

**Submission
No 128**

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

Name: Ms Carolyn Green
Date Received: 12 September 2024

Individual Submission - Inquiry into Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024

I wish to comment on the important Bill regarding the phasing out of live sheep exports.

I totally support this Bill and commend the government for introducing this legislation. Live sheep export is a cruel and marginal trade that should have been phased out decades ago.

Contrary to industry claims, the trade has not been "fixed." According to Independent Observer data analysed from 2018-2023, exported sheep continue to suffer greatly due to prolonged heat stress on over 60% of voyages to the Middle East. Once they arrive, they are then slaughtered without stunning which is grossly cruel and unnecessary. All of this has been very well documented already. The treatment of these sheep is unbearable to watch and I would challenge all those who are against this Bill to watch the video material and then decide if this slaughter is worth the monies received for this trade.

Australia already exports chilled and frozen lamb and mutton to the Middle East valued at over eight times that of the live sheep trade (\$632 million v \$77 million, 2022/23, ABS). This trade adds more value to local supply chains and creates more jobs here in Australia.

Nationally, live sheep exports make up less than 0.1% of Australia's agriculture exports. It's not a key sector export that would create the level of hardship that opponents of the Bill declare.

Contrary to the industry's fear campaign, the report of the Independent Panel clearly indicates that the phase out is entirely feasible with manageable adjustments to flock composition. The 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." How can this be legitimately challenged?

Australian export laws should reflect the values of the Australian community. Over 78% of Australians support an end to the export of live sheep to the Middle East. This level of public support can not be ignored.

The industry needs to acknowledge this and move with the times to create a more humane and sustainable future that respects animal welfare and protects Australia's international reputation.

The Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea Bill will provide much needed certainty to the industry and the community about the end of this cruel trade. I strongly encourage committee members to support the legislation. Surely, in the 21st century, in Australia we can and must do better than allow this harrowing practise to continue.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.