

Submission
No 114

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 15 September 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Inquiry Committee,

I write this submission as a staunch advocate against the unnecessary harm and cruelty inflicted upon animals in the name of Australian business.

The live sheep export trade as it currently stands is fundamentally at odds with the standards of animal welfare that we as a society hold dear. Despite recent regulatory reforms, the deep-rooted welfare issues within this trade have not been effectively addressed. In fact, these reforms have only served to underscore the severity and extent of the welfare issues inherent in this industry.

A significant concern is the impact of heat stress on Australian Merino sheep during their sea voyage. These sheep are not well-adapted to high humidity environments, and experience prolonged heat stress on approximately 60% of their journeys. This stress is exacerbated when they cross the equatorial region and enter the hot, humid regions of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. Given that these regions are among the hottest on earth, and with the escalating temperatures due to climate change, the risk of major catastrophic disasters at sea is only set to increase.

The distress these sheep experience does not end with their voyage. Upon their arrival in the Middle East, they are slaughtered without stunning, causing extreme pain, fear, and distress. In contrast, Australian standards dictate that sheep are stunned prior to slaughter, sparing them the horrific experience of a conscious slaughter. This includes Halal accredited slaughter for the meat export trade to the Middle East.

By phasing out live exports, Australia can play a major role in elevating global animal welfare standards. We can achieve this by supporting the commendable work of civil society groups such as RSPCA International, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Compassion in World Farming and Humane Society International. These organisations are actively working to implement WOAHS standards in developing regions.

The sentiment of the Australian public is clear: a majority of Australians support the end of live sheep exports. This was reflected in the submissions to recent inquiries on the phase out. Over 80% of the 800 submissions and 3,300 survey responses received by the 2023 Independent Panel on the Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports supported the phase out. Similarly, over 85% of the 13,000 submissions and items of correspondence received by the House Agriculture Committee Inquiry into the Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea Bill 2024, expressed support for the Bill.

It's important to note that the NSW sheep industry has not relied on the live export trade for a considerable length of time. In fact, no NSW sheep have been sourced for live export since 2018 when exports from Port Adelaide ceased. Furthermore, the 2023 Independent Panel on the

Phase Out of Live Sheep Exports found no evidence suggesting that the NSW sheep industry will be negatively impacted by the phase out of live sheep exports.

It is essential to listen to the voices of the majority who are against live sheep exports, and to consider the unnecessary cruelty that accompanies this trade. There are more humane alternatives available, and it is our responsibility to explore and implement these.

Yours sincerely,