

Submission
No 144

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

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REVIEW OF THE PROCESS OF SENDING LIVE SHEEP ON VOYAGES BOUND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

I have elected to write this submission because of my respect for all living creatures and the sadness I feel by those suffering mistreatment.

A good example is the live sheep industry which has long saddened me. Driving behind one of these trucks bound for Fremantle Port, allows me to witness the extreme fear of the sheep within, bound for a long voyage. I have frequently seen a limb outside the truck, obviously broken and swinging painfully. The suffering of these animals once loaded, is obvious from footage from whistleblowers who want to reveal what really happens to the creatures on board. Those who want to cover it up take photos of 'happy sheep' enjoying their trip to convince the world that there is no suffering.

I also draw attention to the sheer number of ships containing live sheep which have encountered disasters. How many ships have either gone down or left sheep suffering for months because of disputes or extreme heat? Examples are:

- 2023 – Thousands of Australian sheep abandoned to cruelty after complete system collapse
- 2019 – Ship capsizes killing 14,000 sheep
- 2017 – Thousands of sheep 'cook' suffering severe heat stress
- 2016 – Thousands of sheep perish from overheating
- 2012 – Australian sheep sawed, bulldozed and buried alive
- 2003 – Over 50,000 'unwanted' sheep languish on ship in Saudi Arabia

Furthermore, sheep that survive the trip and are allowed into port are no longer under the protection of Australian animal welfare laws, and they are often subjected to mistreatment. Sheep exported to the Middle East are routinely subjected to rough handling and transport. Film footage has shown sheep being dragged, bound with rope or wire, and transported in car boots. Sadly, these countries appear to have little compassion for the suffering of animals and finally slaughter is often performed without stunning, causing sheep fear, pain and a prolonged death - suffering that would have been preventable if the sheep were processed onshore in Australia.

I question the absolute determination of farmers to continue with this abhorrent trade, subjecting the animals they have reared and cared for to be treated in such a way. Surely anyone who sends their animals into such a precarious situation and obviously doesn't care, should be questioned.

Please don't overturn the phasing out of live sheep export which has been planned by the Albanese Government, voted in by many people (including myself) because of his promise to phase out this cruel transportation of Australian sheep. Two out of three people in Australia believe this trade should end.

Thank you for reading and considering my submission, I only hope it contributes to the ending of Australia's Live Sheep Industry.