

I strongly support the phase-out of live sheep exports. For too long I have watched as sheep have suffered on long hot voyages and exporters have not been held to account for the shocking conditions.

Australians want certainty that this trade will end. I voted for the Labor Government for this very reason and believed that the phase-out would be legislated and commenced in THIS term of parliament. And that the phase-out begins and ends as soon as possible.

New Zealand has now ended live export. How does it look for Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation to still support live export?

Defending this trade also undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. It's hard to fathom farmers sending off their sheep in such appalling conditions. The government could consider offering support for farmers to help them to transition.

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. It must stop NOW.