

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

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Partially
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WHY I SUPPORT THE PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS:

- There are several serious welfare problems associated with live export.
- The sheep endure unimaginable suffering from heat stress, leading to severe health issues or death, (the images of which have left Australians permanently traumatised).
- Cruel practices, such as rough handling are common.
- Long journeys expose animals to extreme heat, dehydration and illness.
- The welfare impacts of high stocking densities on ships and ammonia build-up from animal waste, the inevitable illnesses and injuries resulting from the challenging living conditions on board.
- Ships are not cleaned during voyages, creating unsanitary and harmful conditions.
- Ship accidents can result in the drowning of animals and loss of human life, as happened to the livestock vessel, Gulf Livestock 1, which was on its way to China to deliver almost 6,000 heifers when it was struck by Typhoon Maysak and sunk, killing 41 people on board and 6,000 livestock.
- Poor handling and slaughter practices in the importing countries. The animals are also often subjected to extreme conditions and cruel practices in foreign countries. Not to mention the inevitable deaths on board.
- Consistent animal welfare standards across borders are hard to maintain.
- For those sheep that do reach importing countries, Australian regulations require them to be treated in compliance with the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\) standards](#). However, these standards permit slaughter without pre-stunning, meaning that it is perfectly legal for Australian sheep to be slaughtered overseas whilst fully conscious – and in fact most are slaughtered this way. Sheep that are conscious during throat cutting are exposed to [significant animal welfare risks](#) and experience pain before death. By contrast in Australia, [all Halal-accredited export abattoirs practice stunning](#).
- There are also serious issues with regulatory compliance and monitoring in importing countries, with [189 breaches](#) of the key regulatory system (ESCAS) reported since 2012. Concerningly, over the past decade many thousands of Australian animals have been found outside of approved supply chains, subject to often cruel treatment which fails to meet either Australian or WOAH animal welfare standards.
- Welfare risks in live sheep export cannot simply be ‘regulated out’ - they are inherent to the system. If regulations were introduced to truly address these issues and improve animal welfare, the trade would quickly become economically unfeasible. It is simply not possible to have a properly regulated and profitable live sheep export trade, due to the unavoidable conflict between improving sheep welfare and protecting exporter profits. This explains why the full recommended northern summer ban period (6 months) and other recommended reforms were never implemented, as doing so would have rendered the trade unprofitable.
- Live export harms the environment and contributes to carbon emissions.
- Labor promised a ban on live exports as a key election promise but to now consider going back on their word is a breach of trust of why Australians voted for them, a blatant disregard of what most Australians want to see happen.

THE BENEFITS OF A PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS (INCLUDING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL):

- Banning live exports would improve Australia's ethical reputation and green accreditation internationally.
- The whole world is watching Australia on this issue, and it is embarrassing that 'dirty money' seems to be a priority over the welfare and lives of our animals. This means that Australia is not currently being presented to the world as a developed, responsible and ethical nation, which it would if live exports were banned.
- Polling consistently shows the majority of Australians support the phase out of live sheep export.
- Australians would trust the government more and have a better view of them, if they deliver on their promises and represent its citizen's views.
- Multiple economic reports have concluded that live sheep export is not in Australia's long-term economic interests.
- Australian consumers are prepared to pay a premium price for locally raised 'paddock to plate' meat, from livestock that they know has been raised naturally and treated humanely. This would replace dependence on profits from live exports.
- Consumers increasingly demand humane treatment of animals.
- The sheep could be ethically slaughtered (ideally by on-farm processing), instead and the meat sold to the Australian market to shore up Australia's food supply chain demands and food security.
- Ending the live export trade would create jobs in Australia, is better for the environment and will reduce carbon emissions caused by overseas shipping.
- Australia has not always conducted and been dependent on live exports, we must find a way to turn back the clock on this cruel trade. Think Brexit and National Sovereignty. With government support, forward practical planning and thinking outside of the box, we CAN do it! We MUST do it for the animals who are paying the ultimate price and for the moral reputation of our country.