

**Submission  
No 16**

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

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## # Submission to the Inquiry on the Impact of the Live Sheep Export Ban

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the ban on live sheep exports from Australia. As someone deeply concerned about animal welfare, I believe this ban represents a significant step forward in protecting animals from unnecessary suffering and setting a positive example for global animal welfare standards.

### ## Animal Welfare Concerns

The live export industry poses severe risks to animal welfare that cannot be adequately mitigated:

1. **Extreme Stress:** Sheep endure prolonged periods of stress during long sea voyages, often lasting several weeks. This stress can lead to severe health issues and even death.
2. **Heat Stress:** Particularly in the summer months, sheep are at high risk of heat stress when traveling through tropical regions. The cramped conditions on ships exacerbate this issue, often leading to fatal outcomes.
3. **Unsanitary Conditions:** Ships are rarely cleaned during voyages, resulting in the accumulation of waste and creating unsanitary, harmful living conditions for the animals.
4. **Rough Handling:** The process of loading and unloading animals often involves cruel practices and rough handling, causing further distress and potential injury.
5. **Lack of Proper Care:** The sheer number of animals on these ships makes it challenging to provide adequate individual care, leading to suffering and neglect.

### ## Alternative Markets and Opportunities

Rather than reverting to live exports, we should focus on developing and expanding alternative markets that prioritize both animal welfare and economic viability:

1. **Chilled and Frozen Meat Exports:** Expanding our processed meat export industry would allow us to maintain international trade while ensuring animals are slaughtered humanely within Australia under proper regulation.
2. **Value-Added Products:** Investing in the development of value-added sheep products (such as specialty cheeses, high-quality wool products, etc.) could create new market opportunities without compromising on animal welfare.
3. **Sustainable Agriculture:** Encouraging diversification into sustainable, plant-based agriculture could provide new economic opportunities for farmers while reducing reliance on animal agriculture.
4. **Ethical Tourism:** Promoting farm stays and ethical animal tourism could create additional income streams for farmers while showcasing Australia's commitment to animal welfare.

### ## Successful Transitions from Live Exports

We can learn from other regions that have successfully transitioned away from live exports:

1. **New Zealand:** In 2021, New Zealand announced a ban on live cattle exports by sea, focusing instead on building its reputation for high-quality, ethically produced meat and dairy products.

2. European Union: The EU has implemented strict regulations on live animal transport, leading to a significant reduction in long-distance live exports and a shift towards meat exports.

These examples demonstrate that it is possible to prioritize animal welfare while maintaining a strong agricultural sector.

## ## Conclusion

The ban on live sheep exports represents a crucial step forward for animal welfare in Australia. Overturning this ban would be a regressive move that ignores the well-documented suffering of animals in the live export trade. Instead, we should focus on innovative, ethical alternatives that can support our agricultural sector while upholding our responsibility to protect animal welfare.

I urge the committee to consider the overwhelming evidence of animal suffering in live exports and to recommend maintaining and strengthening the current ban. Let us lead by example and show the world that Australia values both its agricultural heritage and its ethical obligations to animal welfare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aysha Sezmis