

In 2022 the Federal Government made a commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea, a decision I wholeheartedly support. To ensure this important action proceeds, I believe it is vital that the Government validate this commitment by legislating the end date for the trade during this term of Parliament.

This change is now inevitable and looming over Australian farmers and businesses associated with the trade. They will need to make significant changes to their current practices which will, of course, take time and resources. Delaying the decision results in prolonged uncertainty for them and risks further damaging our international reputation.

We have all had an opportunity to see actual footage of the suffering endured by animals during the live export journey. Some people can watch it and others can't. I have watched it and once seen it cannot be forgotten. Therefore I am now unable to ignore what is happening and feel compelled to take every opportunity to support the end of this trade. These animals suffer considerably throughout the journey which can take months. They endure extreme heat stress; overcrowding which results in injuries and restricts their movements and access to food and water; poor conditions resulting in them standing in their own faeces and urine; stress and fear from being in unfamiliar environments with loud noises; and mistreatment and inhumane slaughter practices once they disembark at their destination.

While I appreciate this change will be significant and difficult for all involved in the trade, it is the right decision. It is the only acceptable decision. We set our standards by the way we treat our most vulnerable. These animals are truly innocent and vulnerable, and we have an obligation to end their unnecessary suffering as quickly as possible.

The Government's commitment to end this trade is commendable. Setting an end date will ensure it does actually happen and provide certainty to all who are affected by this practice.

Thank you for consideration of my submission during the consultation process.

Kind regards

Carol Perusic