

Submission  
No 96

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 18 September 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have a multifaceted perspective on this issue, having worked in butchery for 3 years and more widely in animal agriculture as well. Now, I serve in a ticketing platform dedicated to philanthropy, with donations surpassing \$10.5 million to effective charities. I'm writing to submit my views on the proposed phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea.

Firstly, it is my belief that the live sheep export trade is fundamentally inhumane and unnecessary. Our history and current scientific evidence indicate that this trade cannot comply with satisfactory animal welfare standards. Australian Merino sheep, in particular, struggle to withstand high humidity environments. They suffer from prolonged heat stress during at least 60% of voyages as they cross the hot and humid equatorial region and enter the Red Sea and Persian Gulf regions. As these sheep are exported to some of the world's hottest regions, the risk of catastrophic disasters at sea is only likely to increase with the inevitable rise of global temperatures due to climate change.

The suffering of the sheep is further exacerbated upon their arrival in the Middle East, where they are slaughtered without the mercy of stunning, causing them extreme pain, distress, and fear. The stark contrast with Australia's practice of stunning sheep before slaughter, even for Halal certified meat exports to the Middle East, highlights the cruel and unnecessary nature of the live sheep export trade.

However, it is important to note that Australia's participation in live sheep exports isn't the only path to improving global animal welfare standards. Through international platforms such as the World Organisation for Animal Health and international trade agreement negotiations, we can advocate for higher animal welfare standards worldwide.

Furthermore, the public sentiment in Australia overwhelmingly supports the phase-out of this trade. National polling by McCrindle Research in 2022 revealed that 78% of Australians advocated for a phase-out, with even higher support in Western Australia, where the trade is primarily conducted. More recent polling in May 2023 echoed these sentiments, with 71% of Western Australians, including 69% in rural and regional areas, backing the phase-out.

The live sheep export trade has been largely irrelevant for the NSW sheep industry for many years, with no NSW sheep sourced for live export since at least 2018. Additionally, the 2023 Independent Panel on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports found no evidence suggesting any significant impacts on the NSW sheep industry due to the phase-out. High freight costs would likely deter an increase in interstate trade between WA and NSW, making it an unsustainable and unreliable market for WA producers.

In conclusion, the phase-out of live sheep exports aligns with both public sentiment and animal welfare considerations. Furthermore, it seems unlikely to negatively impact the NSW sheep industry. With alternative, more humane practices available, it is time we end the unnecessary suffering associated with this trade.

Regards,