

**Submission
No 101**

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

Name: Mr Rob Edwards
Date Received: 18 September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Rob Edwards, a passionate advocate for animal rights, and I am adamantly against any form of animal abuse. I am writing to express my strong support for the phasing out of live sheep exports by sea, which I believe is fundamentally cruel and unnecessary. Historical experience and current scientific evidence clearly demonstrate that this practice fails to meet satisfactory animal welfare standards. Despite the recent regulatory reforms, the endemic welfare issues within this trade have not been addressed; instead, they have only accentuated the severity of the problems.

Australian Merino sheep are known to struggle in high humidity environments, suffering prolonged heat stress on a significant proportion of voyages. They are often transported through the hot and humid equatorial region to the Persian Gulf, some of the world's hottest regions. With climate change causing a steady rise in extreme temperatures, the risk of major catastrophic disasters at sea will only increase.

While the live sheep export industry may argue that death rates have fallen, it is important to note that this is not a scientifically valid measure of animal welfare. Mortality overlooks the serious welfare issues that precede death and fails to consider the experience of the surviving animals. The industry's continued reliance on mortality rates to defend its practices, despite recommendations from the 2018 McCarthy Review to shift focus, only underscores their unwillingness to change.

Sheep are subjected to numerous stressors during their 2-3 week sea voyages to the Middle East, including failure to eat, lameness, infection, and respiratory diseases due to high ammonia levels on board. The conditions they endure during transportation are simply unacceptable, forced to stand, lie, and sleep in their own waste.

Upon their arrival in the Middle East, these sheep are slaughtered without stunning, leading to extreme pain,