

Submission
No 20

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

Organisation: World Animal Protection Australia

Date Received: 19 September 2024

World Animal Protection Submission on the Impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea on New South Wales

World Animal Protection welcomes the invitation to provide input to the NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee 4 on the impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea on New South Wales.

At the outset we wish to make it clear that World Animal Protection does not support the live export of animals for slaughter or breeding overseas, and it is an issue of great concern for our more than 80,000 supporters across New South Wales. It is a cruel trade that causes intense and avoidable animal suffering. **We fully support the federal ban on live export of sheep by sea.**

We would like to address the following terms of reference:

(f) examine reasons used by the Federal Government for the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea and whether the Federal Government should provide compensation to New South Wales sheep producers

- We agree with the Federal Government's reasoning to phase out live export by sea, particularly the decision to prioritize animal welfare and highlight the community importance of animal welfare. In fact, we applaud the findings of the independent panel that, "[Animal welfare is at the heart of the government's policy and should continue to be a focus in the transition away from live exports by sea](#)" (3) World Animal Protection supports the recognition and legal codification of animal sentience, and through this lens, we believe that the phase out is justified on animal welfare grounds alone.
- World Animal Protection supports a Just Transition away from industrial animal production to equitable, sustainable, and humane food systems. We believe that New South Wales sheep producers, like other livestock producers across Australia, should be supported during transitions that improve the welfare of animals via a range of means, including provision of services. While we cannot comment on specific plans for financial compensation in these specific circumstances, we support the development of resources that aid farmers who wish to transition away from practices that are detrimental to animal welfare.

(g) examine animal welfare concerns relevant to the determination to cease live sheep export

- Thousands of Australian animals die in transit for the live export trade each year. Many who do survive these gruelling journeys are often handled roughly at their destination, killed while fully conscious and many suffer outright brutality. The animal welfare issues inherent in the live export trade cannot be fixed through better regulation. Only a prohibition of live export by sea can ensure that Australian sheep are protected from the extreme temperatures, stressful conditions, and risk of unregulated slaughter posed by a live export voyage.

- We would like to draw particular attention to the independent panel's finding that there is a [lack of an independent accreditation](#) to ensure compliance with current animal welfare and legislation within sheep feedlots, which are a critical component of the live export supply chain. We urge the committee to consider systemic failings within the industrial livestock sector and the risk that this lack of independent oversight poses for Australian sheep now and in the future.

If you would like any further information on the points raised in this submission, please contact Molly Tamulevich, World Animal Protection at .

Sincerely,

Ben Pearson