

Submission
No 79

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 19 September 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

I make this submission as a concerned member of the Australian community and a supporter for the phase out of live sheep export. I hope you give this submission your full consideration.

The live sheep export trade exhibits both unnecessary cruelty and a disregard for basic animal welfare standards. Our history with this trade and the scientific evidence that has accumulated over the years demonstrates that it's nearly impossible to conduct such activities without compromising animal wellbeing.

The conditions aboard the seafaring vessels used for these exports are far from humane. Sheep are forced to endure intense heat and humidity over the course of 2-3 weeks while trapped in their own waste, hundreds of thousands of litres of untreated waste. The sheep are suffering, they are distressed, they are being cooked alive. These conditions, poor ventilation, no proper access to food and water, no veterinary care, lead to a plethora of health issues, including nutritional disorders, salmonellosis, infections, and respiratory diseases, due to the high ammonia levels on board.

Pregnant sheep are also forced on these vessels, with many giving birth in these filthy and inhumane conditions. Live export companies are legally required to ensure all ewes are pregnancy tested by ultrasound and certified not pregnant. Clearly this is not the case and devastatingly the babies don't make it as they are being trampled, lose their mothers or killed by crew members who are ordered to slit their throats.

Upon arrival in the Middle East, Australian sheep who somehow survive these shocking and illegal conditions are slaughtered without any stunning, causing them immense pain, fear and distress. In contrast, in Australia, sheep are stunned prior to slaughter, even for Halal accredited meat exports to the Middle East. This saves them from having to consciously experience the process of neck cutting and bleeding out.

National polling conducted by McCrindle Research in 2022 found that 78% of Australians supported a phase out of the trade. Support for the phase out was also high in Western Australia where the trade takes place. More recent polling in May 2023 found that 71% of Western Australians supported the phase out, including 69% in rural and regional areas of the state.

Australians, including me, overwhelming support an end to live sheep exports. We do not wish to continue seeing the suffering and cruelty associated with the trade and we know there is a better way and more humane alternatives exist.

I was disheartened to hear the news that the NSW Parliament has set up an inquiry to examine the impact of the Federal Government's phase out of live sheet exports by sea will have in NSW because the NSW sheep industry has not relied on the live export trade for many years. No NSW sheep have been sourced for live export since at least 2018 when exports from Port Adelaide ceased, and even then, the numbers were negligible. So why is the NSW Parliament wasting hard earned tax payers money on this Inquiry?

Kind regards