

I support our farmers and the WA live sheep export industry and remain very concerned over the latest campaign by animal activist groups to lobby Federal and State politicians to end this essential, indispensable and lawful trade.

Live sheep exports are the cornerstone of the WA sheep industry. The livestock industry contributes over \$1.4 billion to the Western Australian economy, and the centrepiece of our long term trade relationship with the Middle East.

There are approximately 5,250 sheep farm businesses in WA, and the industry employs thousands of workers in our regional communities - including stockmen and women, shearers, transporters, feed suppliers, stock agents, veterinarians, and stevedores to name a few.

If you end live sheep exports there will be huge job losses. No jobs means dying regional communities.

Australia is the world leader in animal welfare for the export of all live animals for slaughter. Out of the more than 100 countries exporting livestock, Australia is the only country that regulates specific animal welfare outcomes for live exports. Australia is also the only country that is investing in training and infrastructure to improve animal welfare outcomes both at home and in other countries.

Supporting a ban on live sheep exports will allow nations that have little regard for animal welfare during export, or regulations ensuring adequate ventilation, humane stocking levels and the provision of food and water on ship voyages, to take over the trade. Ending live sheep exports will see these animals suffer, needlessly.

To ensure vibrant regional communities, strong trade relationships, and that Australia continues to lead the world in Animal Welfare, I ask for you to Support Live Exports.