

For many years I have been a part of the effort to ban live sheep export. I have signed petitions, donated to campaigns, driven around with a “Ban Live Export” sticker in my car and spoken to colleagues and friends about the issue. The wait to see this practice phased-out, let alone that wonderful day when it ceases forever, has been agonisingly long – but not as agonising as the suffering of the sheep who are subjected to live export.

I know many, many people across all ages (including meat-eaters) who want a firm commitment from government that live export will be banned and a definite plan of action developed and a timeframe announced. This should be legislated now and the phase-out begin during this term of parliament. New Zealand made it happen and there is no reason we can’t do the same. It simply requires willing on the part of the government. Covid demonstrated how quickly governments can move and make things happen when sufficiently motivated.

It is absolutely indisputable that live export is cruel. The transport process is distressing, painful and, for many animals, nothing short of torture – and then, to compound the tragedy, the methods of slaughter that await these animals are horrific. This caravan of pain and suffering can be ended by phasing-out live export.

These days, how I vote is heavily influenced by a party’s record in environmental stewardship and animal rights or, at the least, its commitment to making positive changes in these areas. I urge you to make a bold, immediate and decisive stand for kindness and cement Australia’s international reputation as a country of enlightenment, decency and compassion. And of action.