

**Submission
No 14**

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

Name: Mr Ric Allport
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As a concerned resident of New South Wales, I strongly urge the government to maintain the ban on live sheep exports and to support farmers in transitioning to plant-based agriculture. The cruelty inherent in the live export trade is unconscionable, and we must stand firm in our commitment to animal welfare while also promoting sustainable farming practices.

Having followed this issue closely, I am deeply troubled by the severe suffering that sheep endure during long sea voyages. These animals are subjected to extreme stress, overcrowding, and harsh conditions that no living being should have to endure.

The reality of these journeys is heart-wrenching:

Sheep face prolonged exposure to extreme heat, leading to severe dehydration, heat stress, and often death. The sight of animals gasping for air and collapsing from exhaustion is not something we should tolerate in a civilized society.

The unsanitary conditions on these ships are appalling. Decks are rarely, if ever, cleaned during the voyage, forcing animals to stand in their own waste for weeks. This not only causes immense discomfort but also increases the risk of disease and infection.

The risk of catastrophic accidents at sea is ever-present. We've seen tragic incidents where thousands of animals have drowned, suffering terribly in their final moments. These disasters also put human lives at risk, compounding the ethical issues at stake.

Even if the animals survive the journey, they often face cruel treatment upon arrival in foreign countries where animal welfare standards may be lax or non-existent. We have a moral responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of these animals beyond our shores.

Moreover, the live export trade is fundamentally at odds with our values as a society and our need to address climate change. By maintaining the ban on live sheep exports and supporting a transition to plant-based agriculture, we can:

Uphold our reputation as a nation that prioritizes animal welfare.

Significantly reduce our carbon footprint, as animal agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

Promote more sustainable and efficient use of our land and water resources.

Support farmers in transitioning to crops that are more resilient to climate change. I strongly believe that the future of Australian agriculture lies in plant-based farming.

By shifting our focus to crops and produce, we can:

Create a more sustainable agricultural sector that is better equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Improve food security by producing a greater variety of nutrient-dense plant foods.

Reduce water usage and land degradation associated with animal agriculture.

Open up new markets for Australian farmers, tapping into the growing global demand for plant-based products.

To facilitate this transition, I urge the government to:

Provide financial support and incentives for farmers willing to transition from animal agriculture to plant-based crops.

Invest in research and development of drought-resistant and high-yield plant varieties suitable for Australian conditions.

Offer training and education programs to help farmers acquire the skills needed for plant-based agriculture.

Develop infrastructure to support the processing and distribution of plant-based products.

In conclusion, I implore you to stand firm on the ban of live sheep exports and to take bold steps in supporting the transition to plant-based agriculture. This shift is not just about ending a cruel practice; it's about embracing a more ethical, sustainable, and prosperous future for Australian farming.

Let us lead by example, showing the world that we can build a strong agricultural sector that respects animal welfare, combats climate change, and meets the growing demand for plant-based products.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Ric Allport

Concerned NSW Resident