

Submission
No 138

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

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Live animal export subjects millions of animals to unnecessary and preventable suffering. The animals endure severe physical and emotional stress during long sea voyages, where they are often confined in cramped and unsanitary conditions for weeks at a time. These journeys expose animals to extreme heat, dehydration, and illness, leading to severe health issues and, in many cases, death. Sheep, for example, frequently suffer from heat stress, which can result in respiratory failure and fatal overheating.

Ship accidents further exacerbate the dangers of live exports. These incidents, often resulting in the drowning of animals, pose a risk not only to the animals but also to the human crew, leading to tragic loss of life. The lack of consistent animal welfare standards across international borders means that animals transported abroad are frequently exposed to cruel practices such as rough handling and mistreatment. Once they reach their destinations, many animals face brutal conditions, where humane slaughter methods are not always practiced.

Consumers are increasingly demanding more ethical treatment of animals, pushing for stronger welfare protections. Banning live exports would help a nation enhance its global reputation as a leader in animal welfare, aligning it with modern ethical standards. Not only does live export inflict immense suffering on animals, but it also contributes to environmental degradation. These voyages release significant carbon emissions, compounding the harm to our planet.

Finally, the lack of proper sanitation onboard ships, which are not cleaned during voyages, further jeopardizes the health of the animals. These filthy conditions create a breeding ground for disease and exacerbate the animals' suffering. By eliminating live export, we can prevent the needless suffering of millions of animals, improve environmental sustainability, and uphold the humane values that many people expect in the modern world.

In light of these compelling reasons, it is crucial to re-evaluate the continuation of live animal exports and consider more humane alternatives.