

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Date:
Attachments:

Good afternoon,

Please see below **my response** to the question on notice as per the hearing transcript:

Sheep Producers Australia (SPA) note the question relates to a report commissioned by Animals Australia and prepared by economics and public policy consultancy firm Pegasus Economics. The Pegasus Economics report (the report) was provided as an attachment to the Australian Alliance for Animals submission to the inquiry. The SPA CEO had not seen the report prior to giving evidence at the public hearing on 18 December 2024.

SPA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the report, and would like to draw the committee's attention to the following points:

- Terms of reference for the report are not publicly available. Animals Australia has a clear agenda to end the live export of sheep by sea and has commissioned the report to support its campaign. The absence of a clear terms of reference for the report and the extreme agenda of the organisation that commissioned it raise significant concerns about the report's credibility and objectivity.
- These concerns are substantiated by the narrow scope of the report, which:
 - Canvasses previous reviews of the trade but is largely silent on subsequent reforms and on the current welfare performance of the trade.
 - Focuses on the well-known fact that NSW is not directly involved in the bulk live export trade to support an overly simplistic conclusion that NSW will therefore not be affected by the phase out and downplays potential regional economic shifts.
 - Fails to account for the complex economic relationships within the sheep industry supply chain, which oversimplifies its assessment of the impacts of the phase out. For example, the report makes no mention of the shared shearing workforce and the impact of future shearer shortages on NSW producers. The report also makes no mention of the important role that the WA merino ewe flock plays in terms of shaping and advancing Australia's sheep industry genetics.
 - Draws on selective references to support its narrative. For example, in *Section 3.1 Welfare of Sheep*, the report outlines the main causes of mortality in live sheep exports drawing on a 2010 study investigating mortality in sheep and lambs sourced from pastoral regions of NSW and South Australia and exported through Adelaide and Portland. This study has limited relevance to the current live export by sea trade, which is conducted out of Western Australia only, and the study pre-dates the implementation of significant reforms that have dramatically reduced the risk of heat stress.
- The shortcomings as outlined undermine the report as a whole and limit its usefulness as an analysis to inform the committee's deliberations on the inquiry terms of reference.

If I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me,

Kind regards,

Bonnie Skinner
Chief Executive Officer



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Sheep Producers Australia acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land in all states and territories on which we work. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging, and honour their history, cultures, and traditions of storytelling.

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