

To whom it may concern,

I would like to lend my voice to the call for the government to honour it's election promise to end live sheep export as soon and as quickly as possible.

Evidence has shown that the live export of sheep is unacceptably cruel and causes pain and suffering, with an equally unacceptable mortality rate. We have all seen the footage of the conditions the poor sheep are kept in and have to endure.

Live sheep export has also been plagued by animal welfare and cruelty allegations, which have caused public outrage both in Australia and overseas and the loss of any form of "social licence". Even with the government spending vast sums of money on an assurance scheme, it has been a complete failure, with cruelty continuing unchecked on the ships and in overseas slaughterhouses. In countries where sheep are exported there are virtually no animal welfare considerations and the sheep are subjected to abuse and slaughter methods that would be illegal in Australia. The evidence is damning.

The farmers must also be supported through the cessation of live sheep export, and not just left to fend for themselves. This can be in many forms, from financial aid to retraining to support and guidance to shift to more sustainable farming.

The end to live sheep export must come quickly and end quickly. It has widespread support in the community and with animal welfare groups and Veterinarians. Australia's reputation on animal welfare has suffered as a result of live sheep export and it is time for us to show the world we are a compassionate and progressive nation.

The end can't come quick enough. The abuse, pain, suffering and abhorrent cruelty to sheep must end.

Regards,

Leigh Hornsby