

Submission
No 55

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

Name: Mr Joshua Wong
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As a concerned Australian citizen, I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective once again, on the pressing issue of live sheep exports. My love for a peaceful life, enriched by family, friends (human or non-human), and the beauty of our natural landscapes and societies filled with compassion and meaning through recreation, ingenuity and also leisure, fuels my commitment to advocating for the rights and wellbeing of the individual animals whose lives are being effected by this industry.

To be in favour of Sheep is to be in favour of humanity/compassion and benevolence: Sheep are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, fear, and stress. Protecting them from the harsh realities of live exports is a humane choice that reflects our commitment to compassion and ethical treatment.

(g) examine animal welfare concerns relevant to the determination to cease live sheep export by sea by the Federal Government

The live export of sheep by sea raises serious ethical and welfare concerns that cannot be overlooked. Animals endure severe suffering during long, stressful voyages, which often expose them to extreme heat, dehydration, and illness. Reports indicate that many sheep suffer from heat stress, leading to severe health issues or even death. The harsh conditions they face, including overcrowding and limited access to food and water, are unacceptable and I have seen the extreme suffering on their faces on such journeys to their ultimate demise.

Moreover, ship accidents can result in the drowning of animals and loss of human life. Such tragedies highlight the inherent risks associated with live exports. Additionally, unsanitary conditions on ships, where animals are not properly cleaned during voyages, create harmful environments that exacerbate health problems and suffering not only amongst these beings but also risking bio securities home and abroad as well.

(i) examine proven alternative markets and opportunities for New South Wales sheep producers

Transitioning away from live sheep exports offers New South Wales sheep producers viable opportunities to explore and expand into alternative markets. The demand for high-quality processed meat products continues to grow, particularly as consumers increasingly prioritise humane treatment of animals therefore it is paramount that consumers are educated on plant based or lab grown options and their adoption pursued while supporting farmers in transitioning to these ethical practices.

Market Opportunities: investing in local plant based processing facilities, producers can create jobs, stimulate regional economies, and enhance the quality and traceability of their products while garnering a safer working environment. This shift allows farmers to capture better prices while promoting ethical practices that align with consumer values.

Cases of a sheep farmers choosing to save their animals:

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sheep-farmer-vegetarian-lambs-sanctuary-slaughter-meat-industry-dairy-devon-a8754056.html>
2. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018700314/the-sheep-farmer-turned-vegan-activist>

1. Environmental Impact: Live exports harm the environment and contribute to carbon emissions. By banning these practices, we can reduce our carbon footprint and promote more sustainable agricultural methods.

2. Cultural and Ethical Reputation: Banning live exports can enhance a nation's ethical reputation on the global stage. Upholding animal welfare standards signals our commitment to humane treatment, aligning with the values of a compassionate society.

3. Public Sentiment: With growing public awareness regarding animal welfare, consumers increasingly demand products sourced from humane practices. This trend presents an opportunity for producers who prioritise ethical treatment to thrive in the marketplace.

4. Consistency in Standards: Maintaining consistent animal welfare standards across borders is challenging, especially when sheep are subjected to extreme conditions and cruel practices in foreign countries. A ban on live exports would eliminate the risks associated with such inconsistencies.

Ceasing live sheep exports is not only an economic or political decision; it shows our values as a society committed to compassion and ethical treatment of animals. By prioritising animal welfare, exploring alternative markets, and learning from successful case studies worldwide, we can create a sustainable and humane future for our sheep as individuals with value in, and of themselves. Let us commit to a path that respects the rights of animals and enhances the livelihoods of our dedicated producers. Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Joshua N Wong

A Concerned Australian Citizen practicing a Vegan lifestyle and advocating for a better world for all as we evolve as an ethical and technological society.