



**Inquiry into the impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea
on New South Wales**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW inquire into and report on the impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea on New South Wales, considering the economic and social implications of such a phase-out on regional New South Wales communities and the animal welfare considerations relevant to the phase-out, and in particular:

- (a) evaluate the economic impact of phasing out live sheep exports on New South Wales sheep producers and related supply chains in regional towns, including:
 - (i) transport operators
 - (ii) fodder and grain producers
 - (iii) other associated industries
- (b) evaluate the impact on the sheep industry in New South Wales if farmers are unable to restock with animals from Western Australia (WA)
- (c) evaluate the price implications on New South Wales sheep and lamb producers of having stock from WA regularly sold at our sales
- (d) examine whether the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea will have any impact on NSW Government revenue and bottom line
- (e) examine potential implications in demand for New South Wales mutton after the phase-out of the live sheep trade
- (f) examine reasons used by the Federal Government for the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea and whether the Federal Government should provide compensation to New South Wales sheep producers
- (g) examine animal welfare concerns relevant to the determination to cease live sheep export by sea by the Federal Government
- (h) examine the impact to local meat processors
- (i) examine proven alternative markets and opportunities for New South Wales sheep producers
- (j) explore the social and community impacts of income loss for New South Wales sheep producers, including the evaluation of support mechanisms for affected communities

- (k) analysis of potential economic losses from the phase-out and the impact on employment across regional New South Wales, including but not limited to transport, contract musters and veterinary suppliers
- (l) identify case studies of graziers in other regions or countries that have successfully transitioned from live exports
- (m) examine alternative income streams for New South Wales sheep producers
- (n) examine community views in New South Wales of the live export industry, and
- (o) any other related matters.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 30 July 2024.¹

Committee membership

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hon Mark Banasiak MLC | Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party | <i>Chair</i> |
| Hon Emma Hurst MLC | Animal Justice Party | <i>Deputy Chair</i> |
| Hon Scott Barrett MLC* | The Nationals | |
| Ms Abigail Boyd MLC* | The Greens | |
| Hon Greg Donnelly MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC | Liberal Party | |
| Hon Cameron Murphy MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Peter Primrose MLC | Australian Labor Party | |

* The Hon Sam Farraway MLC substituted for the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC from 1 August 2024 to 9 December 2024. The Hon Scott Barrett MLC substituted for the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC from 10 December 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.

* Ms Abigail Boyd MLC is a participating member from 5 August 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 6 August 2024, item 43.