

Submission to end live sheep export without further delay

1. I have long been distressed about the suffering of animals who are exported while alive. Even if all 'regulations' were complied with, heat stress and slaughter while fully conscious are unconscionably cruel. The matter causes me to lose sleep. The matter clouds my waking hours. For every animal that I witness in a livestock truck, my heart breaks. It is the single biggest sadness of my life.
2. I have collected thousands of signatures and presented them in a petition to parliament, asking that animals be slaughtered in controlled conditions in Australia. I received strong support from the farming sector, as well as from those primarily concerned with animal welfare.
3. I support the phase-out of this brutal trade, though immediate cessation would be my strong preference.
4. I expect the cessation to occur in this Term of Government. Labor's undertakings were the reason they received my vote, for the first time. If that is not possible, the phase-out must be legislated and at least commenced, during this Term, with a mandated speedy transition.
5. Australians are embarrassed, and ashamed. We're better than this. New Zealand has earned international respect for its move in ending the live animal trade.
6. Economically, this trade has compromised public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. Local abattoirs would enable any value-adding to benefit Australians.
7. I support farmers receiving government support to ease their transition.
8. I support the construction of local abattoirs, incorporating the highest 'plate to table' monitoring, for transparency about animal welfare, as well as proof of quality (for which a price premium, here and abroad, can be applied). Producers can be reminded that each ship-load can carry much more meat, and with greater health assurances, than in the form of live animals.
9. Every day of delay results in more suffering for individual creatures, as well as uncertainty for farming families.