

The Australian government has committed to phase out the live export of sheep by sea. As an educated Australian thank you for the opportunity to help determine how soon this will happen.

Thank you for inviting feedback on the logistics and timeframe of the phase-out. Importantly, the government has made it clear that this consultation will not consider the merits of the government's policy to end the trade which I fully support. This is about how and when not if! Specifically, I would like to note:

I support the phase-out. Australians want certainty that this trade will end. That the phase-out be legislated and commences in this term of parliament.

The timeframe to implement the phase out: The phase-out must begin and end as soon as possible. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering – from the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. Therefore this trade is inherently cruel – and even when all regulations are followed, sheep still suffer heat stress at sea and painful un-stunned slaughter overseas.

How the phase out will impact exporters, farmers and other businesses across the supply chain: Consider support for farmers, government support to help them to transition.

Support and adjustment options for those impacted by the phase out
opportunities: options to expand domestic processing and increase sheep meat exports

Finally, Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation is being compromised by the live animal export trade. New Zealand's precedent in ending live export. Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this extremely important measure!