

Submission
No 2

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE PHASE-OUT OF
AUSTRALIAN LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA ON NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Ms Karen Eckermann

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Dear Committee Members

I am an elected member of a regional local government in South Australia and I am writing personally, but also with the knowledge of my own community and their attitude to live animal export generally – and particularly, to the live sheep export ban upcoming.

Live sheep export is cruel and unnecessary. I don't need to reiterate the disgraceful treatment of sheep over the journey and at their destination – it is well known to all Australians.

What I do wish to say in this submission is that change must come in this space, as instigated by the current Federal Government. It is exhausting to have to keep pressing the rights and wrongs, the ins and outs, the facts and hyperbole - and obviously the NSW Parliament has succumbed to this pressure from those who refuse to accept change.

The Federal Government is compensating appropriately the farmers and associated supports for the live sheep export industry to transition. I don't understand the reluctance. Live sheep export is outdated and not what Australia wants to do – that's what every single community survey reveals. And that is in addition to the totally unnecessary cruelty inherent which for some reason gets relegated to an 'additional reason' rather than the major reason for a ban.

While farming communities continue to talk about 'excess stock' etc, we are all aware they can stop breeding right now (should have already stopped) so that the 'excessive stock' is not born. It's so obvious and yet continues to get air.

Likewise the argument that another country will fill the void – that is not my understanding. Boxed meat is the way forward, as is the practice of my local meat processor, Thomas Foods International, which has a lucrative boxed meat business, the envy of the meat processing industry Australia-wide. I suggest their model is investigated.

It appears those proponents of continuing the live sheep export trade are entirely averse to finding alternative ways to remain relevant. They sadly continue to agitate for the status quo.

For myself, my family, friends, acquaintances, and most of the residents I serve, live sheep export is a thing of the past not unlike many of the poor and cruel practices modern society has left behind us.

Whatever small adjustments need to be made by those involved in this archaic 'industry' seems a small price to pay to fulfil the ban and abide by the wishes of the absolute majority of Australian citizens.

Thank you for your time.

Karen Eckermann