




30th May, 2023

Dear Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry,

Re: Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea

Firstly, thank you for seeking feedback on the logistics and timeframe of the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.  I'd like to see this trade phased out as soon as possible (to be replaced by domestically processed chilled meat). However, I understand that farmers must transition their livestock business, abattoirs constructed or updated, and overseas business contracts ratified.

For all of the above to take place, the phase-out must be legislated and a date set in this term of parliament, even if the actual commencement doesn't take place until the next term. I certainly do not want, nor expect it to be a requirement, that the commencement date is beyond the next term of parliament.

To help ensure the commencement is not delayed, I would support farmers and chilled meat processors and exporters receiving government support to help them transition and/or find new markets.

New Zealand has shown that this change is possible and we can learn from their successes (and any failures).

One of the key reasons I supported Labor at the last election was the promise of the end of live sheep exports by sea, both for animal welfare concerns and employment creation opportunities. I ask that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry recommend that the date is set in this term of parliament so that all relevant parties can begin the transition.

Thank you again for seeking feedback.

Yours Sincerely,

