

**Submission
No 108**

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

Name: Ms Jo Hobson
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I strongly object to the live sheep export trade to overseas countries from Australia.

1) PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

I am very pleased that the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Act 2024 came into effect on 10 July 2024.

It has been a cruel trade. I have seen images of sheep packed together on ships going to overseas destinations like the Middle East. The trips can be long and hot.

If there is an Independent Observer on board their reports often mention how the sheep are packed together and experience heat stress.

On arrival at their destination there is no-one monitoring how they are killed and it is unlikely they are stunned before slaughter.

I have seen footage of sheep pushed into the back of cars to an unknown destination and death.

2) PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF THE CRUEL TRADE

When I lived in Perth years ago I would see trucks drive by packed with sheep off to be loaded onto ships for export or to the abattoir. Whatever their fate there appeared to be no concern for the welfare of the sheep. They were so tightly packed in together that I could see their legs sticking out awkwardly through the side of the steel truck walls. They must have been in a lot of pain.

I wondered why the sheep farmers were not more concerned about the sheep's welfare on the trucks and assumed that from the farmer's point of view the deal was done, the sheep have left the paddocks and the money is in the bank!

3) TRANSITION FROM LIVE SHEEP EXPORT TO CHILLED MEAT

I understand that some sheep farmers want to maintain the trade but statistics show that live exports now make up a small percentage of Australian agriculture exports.

The phase out is entirely feasible with manageable adjustments to flock composition.

A government Independent Panel noted that "the WA sheep industry can be profitable and sustainable during the transition period and beyond the end of live sheep exports by sea".

The recent September 2024 farmers rally in Canberra was not attended by thousands of sheep farmers as hoped by the farmers. Hopefully this means that there is now more acceptance and reliance among farmers of Australia's export market of chilled and frozen lamb and mutton to the Middle east. The export of chilled meat is valued at over eight times that of the live sheep trade (\$632 million v \$77 million, 2022/23, ABS). Importantly this trade adds more value to local supply chains and creates more jobs in Australia.

Additionally the Australian government has agreed to provide \$107 million over a 5 year period to support farmers during the phase out stage.

The phase out date of 1 May 2028 is a very reasonable date and provides certainty for sheep farmers and at the same time will lead to a more humane and sustainable future that takes into account the animal welfare of the sheep.

4) MOST AUSTRALIANS DON'T SUPPORT LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

Support for the current live export trade is not acceptable to Australians with over 78% of the Australian community want to see the end of the cruel trade by sea. (78%, McCrindle, 2022)

Also in 2023 almost 44,000 Australians signed a Parliamentary petition calling on the Australian government to legislate an end date for the cruel trade.

The end date of 1 May 2028 is getting nearer and finally Australians will see the end of the cruel live sheep export trade.