put Australia on the global map as a compassionate and kind nation.

Other considerations include supporting farmers and other supply chain participants to expand the domestic market and improve the process in sheep meat exports.

Thank you

