

**Submission
No 115**

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

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I write to you from the beautiful landscapes of country Victoria, surrounded by dairy and sheep farms. Every day, I witness the dedication and care that our local farmers invest into their livestock, ensuring a quality life for these animals. They understand the financial consequences of improper treatment and, more importantly, their empathy for these living beings fuels their efforts. Recently, concerns regarding appropriate treatment for all sentient beings have grown within our wider community, and the opposition to live sheep export is a crucial part of this movement.

I firmly believe that the live sheep export trade is fundamentally flawed and unnecessary. Both historical experiences and current scientific evidence indicate that the trade fails to meet acceptable standards of animal welfare. Recent regulatory reforms have underlined the deep-rooted welfare issues within the trade rather than resolving them.

Sheep continue to endure hot, humid conditions during their 2-3 week long sea voyages to the Middle East where they are forced to stand, lie and sleep in their own faeces. They are exposed to multiple and cumulative stressors. On arrival in the Middle east they are slaughtered in ways that would be against the laws relating to animal cruelty in Australia. The argument that this is because of the requirements of Halal care without basis given that Halal slaughter is used in Australia in ways that meet animal welfare legislation.

Australia's international reputation has suffered severely as a result of live sheep exports. The best way for Australia to show leadership in animal welfare is by transitioning away from the trade and using our scientific and technical expertise to influence animal welfare standards internationally.

Australians overwhelming support an end to live sheep exports. We do not wish to continue seeing the suffering and cruelty associated with the trade and we know there is a better way and more humane alternatives exist.

The issue has little relevance to NSW in that the sheep industry in this state has very limited exposure to the trade given the small number of animals involved. Given this there is no evidence to suggest the NSW sheep industry will incur any notable impacts due to the phase out of live sheep exports.

I urge you to do all that you can to stop this cruelty and to extend similar protection to other animals trapped in this abhorrent practice.