

Submission  
No 28

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 20 September 2024

---

Partially  
Confidential

## **We've fought long and hard for this historic win for sheep and animal welfare.**

### **It MUST stay.**

Many in my community are passionately against live export of all animals. Not only do they suffer and perish from extreme heat and long journeys, their fate at the destination is often inhumane and against what farmers and the public want for our animals. Supporting humane alternatives aligns better with our values and sheep are spared from suffering.

In my submission I would like to address item (f) below

(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.

The reasons include:

1. Animals enduring severe suffering during long, stressful sea voyages. Our location means that the journey to northern hemisphere markets will always be a long one and this brings unavoidable animal welfare challenges. Long journeys expose animals to extreme heat, dehydration and illness. Sheep suffer from heat stress, leading to severe health issues and death.

The export of live animals entails significant risks to their welfare. In 2018, thousands of sheep died in extreme heat and cramped conditions on board an export vessel operated by an Australian company. They were literally being cooked from the inside out as they lay dying in their own faeces.

2. Consumers increasingly demanding humane treatment of animals. Australia must follow New Zealand's decision and prioritise the wellbeing of animals over commercial interests. Banning live exports can improve a nation's ethical reputation. New Zealand has banned the export of animals for slaughter and due to its courageous and compassionate leadership, Aotearoa's legacy for animals has again set a precedent for the rest of the world to live up to.
3. Consistent animal welfare standards across borders are impossible to maintain and monitor. There have been multiple exposures of cruel practices and abusive handling of all live animals exported to middle eastern and Asian markets.
4. Live export harms the environment and contributes to carbon emissions. Ships are not cleaned during voyages, creating unsanitary and harmful conditions.
5. Honouring a 2022 election promise the federal government has announced a \$107 million transition package for the industry.

As this inevitably includes increasing Australia's domestic meat production we must be mindful that we are not immune from cruelty and inhumane practices as witnessed by footage obtained by organisations like Animals Australia and the Farm Transparency Project.

Australia's own slaughterhouse practices, the mental health and behaviour of workers who slaughter and process hundreds or thousands of terrified sentient beings every day must be monitored more closely than ever. Closed circuit TV must be operable and workers and managers accountable for their practices under law.

Animal cruelty is not a right because of our dominion over them. A nation is judged by the care and commitment we all share for the welfare of animals.