

Submission
No 145

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

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The live sheep export industry subjects sheep, sentient beings who feel terror, pain, hunger and thirst, to horrendous suffering from unbearable heat, overcrowding, filthy living conditions, cruel treatment at the hands of humans with absolutely no consideration for their welfare from the minute they are rounded up on the farm to the final moment of their lives as they die slowly and painfully in a foreign country.

We have all seen, heard and read the evidence, well-documented by Australian Australia, World Animal Protection and the RSPCA, so there can be absolutely no denying that the suffering of sheep exported to the Middle-East is real.

As a consequence, more and more Australians are standing up and demanding that the Government end this egregious practice and we were relieved when they finally set a date to do exactly that.

I urge the committee to prioritise the welfare of our sheep by considering the severe impact these conditions have on their health and well-being and uphold the Federal Government's legislation to ban the live export of sheep.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) claim that NSW Farmers are concerned that their entire sheep industry will suffer as a result of the end of the live sheep export trade.

On the contrary, this will not be the end of their industry but rather a huge opportunity to benefit from the expansion of chilled and frozen meat for export which I believe has a far longer and more profitable future than the live export trade.

As well, the infrastructure to further develop the chilled and frozen meat industry will provide employment opportunities for those who will be displaced by the end of the live export trade.

Further to this, farmers who currently farm sheep to be cruelly exported overseas to be brutally slaughtered in foreign countries will now have the opportunity to explore plant-based agriculture which is a fast growing and sustainable business in Australia. As more people are learning about the cruel, abusive practices of modern farming they are moving towards vegan, vegetarian or "flexitarian" diets for the sake of their own health and to end the suffering of animals, as I did.

I would like to say in conclusion that ending live export of our sheep and developing the chilled and frozen meat trade and plant-based agriculture will make Australia not only a leader in these fields, but a model for other countries to develop kinder farming practices.