

Phase out of live animal export

Dear Australian Government and independent panel

I wish to applaud the Labor party and now Labor government for committing to phase out the export of live sheep by sea from Australia. This was one of several reasons that I decided to vote Labor at the last Federal election. I am pleased the process involves public consultation so that the government can again hear from the Australian people who strongly support this change and want to see it legislated and commenced in this term of parliament.

The phase out of the live sheep export by sea needs to start immediately after the legislation passes through the parliament. I acknowledge that this is a very big change to the sheep industry and farmers who rely on this trade. However Labor's plan to phase out live sheep export by sea is not new and the sheep export industry has known about this for several years now, affording them plenty of time to prepare and plan for this change. Now in government, it is time for action.

This is an opportunity for alternate domestic processing industries to expand and provide a more humane solution for getting sheep meat to markets here and abroad. Appropriate government support should be provided to help the sheep industry and farmers transition to onshore sheep processing and the expanded network of abattoirs. Such measures could include incentives for new abattoir facilities, support to find new markets for sheep meat products and short term financial subsidies to farmers that may be impacted by oversupply of sheep / reduced prices during the initial years of implementation.

Phasing out live sheep export should be legislated and commence in this term of government, as promised during the 2022 election campaign. Australians will applaud this action and support the necessary government measures to assist the sheep industry and farmers transition to a more humane lifecycle for Australian sheep.

Please do not delay this change. The industry needs certainty and the welfare of Australian sheep needs to be prioritized.

Sincerely,

Catherine Park

