

**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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I believe that the tangible benefits of live sheep export don't measure up against the immeasurable suffering these animals endure.

Live sheep export is fundamentally brutal and unnecessary. Both historical experiences and current scientific evidence unequivocally demonstrate that it is impossible to conduct this trade in a way that meets acceptable animal welfare standards. The sheep are subjected to extreme conditions during their two to three-week long sea voyages to the Middle East. They are forced to endure excessive heat and humidity, stand, lie, and sleep in their own excrement, and are exposed to an array of stressors, including failure to eat, lameness, salmonellosis, infection, and respiratory diseases due to the high ammonia levels on board.

Furthermore, it is distressing to know that Australian sheep exported to the Middle East are often slaughtered while fully conscious. This is in stark contrast to Halal-accredited slaughter in Australia, which includes stunning prior to slaughter, even for lamb and mutton exports to the Middle East. Slaughter without stunning inflicts significant pain and distress on these animals. Regrettably, there seems to be no foreseeable change in this practice by Middle Eastern abattoirs and Halal authorities.

In closing, I strongly advocate for ending live sheep exports, an industry plagued with inhumane practices and unnecessary suffering. It is high time Australia leads by example in upholding improved animal welfare standards on a global scale.

Regards,