

**Submission  
No 78**

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

**Name:** Mr Fraser Paterson  
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To: NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on Live Sheep Exports

My name is Fraser Paterson, and I am an animal advocate. I am writing in response to the inquiry into the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea, a matter that I have been advocating for, for over the last decade.

All of the evidence concludes that the live sheep export trade is not in line with acceptable standards of animal welfare. After recent regulatory reforms, the export industry claims that Australia leads the world in best practice. I contest that even if this is the case, it does not make it right and it does not lead to acceptable animal welfare outcomes.

The NSW sheep industry has not depended on live sheep export trade for a substantial amount of time. Since at least 2018, when exports from Port Adelaide ceased, no NSW sheep have been sourced for live export, and even prior to this, the numbers were negligible. In addition, the extensive 2023 report of the Independent Panel on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports did not identify any significant impact on the NSW industry from the phase-out.

Considering the absence of any substantial financial impact (possibly nil) on NSW, it is perplexing that the NSW government is investing time and resources into this matter, when there are more pressing issues that require attention. I for one would like to see the terms of reference or evidence as to why this enquiry was established in the first place.

In addition, research has found that many people are so concerned about animal welfare issues that it has a profound effect on the psychological wellbeing of people. The fact that the NSW government is considering this issue will be having a negative impact on some NSW resident's mental health for absolutely no valid reason.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the gravity of the social implications and animal welfare issues associated with live sheep exports. I believe phasing out this trade is not only in the best interest of our animals, but it also aligns with the values and beliefs held by the majority of Australians and will have almost zero financial impact for the state and residents of NSW.

Thank you for reading and considering my submission

Fraser Paterson