

I think the government should end live sheep and live cattle exports as soon as possible. Over 90% of the Australian community wants better welfare for farmed animals and has been against live export since the first major exposé ten years ago showing how the animals are tortured and then slaughtered while fully conscious after docking in destination countries such as Indonesia and Egypt. Since then, depressingly regular reports of extreme suffering of animals on board live export ships have appeared in the media despite there being an exporter supply chain assurance system (ESCAS) in place. Extreme cruelty still exists in every stage of this industry despite the ESCAS. Exporters are evidently not aware of the standards or simply do not care, as there are no real consequences for not following them.

The longer this cruel trade of sheep and of cattle continues and the Albanese government defends it, Australia's reputation as a compassionate nation suffers. We stand in stark contrast to New Zealand who has already ended live export. The supreme court in Brazil has recently ruled to stop live cattle exports from that country since abhorrent cruelty to their animals in Egypt was revealed.

Australians want assurance that live export of sheep and cattle will end; the Albanese government made a commitment to end live export of sheep and it should do so in the current term. The electorate was also promised an independent office of animal welfare (IOAW) which would give both the public and the agricultural sector more confidence in the farmed animal industry but so far no funding has been assigned and evidently the Albanese government wishes to stall on animal welfare and then deliver reforms in a piecemeal way. This government should commit to its core values of animal welfare to differentiate itself from a coalition government; it should honour its election promise and legislate to end the export of live sheep as soon as possible.