

Dear Minister,

My name is Kiersten Penny and I am a sheep and grain producer [REDACTED]. Along with my husband and son we farm merino sheep for meat and wool. Sheep are an important part of our business taking up half the income we make. The income from our sheep for meat and wool helps support my son and partner and my husband and myself.

We enjoy producing a good sheep for sale right from seeing a new lamb on the ground thought to the sale of a top-quality sheep. The wool is also a fine product that is sort around the world. When it comes to live export, we sell our sheep knowing they are in good hands otherwise we wouldn't sent them on a boat. As a sheep producing farming family we care deeply for our animals and can't understand why the live sheep trade would be band for being bad practise. If the government wants to ban the trade it must be in a very bad way.

I hear and read lots of strong information from the agricultural community that we have an excellent sheep husbandry and animal welfare standards, so why do we have to ban the live export trade?

I feel so much anguish when I hear our industry is being undermined by our government that should be supporting us. I thought the animal welfare standards for Australia are world class first grade so why ban something that is doing so well?

Please consider our family and our neighbours that works hard every day of the year to produce a fantastic product in the merino sheep. Our country needs us.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story I think it is important.

Yours Sincerely

Kiersten Penny