

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea. I, like the majority of Australians, wholeheartedly support a ban on live export. This barbaric practice must come to an end immediately.

It's unfathomable that in 2023 we allow animals to spend weeks or months on floating death ships, suffering in horrific conditions (extreme temperatures, cramped conditions, lack of food and water, poor treatment) and if they actually make it to their destination, they will endure horrible treatment as they are not protected by the same laws we have in Australia.

There is an obvious reason this practice has been banned in other countries. New Zealand committed to a ban on live exports and ceased trading last month. European countries such as England, Wales, Scotland and Germany are working to phase out live exports. Australia likes to consider itself a progressive nation, so it's time we catch up and end live export.

A phase out must commence immediately, we cannot continue to do nothing. There has been many documented examples of horrific conditions and animal suffering on live export ships in recent years including in 2020 when 41 people and 6,000 cows died after a ship traveling from New Zealand to China capsized.

I acknowledge that the industry will need support to enable the transition and there has never been a better time to encourage farmers to move to more sustainable agriculture such as lab cultured meat and plant based agriculture.

We cannot allow this practice to continue any longer. Many Australians supported a Labor Government in the last election, based on your promise to phase out sheep live exports, you cannot falter on this election promise. The phase out needs to be legislated and must commence in this term of parliament.