

29/5/23

To the members of the Independent Panel on Live Sheep Export Phase-out
Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), The Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and
Ms Heather Neil.

I write this submission as a concerned citizen, not representing any particular organization.

In the last election, I chose to vote Labor because of their policy to end the live export of sheep. I celebrated this electoral triumph with great hope.
I celebrated also, the great triumph for New Zealand to be the first country to end this abhorrent trade.

I believe that Australians also want the same assurance that the end of this cruel trade will not be delayed.

It is of paramount importance that the phase-out must start and end as soon as possible. Even when all regulations are followed, heat stress still causes great suffering at sea. Any delay will result in further horrific suffering endured by animals at sea followed by fully conscious slaughter by their importers.

I believe that Australians desire to have an international reputation of being a fair and compassionate nation. The way that we treat our animals should demonstrate these values.

I acknowledge the financial challenges for our farmers that this transition will bring. The values of fairness and compassion must be shown also to our farmers. I strongly support Government support for our farmers in this transition.

I urge the Government to legislate the phase-out and commence this process in this term of parliament.

Thankyou for hearing my views.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

R.J. Smith