

As a concerned community member I am pleased that the government has committed to ending the live export of Australian sheep, in fact I voted for Labor in the federal election because the promise was made that the live export of sheep would end.

The live export of sheep is inherently cruel and barbaric - even when all regulations are followed. It submits animals to incredible suffering due to heat stress during the sea voyage - some dying a slow and painful death on the ship. On arrival sheep then face a terrifying and painful fully conscious slaughter (without stunning prior to slaughter).

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The phase out of live export must be legislated and commenced during this term of parliament - and must bring about an end to the live trade as soon as possible.

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All animals (human and non-human) have the same capacity to feel pain and suffering – would we submit our beloved domestic pets to this cruel and inhumane treatment?

The end of live export has the potential to bring about great opportunities to develop and expand the domestic meat processing industry here in Australia – creating jobs domestically and opening up opportunities for new, innovative ventures which champion ethical practices.

Increasing sheep meat exports is another benefit that will flow from ending live export as soon as possible.

It is understandable however that farmers and other businesses will have concerns about this change and how to deal with the transition period, and I believe that compensation should be offered to those who will suffer financial difficulty with the ending of the trade.

More and more Australians are calling for an end to animal cruelty, as can be seen by the rise in demand for free-range and organic meat and animal products (among other movements). Ethical standards matter to consumers – and voters - as awareness grows.

Australia's standing overseas is also greatly impacted by the ethical standards we hold – how we treat the most vulnerable speaks to who we are as a nation.

Prime Minister Albanese, please stay true to your promise which helped you get elected and end this unconscionable cruelty without delay.