

Submission regarding the public consultation regarding live animal export by sea from Australia.

I am a retired alpaca farmer, now living in Sydney.

Sheep and other mammals are sentient beings, aware of their surroundings and experiencing pain and distress in the same way that humans do. It is indefensible to intentionally subject them to the inhumane conditions of transport by ship to another country, and there to subject them to slaughter fully conscious without any consideration for their pain and distress. This cruelty has been well documented in our live animal export industry, and persists in spite of efforts to prevent it.

Australians understand this and want this trade to end. It should be legislated and begun in the current term of parliament.

Farmers generally care for their animals and are as horrified as I am with the conditions suffered by animals subject to live trade. It is important that the government find ways to support farmers effected by the phasing out of live animal trade. Part of this will be to increase the facility to slaughter the animals humanely in Australia and to export refrigerated meat instead.

Phasing out live animal trade will only enhance Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation, and will encourage other nations to do the same, as New Zealand has done already.

I supported Labor at the last election partly on their promise to phase out live animal export and I expect them to follow through with their promise.