

## Labor confirms plan to end live sheep exports if Albanese becomes PM

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The opposition has not outlined how long it would take to phase out the trade. (ABC News: Hugh Sando)

Australia's \$92 million live sheep export industry will be shut down if Labor is elected at this month's federal election, the opposition has confirmed.

For months, shadow agriculture spokesperson Julie Collins has refused to say whether the party planned to end the live sheep trade in [a policy Labor took to the last federal election](#).

In a statement to the ABC today, a Labor party spokesperson confirmed it would ban the trade, which they said had been waning for more than 20 years.

"An elected Albanese Labor government will phase out live sheep exports in consultation with the industry and the West Australian government on what

### Key points:

- Australia's live animal exports are worth about \$2 billion a year
- The Coalition says ending the trade could disrupt global food security
- Both industry players and animal rights groups are disappointed by the plan

needs to happen given this decline," the statement said.

**"This includes consideration of the impacts for the entire value chain of the industry."**

Before the 2019 election Labor committed to phasing out the trade over five years but has remained tight-lipped about its plans since.

Labor's spokesperson did not set a timeline for ending the trade, but said the party supported "value-adding more here in Australia to create more job opportunities".

The spokesperson said Labor would not make changes to the live cattle export trade.

### **Existing measures 'appropriate', Premier says**

WA Labor Premier Mark McGowan was asked on Thursday morning whether he agreed with federal Labor's position.

He said he was not aware any announcement had been made.

"What I do know is the measures that are in place — which were objected to, I might add, by some of those groups — have actually worked effectively and have been appropriate," he said.

Mr McGowan said that existing measures to monitor and mitigate heat stress were appropriate.

"From memory, we put in place rules that required a suspension of exports over the northern summer because of the shocking outcomes that were occurring particularly in the summer months up in the Persian Gulf," he said.

"I think that measure worked pretty well, and I think it was widely accepted."

"Then there was additional vet checks, and there was additional monitoring put in place on some of the ships.

"I think the measures that are in place are appropriate at this point in time."

### **Exporters, rights groups unhappy**

Australian Livestock Exporters' Council chief executive Mark Harvey-Sutton said Labor's position was disappointing.

"There's many reasons livestock volumes change over time, including price and market supply," he said.