

**Submission  
No 10**

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

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Here are many reasons to ban live sheep export!

Animal Welfare Concerns:

1. Heat Stress: Sheep, particularly during summer, suffer severely from heat stress in cramped, poorly ventilated ship conditions.
2. Overcrowding: Sheep are often packed tightly on ships, leading to injuries and trampling.
3. Dehydration: Sheep can struggle to access water in overcrowded conditions, leading to dehydration.
4. Starvation: Sheep may refuse unfamiliar food provided during transport, leading to starvation.
5. Footrot and Lameness: Sheep are prone to foot diseases in wet, unsanitary ship conditions, leading to severe pain and infection.
6. Fleece-Related Issues: Sheep with heavy fleeces are more susceptible to heat stress and other health issues during transport.
7. Cruel Handling: Sheep are often mishandled during loading and unloading, increasing stress and injury.
8. Wool Matting and Soiling: Sheep's wool becomes matted with urine and feces, causing discomfort and skin infections.
9. Long Journeys: Sheep endure prolonged, stressful voyages, which can last weeks.
10. Inadequate Veterinary Care: Sheep may not receive adequate veterinary care during the voyage, worsening any health issues.
11. High Mortality Rates: A significant number of sheep die en route due to poor conditions.
12. Fear and Distress: The noise, motion, and unfamiliar environment of a ship are terrifying for sheep.
13. Respiratory Problems: Poor ventilation on ships can lead to respiratory problems for sheep.
14. Injury from Rough Seas: Rough seas cause sheep to be thrown around, resulting in injuries like broken bones.
15. Dockside Delays: Sheep are often left waiting at ports in harsh conditions, without adequate food, water, or shelter.
16. Unregulated Conditions at Destination: In some importing countries, welfare standards are much lower or nonexistent.
17. Inhumane Slaughter Practices: Sheep may be subjected to cruel slaughter methods at their destination.
18. Exhaustion: Long journeys leave sheep physically exhausted and weakened.
19. Increased Risk of Disease: The stress of transportation weakens sheep's immune systems, making them more susceptible to disease.
20. Excrement-Related Illnesses: Sheep spend weeks standing in their own waste, which can lead to infections and illness.

#### Environmental Concerns:

21. Waste Disposal at Sea: Sheep ships often dump large amounts of waste into the ocean, polluting marine ecosystems.
22. Air and Water Pollution: Ships transporting live sheep contribute to both air and water pollution.
23. Fuel Consumption: Shipping live animals long distances requires significant fuel, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.
24. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The live export industry adds to global carbon emissions, exacerbating climate change.
25. Overfishing for Feed: Sheep consume grain and feed, which can increase pressure on natural resources like fish stocks for feed.
26. Deforestation for Feed Production: Large-scale feed production for exported sheep can lead to deforestation, harming wildlife habitats.
27. Biodiversity Loss: The environmental impact of feed production reduces biodiversity in affected areas.
28. Port Waste and Pollution: Ports where live sheep are loaded or unloaded can be overwhelmed by waste runoff, harming local ecosystems.

#### #Economic and Social Reasons:

29. Job Loss in Local Industries: Live export can reduce the availability of livestock for domestic meat processing, impacting local jobs.
30. Economic Alternatives Exist: Exporting frozen or chilled sheep meat is a viable alternative that avoids animal suffering.
31. Public Opposition: Public outrage over live sheep export due to animal cruelty concerns is growing.
32. Reputational Damage: The live export industry damages the reputation of the sheep farming sector and the country's broader agricultural sector.
33. Reduced Product Quality: Sheep that endure long, stressful journeys can have lower-quality meat.
34. Lower Value for Farmers: Farmers may receive lower prices for sheep that have suffered during transport.
35. Costly to Monitor: Effective monitoring of live sheep export is expensive and difficult to implement properly.
36. Financial Losses from Mortality: High mortality rates during transport result in significant financial losses for exporters and farmers.
37. Increased Biosecurity Risks: Live sheep export increases the risk of transmitting diseases between countries.

#### Legal and Ethical Concerns:

38. Inconsistent Animal Welfare Laws: Many importing countries lack or poorly enforce animal welfare regulations, leading to inhumane treatment.

39. Ethical Responsibility: Sheep-exporting countries have a moral obligation to ensure humane treatment, which is often compromised during live transport.

40. Public Trust in Industry: Continuing live sheep export erodes public trust in the agricultural and meat industries, potentially leading to boycotts and stricter regulations.

These reasons outline the severe animal welfare, environmental, economic, and ethical issues associated with live sheep export, underscoring the case for a complete ban.