

**Submission  
No 30**

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

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Dear Committee,

I need to start this submission by saying that, when legislation was passed to stop the export of live sheep, I burst into tears, with both relief and pride.

Relief because the agony of millions of sentient animals is to cease. Pride because I can claim to be a citizen of a country that proved itself to be progressive and groundbreaking in its acceptance that the quality of lives of nonhuman animals matters.

I –and thousands of other voters- voted for Labor in the last election solely because of its promise to end live sheep export and Labor came through with the goods.

With this legislation, Australia gains the international and domestic respect of an international population which is increasingly demanding that laws are put in place to ensure that the treatment of nonhuman animals continues to improve.

While this legislation was being debated, the spotlight was on the fact that because of inadequate legal safeguards protecting the rights of nonhuman animals who are completely at our mercy, anything can happen to them. We saw this with the footage of what these live export animals endured: packed in like sardines in ships, vulnerable to seasickness, heat stress, falling over with weakness and drowning in their own faeces and urine, thrown overboard if they are sick (not even yet dead).

Then, at the other end, bludgeoned to death, or their throats cut so that they bleed to death, slaughtered by humans who are completely dispassionate towards these animals because of cultural beliefs that they are worthless and deserve to be treated as such.

The government has promised \$107 million to the farmers (who wash their hands of the fate of these animals as soon as they leave our shores on their fateful journey) to transition from live sheep trade to other existing and emerging opportunities.

It is a no-brainer for abattoirs to be built here. Let's look at some of the statistics which completely support the building of extra abattoirs to process the sheep which would've been live exported:

- In 2015, JBS Abattoirs Australia was slaughtering 5 million sheep annually (cite Agribusiness, The Weekly Times). JBS Abattoirs is one of 300 in Australia.
- In 2021, Australia exported 489,000 live sheep (cite Australian Government). In the same year, approximately 6 million sheep were slaughtered in Australia.

Looking at the above information, it is apparent that the sheep that would've been live exported can be processed domestically in even a single abattoir.

With the new abattoir, let the butchers from countries who formerly imported our live sheep come to Australia and slaughter the sheep if they must –under the strictest Australian supervision- and take the carcasses back to their own countries.

Another huge opportunity is the domestic market. Most Australians can't afford lamb. What a tremendous opportunity that presents for sheep farmers!

This new legislation, which prevents the unconscionable agony of millions of sentient sheep, must be upheld. Australia cannot consider regressing to the dark ages and bowing down to those few in the population who refuse to acknowledge that animal cruelty is not on.

Alexis Cross