

**Submission  
No 62**

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

**Name:** Jim Malone  
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Dear NSW Parliament,

I am Jim Malone, an individual deeply passionate about nature and the preservation of our environment. As such, I am compelled to share my views on the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea.

The live sheep export trade is fundamentally inconsistent with any acceptable standards of animal welfare. Despite recent regulatory reforms, the intrinsic issues regarding animal welfare remain unaddressed. In fact, these reforms have only served to emphasise the extent of the welfare problems deeply rooted within the trade.

Sheep continue to suffer through intense heat and humidity during their 2-3 week long sea journeys to the Middle East. During this journey, they are forced to stand, lie and sleep in their own waste, and are exposed to multiple stressors, including refusal to eat, lameness, salmonellosis, infection, and respiratory diseases due to high ammonia levels on board.

Moreover, Australian sheep exported to the Middle East are slaughtered while fully conscious. In contrast, Halal-accredited slaughter in Australia, including for lamb and mutton exports to the Middle East, implements stunning prior to slaughter. Slaughter without stunning inflicts considerable pain and distress on the sheep. Unfortunately, there is little hope for Middle Eastern abattoirs and Halal authorities to adapt this practice in the near future.

However, Australia can contribute to enhancing global animal welfare standards by backing the work of civil society groups such as RSPCA International, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Compassion in World Farming, and Humane Society International. These organisations actively strive to implement WOAHA standards in developing regions.

The majority of Australians are in favour of ending live sheep exports, a sentiment echoed in submissions to recent inquiries on the phase-out. Indeed, over 80% of the 800 submissions and 3,300 survey responses received by the 2023 Independent Panel on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports supported the phase out. It is therefore clear that the community's concern for animal welfare runs deep.

This concern is so profound that researchers from the University of Queensland have found that exposure to images of animal suffering in the live export trade caused significant emotional distress and feelings of helplessness. They recommended that future media coverage of animal suffering in the trade should provide the public with contact details for counselling and mental health support.

The NSW sheep industry has minimal exposure to the trade, with less than 3% of annual national turnover and less than 2% of national sheep meat export value. The 2023 report of the Independent Panel on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports did not identify any perceived impact on the NSW industry from the phase out. However, the damage to Australia's international reputation caused by the cruelty of the live sheep export trade does affect NSW, as it has negative implications for the entire sheep industry.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the significant animal welfare issues, the public sentiment, and the potential harm to Australia's international standing in your deliberations on the phase-out of live sheep exports.

Regards,

Jim Malone.