

My proposal on how to phase out live exports from Australia

I whole-heartedly support an end to the live export trade from Australia.

The mechanism needs to be swift, to show the world, and the majority of Australians who are compassionate, that we value our livestock's comfort and wellbeing as much as our multi-billion dollar meat industry. The end of the live sheep trade should be set in stone via thoughtful legislation and must commence in this term of the Albanese government.

We haven't a moment to lose to facilitate this transition away from live export to also show our farmers that we are thinking of their safe futures. The sooner we can show them via a well-constructed government support plan that income will still be plentiful, the less push-back there will be from the Nationals, the Farmers' Federation and every business that feeds off this currently tragic business.

Our reputation as a compassionate farming society is in tatters right now. As New Zealand and Brazil seek to end live exports, we are now shown in a much darker light as it's now clearly seen as possible to end live export and not harm your economy.

I have supported the end to live exports since the news broke on the ABC in 2011. I have written countless requests to Anthony Albanese as my federal representative, who I gladly voted for in 2022 on the strength of his promise to end live exports.

We are a civil society. The only reason this horrendously cruel practice of live export has been allowed to flourish is because it's been kept a dirty little secret of long-standing coalition governments, a meat trade that has left the barbaric culling practices to countries on the other side of the world and the money that floods in from it. The dreadful mass drownings at sea, the inhumane heat on successful journeys and brave investigative reporting have been the only lights of hope. Let us as a nation whole now make the move to reinstate our place as a country full of pride in our farming ability, and compassion to all people and sentient beings.

With thanks and great hope,

Gail Knight