

As an Australian Citizen I applaud the Federal Government's decision to end live sheep export and an issue which I voted for Labor.

Sheep suffer throughout the live export journey, which can take months, and welfare issues are cumulative, rife and inherent across the entire supply chain.

They're at risk of suffering extreme heat stress, poor conditions and overcrowded stocking densities that increase discomfort and maximise cruelty and can limit access to food and water for animals.

They're at risk because of the unavoidable reality that live export leads to weeks of stressful circumstances for the sheep including repeated handling by unfamiliar people, standing in their own faeces and urine, unfamiliar environments with loud noises, poor ventilation, high humidity, mistreatment, and inhumane slaughter practices once they disembark at their destination.

Caring and decent Australians want certainty and commitment from the Federal Labour Government that this barbaric trade after decades will be phased out immediately.

The phase out must begin in the current term of parliament and be as short as possible.

Every day of delay is another day sheep will suffer on lengthy sea voyages.

Welfare of sheep is a priority and so will be the support for farmers to receive government support to help with the transition.

I will regain my trust in the Australian Agricultural Industry if they respond with the expected urgency required in this phase out and transition. Until then I do not have trust in this sector when it comes to guaranteeing superior animal welfare standards and eliminating cruelty in their practices.

I am happy we are joining New Zealand with ending live export and that we can use this platform to promote Australia as a fair and compassionate nation on the international stage.