

Submission
No 44

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

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For at least two decades, both as a NSW resident and now in the ACT, have totally opposed the live animal trade, a stance reinforced by background reading and inquiry into the sordid and disquieting animal cruelty and suffering that permeates every aspect of this horrific trade.

Hence I am totally in favour of moves by the Federal Government to put a final end to the live sheep trade - and deeply concerned that some vested interests and their aligned representatives in the New South Wales Parliament have established this separate inquiry process in contravention to that policy.

The basis of opposition to continuation of the live sheep trade encompasses both the horrific cruelty and suffering which permeates every stage of the transit and abattoir aspects of the process - and the alternative of relatively humane local slaughter and dispatch as chilled meat.

In summary, these are - and always have been - the salient points as to unconscionable and inhumane cruelty and suffering, substantiated repeatedly by witnesses, reports, inquiries and investigative reports.

- * Animals endure severe suffering during long, stressful sea voyages
- * Long journeys expose animals to extreme heat, dehydration and illness.
- * Cruel practices, such as rough handling are common.
- * Ships are not cleaned during voyages, creating unsanitary and harmful conditions
- * Sheep suffer from heat stress, leading to severe health issues or death.
- *. Ship accidents can (and have) result in the drowning of animals and loss of human life.
- * Live export harms the environment and contributes to carbon emissions.
- * Consumers increasingly demand humane treatment of animals.

Consistent animal welfare standards across borders are hard to maintain.

- * Banning live exports can improve - and in our case recover - a nation's ethical reputation.
- * Banning of live animal export by New Zealand has had positive repercussions at home and abroad, and similar net benefits are confidently forecast for the ending of live animal export by Great Britain..
- * Animals are all too regularly subjected to extreme conditions and abhorrently cruel practices in foreign countries - practices which would be totally illegal here.- over which we have no control from the moment they depart our shores..

For all these reasons - backed by innumerable and extremely confronting examples in evidence - it is of vital importance that the live sheep trade - which is only practicable by sea, but intolerably and unacceptably cruel in that mode, plus the unconscionable treatment of these unfortunate animals at destination - must be ended.