

**Submission
No 91**

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

Name: Cornelia Herschel
Date Received: 19 September 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Cornelia Herschel, a passionate advocate for animal rights. I strongly believe in the need to protect all creatures from any form of mistreatment. This belief propels me to express my profound concerns regarding the live export of sheep by sea, which I perceive as fundamentally cruel and unnecessary.

Historical context and scientific data continually reveal that this practice fails to align with respectable animal welfare standards. Despite recent regulatory reforms, the heart-wrenching issues linked to animal welfare in this trade persist. These reforms merely illuminate the depth of these welfare problems, rather than offering any tangible solutions.

Australian Merino sheep, our primary export, are not well-suited to high humidity environments. Consequently, they suffer from prolonged heat stress on a majority of voyages, particularly when crossing through the hot, humid equatorial region and entering the scorching Red Sea and Persian Gulf areas. As climate change exacerbates these extreme temperatures, the risk of major catastrophes at sea is set to escalate.

During their two to three-week voyages to the Middle East, the sheep continue to exist in deplorable conditions, standing, lying, and sleeping amidst their own faeces. They are exposed to a plethora of stressors including failure to eat, lameness, salmonellosis, infection, and respiratory diseases due to high ammonia levels on board. The industry's claim of reduced mortality rates is not an accurate reflection of animal welfare. This approach neglects the numerous serious issues preceding death and fails to consider the experience of surviving animals. This underlines the industry's resistance to change.

Upon reaching the Middle East, these sheep are slaughtered without stunning, causing extreme pain, fear, and distress. In contrast, in Australia, sheep are stunned before slaughter, preventing them from consciously experien