

I live in a rural community and run a retail bookshop. On display in my shop I have a large poster declaring "Ban live animal export". It has been there for many years. To date, I have had very few people disagree with its sentiments. Quite the opposite. Most are opposed to the trade, including many farmers, most of whom refuse to participate in the trade. They respect their animals.

Live sheep export is inherently cruel, both the voyage and the butchering. We have seen footage taken by whistle blowers which show that from farm gate to slaughterhouse the cruelty is unacceptable. Australia's global reputation is once again at risk as this trade flies in the face of acceptable community standards.

Apart from its cruelty, it also makes no economic sense. New Zealand banned it years ago, and created more employment and a more equitable share of profits than this trade offers. Animals were butchered locally creating jobs in regional abattoirs; a food trail was established as local businesses 'value added' to the meat, much of which could become an export business, particularly if supported by the government.

The Labor Party has always been the party with humane values. This should include all sentient beings as pain is pain. I urge you to begin the process of dismantling this barbaric and ultimately economically inefficient trade. It's what the majority expect.