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

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EOUGH IS ENOUGH! TIME TO EVOLVE! The live export industry is hideously cruel and must be eradicated and replaced with a more humane, healthier, and more sustainable business model. Just this year the world witnessed in horror the latest live export atrocity involving the livestock carrier MV Bahijah which brought back the nightmare of a similar situation that occurred with another live export ship at Port Adelaide's Outer Harbor in 2011.

Animals destined for live export endure a harrowing journey that starts long before they are loaded onto ships. They are usually transported from farms to feedlots and then onto ships—for weeks the victims of extreme cruelty! Once on board, they are often confined in pens for long periods, facing the dangers of heat stress, illness, and injuries at sea. Tragically, many animals may die, while thousands suffer throughout the journey. No relief awaits them, as survivors are subjected to further horrific trauma in importing countries with zero to minimal animal welfare protections before being brutally slaughtered.

It is long overdue for the governments of countries participating in this abominable industry to implement and support safer and humane alternative models, such as the expansion of chilled and frozen export markets. This business model can benefit both animal welfare and the economy supporting a transition for farmers and associated industries. Also, the support of research into and development of alternative industries that do not rely on animal exploitation such as plant-based agriculture could offer new healthy economic opportunities for communities.