

**Submission
No 137**

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

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PROTECT THE BAN ON LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has pushed for an Inquiry into the impact of the live export ban on NSW farmers. I oppose this inquiry as they are just pedaling for their own self-interest, that does not involve the welfare of the sheep that are live exported to foreign countries with extremely poor animal welfare laws.

The live export of sheep will affect the sheep farmers of Western Australia, NOT THE NEW SOUTH WALES SHEEP FARMERS. Negotiations between the farmers regarding the phase out of the live export of sheep by sea has already commenced.

Most Australians are against this industry, they will not forget the horrific incidents of animal cruelty that took place on board these live export ships in the past.

As the live export of sheep continues, I am uncertain if the sending sheep during the northern summer is still being prevented, as there are reports from Western Australia that sheep are still being loaded on to ships at present. I have been in Perth when temperatures reach 40 degrees centigrade when sheep are being loaded and confined to ships, one incident I will never forget in 2024 was regarding the MV Bahijah, when sheep must have suffered when shipped to a conflict zone, only to be turned around and then had to endure more suffering when the exporter continued to ship these sheep to Israel on a prolonged voyage.

I have read that there is not a permanent veterinarian on board these ships, many times not a permanent independent observer either, many of the crew are not trained in animal husbandry. The ships are not cleaned properly so sheep stand in their own waste for the voyage. The air conditioners are not effective for sheep on the lower decks, there is overcrowding of these sheep and no medical care given due to the indifference for good animal welfare from these exporters. It seems once on board these ships and at the port of arrival the Australian Government has no impact of how these sheep are treated, (they virtually wash their hands of them.)

New South Wales sheep farmers and the SFF know very well that sheep meat is exported as chilled or frozen products in this state as well as sold for Australian markets.

The farmers must also be aware that climate change is happening, and water will be a valuable commodity in the years ahead. A long-term action plan needs to start now

regarding the future of animal and plant agriculture in New South Wales. The SFF is going over a broken argument, it is time to lay the LIVE EXPORT OF SHEEP BY SEA to rest.

More work needs to be done on sheep welfare in NSW, thousands of lambs die every year due to extremely poor farming practices in this state.

The UK has a new ban on the live export of animals, bolstering the UK's position as a world leader in animal welfare. The Ban on the Live Export of Sheep by Sea must be protected in Australia.