

**Submission
No 70**

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

Name: Ms Kim Gambrill
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Protect the ban on Live Sheep Exports

I am opposed to the live export of sheep by sea, and I strongly support the government's Bill to phase out live sheep exports.

The phase-out of live sheep export delivers on a government commitment supported by the majority of Australians.

Australian export laws should reflect the values of the Australian community. Over 78% of Australians support an end to the export of live sheep to the Middle East.

The generous financial assistance package being provided to farmers affected by the phase-out is also supported by the community by our taxes.

This policy to end the trade is based on decades of evidence that live sheep export is inherently cruel and is an unfixable industry.

Contrary to industry claims, the trade has not been "fixed." Independent Observer data confirms sheep still continue to suffer prolonged heat stress on voyages to the Middle East. Sheep suffer at every stage of the journey, at sea and in importing countries where they face fully conscious slaughter. This are subjected to cumulative reoccurring stress from road transport to unnatural feedlots to ship boarding with an unnatural environment on old ships that are poorly ventilated, where they are crammed in with limited access to water and unnatural feed pellets. They are not cared for properly and stand day after day with many that die in their own excrement. Some being shovelled overboard dead or dying that further pollutes our oceans. And the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) feel that this is acceptable. Well, I do not.

Then those that survive these long ship voyages are herded off the ship many transported further outside approved supply chains-bought and sold on social media, crammed into car boots or tied on roof racks to endure further heat stress in the Middle East to await a fully conscious cruel slaughter. And the SFF feel again that this is acceptable.

The animal welfare issues inherent to the trade will always continue and can never be minimised or controlled, because 1. the physiology of sheep and their inability to regulate heat stress will never change, 2. climate change and extreme heat conditions in the Middle East has increased and will get worse causing even more heat stress for sheep, and 3. deeply held cultural practices of Middle Eastern countries regarding slaughter methods that do not align with Australian standards will never change. ***These issues are inevitable, ongoing and cannot be managed or overcome- never.***

Today there is an acceptance and understanding of animal sentience. The live trade does not accord with community expectations for how animals should be treated today because it has been scientifically concluded that animals feel fear, pain, suffering and brutality.

The industry needs to move with the times to create a more humane and sustainable future that respects animal welfare and protects Australia's international reputation.

A frozen chilled meat is the future for this industry now.

According to Pegasus Economics, the Australian live sheep export industry is in structural decline, with exports down 70 per cent since 2018. Rather than propping up this declining industry, Australia should focus on investing in our onshore processing sector. This is both more humane for livestock and better economically for Australia, with the potential to add jobs and millions of dollars to local farming communities. This will provide local Australian farming communities the economic benefits of onshore processing.

A frozen meat trade will make the same money for farmers without the cruelty and same level of suffering attached, as sheep will be slaughtered in Australia. In fact, the live sheep export trade by sea is a declining industry whereas the frozen meat trade is an expanding industry, with projections economically being much higher than the live sheep export trade.

It's time this cruelty ends. Enough is enough. END THE CRUELTY!

I strongly support the government's Bill to phase out the live sheep export trade which must progress in Parliament with the legislated final end date for the operation of this cruel industry to finally end on the 1st May 2028. The transition to phase out this industry must also begin as soon as possible.

I am utterly amazed that we are having yet another inquiry pushed by the NSW Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party that will have minimal impact on NSW sheep farmers!

Your sincerely
Kim Gambrill