



Jo Connellan



TO WHOM It MAY CONCERN

I write to inform you of my strong support to the ending of the live sheep export trade.

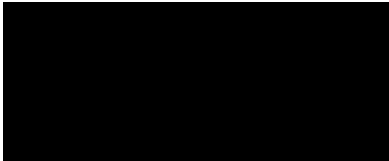
I consider the practice cruel. There have been too many examples where best practice has not been adhered to by exporters, despite repeated warnings, so in my view they have lost their social licence to continue.

Less focus in recent discussions has been given to the conditions of sale and slaughter in the receiving country – when the animal is outside Australian government control – but again we have seen endless examples of cruel and inhumane practices. If all exported sheep left as chilled meat, we have the ability to be completely responsible for the animals welfare.

Phase out should be as soon as practicable. A clear starting date should be set, that will enable farmers to not have any of their existing quotas effected. Given that most sheep are quite young when sent to slaughter, it should be possible to set that date at 12-18 months from now.

Although the live export is a very small percentage of the sheep meat export trade, I accept that it will provide some hardship for sheep farmers over the short term. It may also place demands on slaughter houses that they are unable to deal with. I would be happy to see some of my taxes used to assist in the transition period.

Thank you for your attention



Jo Connellan