

PRESS ARTICLE

Title:	ALP acts on live trade oversight
Issue:	Wednesday, 28 November 2012
Publication:	The Australian, The Nation, page 10

MILANDA ROUT

LABOR'S working group on live animal exports will have until February to come up with a model for a national office of animal welfare after caucus approved the move in the wake of the outrage over the brutal Pakistan sheep cull.

The caucus motion for the additional oversight of the industry, sponsored by Victorian MP Kelvin Thomson and West Australian MP Melissa Parke, and seconded by Queensland MP Graham Perrett, is the latest action by backbenchers unhappy with the government's handling of live exports.

Many Labor MPs have recently repeated calls for the end of the \$1 billion trade, which they first made last year when the Indonesian live cattle trade was reopened following an animal cruelty scandal and a month-long ban.

The caucus meeting also heard from a number of MPs — including ministers — who had received dozens of emails over

the Pakistan incident and wanted to know what was happening to the Australian exporters involved.

Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig's department is investigating the incident but has yet to complete its report on the slaughter of 21,000 sheep last month.

Senator Ludwig also faces growing pressure from the

of the office within the federal government as well as the legal status of the office — especially in relation to the states. The preferred model will be presented to caucus by the end of February.

Mr Thomson and Ms Parke, who have been the most vocal opponents of live exports, said in a statement yesterday they were happy with the outcome in caucus.

"We are pleased that the parliamentary Labor Party has responded to the recent revelations about the disgraceful treatment of Australian sheep exported to Bahrain and Pakistan," they said.

"We hope that the live animal export working party will come up with a model which helps secure decent and humane animal welfare outcomes.

"We believe this is what Australians want."

The caucus move comes as live export industry groups wrote to all MPs and senators — the second time in as many months — saying according to their research 69 per cent of Australians supported the continuation of livestock exports.

'We believe this is what Australians want'

KELVIN THOMSON AND MELISSA PARKE
LABOR MPS

Greens to phase out live exports and replace them with domestic boxed meat processing.

The motion, seen by *The Australian*, says the proposed office could develop and review domestic animal welfare standards, look at the enforcement of live export regulation and examine domestic laws.

It also asks the working group to consider the cost and location