

**Submission
No 8**

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

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I was pleased to hear that the government has introduced a ban to end the live export of sheep by 2028 and now it seems that decision is under threat . I am also very disappointed to learn that cows and other animals are not included in the ban. ALL animals should be included. The suffering that all animals endure via live export needs to cease as a matter of urgency.

Ever since 40,000 sheep – and one human crew member – died aboard the sunken Farid Fares ship in 1980, compassionate Australians have been demanding an end to the live-animal export trade. In the decades since, 3 million animals have been subjected to slow and agonising deaths onboard these miserable ships and tens of millions more have met cruel ends in overseas slaughterhouses.

The suffering doesn't end for those who survive the journey, as animals endure abuse and methods of slaughter that would be illegal in Australia. Many are dragged by their legs, and their throats may be cut while they're still conscious. Investigation after investigation has drawn Parliament's attention to this outrageous cruelty, yet no matter how many regulations and reviews are implemented at the taxpayers' expense, animals continue to suffer.

Another concern is the fact that live-export ships are potential hotbeds for the next zoonotic pandemic. When stressed animals are kept in filthy, cramped conditions and slaughtered, the risk of disease is exacerbated. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 75% of new or emerging infectious diseases in humans come from animals. Speaking on Australian national television programme "The Project", the late epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws, who worked with the World Health Organization, said that live-animal export "can't be safe" and warned of a "ghastly disease" outbreak.

Then there's the damage to the environment: the live-export trade is one of the top 40 carbon dioxide emitters in Australia. Cattle and sheep are often transported thousands of kilometres by truck before reaching the ships, while the empty vessels journeying back to Australia to collect their next load of helpless animals create further emissions. In addition, raising cattle and sheep generates large amounts of greenhouse gases.

Please, reduce the suffering of these gentle, intelligent animals by ending the live export of all animals – for good.