

**Submission on phasing out live sheep exports – May 2023**

I, and many people I know, have been concerned for many years with the animal suffering that is linked to live exports. Why it is still happening is alarming given the number of recorded cases of cruelty linked to this activity. This is an act of barbarism, something I thought we had moved well beyond.

I believe that the phase-out must begin ASAP. Every delay means more sheep subjected to inexcusable suffering, including the daily stresses of sea transport to fully conscious slaughter in importing countries. Once these animals leave our ports we cannot confidently control how they will be treated on the export ships or at their destination. We know from video evidence (recorded on numerous occasions) that live animals sent from Australia are treated cruelly upon slaughter in places like The Middle East and Indonesia.

Australians want certainty that this trade will end. The phase-out should be legislated and commence in this term of parliament. And farmers who rely on this industry should receive government support to help them to transition.

Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation remains in question while the live export trade remains. New Zealand has set the precedent by ending live exports, and we should follow. Defending this trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector.

Thank you,



Dr Nathan Wales