

Submission
No 9

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

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I am writing to you as a retired professional who has always believed that a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members, including animals. The recent push by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) for an inquiry into the impact of the live sheep export ban on NSW farmers has raised significant concerns among those of us who care deeply about animal welfare.

The decision to end live sheep exports by sea, set to take effect in 2028, marked a pivotal moment in Australia's progress toward more humane treatment of animals. This ban is not just about stopping a cruel practice; it's about setting a precedent for how we handle animal welfare on a global stage. Reversing this ban would not only harm our reputation but also undo years of advocacy and effort that went into securing this landmark decision.

The economic arguments presented by proponents of live export do not capture the full picture. The live sheep export sector, while profitable for a few, represents a small fraction of our agricultural exports yet causes disproportionate harm to animals. These sheep are subjected to extreme conditions that lead to suffering and death on long sea voyages, conditions that no being should endure.

We must also consider the broader implications of reversing such bans. Allowing live exports to continue can undermine Australia's standing as a leader in animal welfare. It's crucial that we stand firm on decisions that reflect our values and move towards sustainable and ethical agricultural practices that do not rely on the inhumane treatment of animals.

I urge you to support maintaining the ban on live sheep exports. Please ensure that any inquiries into this matter focus on how we can transition the industry toward humane alternatives rather than reversing the progress we've made. It's time we prioritise the welfare of all creatures and maintain our commitment to being a society that respects and protects life.

Thank you for considering my views on this important issue. I trust that you will make decisions that reflect both the will of the people and the needs of the voiceless among us.