

**Submission
No 116**

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

Name: Mr Pouya Bagheri
Date Received: 15 September 2024

To the Honourable Members of the NSW Parliament,

I write to express my firm support for the continued ban on live sheep export from Australia. This ban is essential not only for protecting animal welfare but also for upholding ethical and environmental standards that align with Australia's values. Below are key reasons why the ban should remain in place:

Ship Accidents Can Result in the Drowning of Animals and Loss of Human Life

Transporting live animals by sea is inherently risky. Accidents at sea, such as mechanical failures or fires, have led to the tragic loss of both human and animal lives. These incidents highlight the dangerous nature of live export, where sheep are particularly vulnerable, with no means of escape or protection. A single ship accident can cause the drowning of thousands of sheep, turning a commercial venture into a humanitarian and environmental disaster. Banning live export is a preventive measure that avoids such tragedies.

Long Journeys Expose Animals to Extreme Heat, Dehydration, and Illness

The prolonged nature of live export journeys subjects animals to extreme conditions, including soaring temperatures and limited access to adequate water or food. Sheep are often trapped in unsanitary, overcrowded conditions, which can lead to dehydration and the rapid spread of illnesses. In many cases, animals arrive at their destination in poor health, and some do not survive the journey. Banning live exports removes the need for animals to endure such suffering during these long, hazardous voyages.

Consistent Animal Welfare Standards Across Borders Are Hard to Maintain

Once animals leave Australia's shores, it is difficult to ensure that they are treated according to Australian animal welfare standards. Many destination countries lack robust regulations or enforcement mechanisms, meaning that sheep exported live may be subjected to cruel practices, including rough handling and inhumane slaughter methods. Keeping the live export ban ensures that we do not contribute to the suffering of animals in foreign nations where we cannot guarantee their humane treatment.

Live Export Harms the Environment and Contributes to Carbon Emissions

The live export industry is a significant contributor to environmental degradation. Transporting large numbers of animals by sea leads to the release of greenhouse gases, contributing to global climate change. Furthermore, ships used for live export generate waste that often pollutes the oceans, harming marine life. By banning live exports, Australia can reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural sector.

In conclusion, maintaining the ban on live sheep exports is essential for ensuring the welfare of animals, protecting human lives, and reducing environmental harm. I urge the Parliament to continue this important policy in the interest of animals, people, and the planet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pouya Bagheri