

**Submission
No 56**

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

Name: Rohan Laxmanlal
Date Received: 20 September 2024

Rohan Laxmanalal

20 September 2024

Committee Secretary

NSW Parliament's Upper House Inquiry into the Impact of the Live Sheep Export Ban

Parliament of New South Wales

6 Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Rohan Laxmanalal, and I am a passionate advocate for animal welfare, and someone who deeply values the compassion and progress our society has made in recent years to protect animals from unnecessary suffering. Today, I write to you with a heavy heart and an urgent plea: protect the ban on live sheep exports.

I have seen firsthand the transformative changes we have achieved in animal welfare through banning live sheep exports. These are not simply legislative decisions but moral imperatives, representing a turning point for how we, as a society, treat those without a voice. For far too long, animals endured unimaginable cruelty during long sea voyages, with many suffering and dying in horrific conditions. To even consider reversing this ban would be to undo the hard-won progress that reflects our shared values of kindness and compassion.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) has pushed for an inquiry, suggesting that this ban harms the livelihoods of NSW farmers. However, as someone who has followed these developments closely, I can confidently say that the ban has had minimal impact on farmers' incomes, as export alternatives and domestic markets have absorbed any losses. This inquiry, driven by the SFF, does not stem from a place of economic necessity but rather an unwillingness to move forward in our collective journey towards a more ethical and humane society.

I stand with Emma Hurst, the deputy chair of this inquiry, and all those who continue to oppose the regressive and dangerous motion to reinstate live sheep exports. Emma has been a steadfast voice for the animals, but her voice needs amplifying now more than ever. I urge you to consider the moral weight of your decision. We are talking about sentient beings who suffer immensely for what is, at its core, profit-driven exploitation.

While it is important to support farmers, we must do so in ways that do not perpetuate suffering. Continuing to seek innovative, cruelty-free, and sustainable methods for livestock trade is the path forward, not reverting to outdated practices that have been proven harmful.

This is not just a policy matter for me—it's personal. Every time we reverse the clock on animal rights, we undo a piece of our humanity. I believe we can be a society that balances the needs

of its people with the dignity and respect owed to all living creatures. Please, let us protect the ban on live sheep exports and continue moving towards a future we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Rohan Laxmanlal