

Submission
No 155

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 5 September 2024

Partially
Confidential

Honourable Members of Parliament,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong opposition to any efforts aimed at reversing the ban on live sheep exports. The decision to ban live exports was a monumental step forward for animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and the ethical standing of our nation. Reversing this ban would undoubtedly undermine these achievements. Below, I outline several reasons to maintain the current ban on live sheep exports.

1. Severe Suffering During Long Voyages

Live sheep exports subject animals to prolonged and extreme suffering during the arduous sea voyages. Animals endure high levels of stress due to confinement, noise, and motion of the ship. These conditions expose them to severe anxiety and disorientation, which can have lasting negative impacts on their health and well-being.

2. Risk of Ship Accidents

The inherent risks of maritime transport cannot be understated. Ship accidents involving livestock can result in large-scale drownings of animals and potential loss of human life. Such tragedies not only have humanitarian implications but also immense economic and ethical costs.

3. Increased Consumer Demand for Humane Treatment of Animals

Consumers today are more ethically conscious than ever before. There is a growing demand for humane and ethical treatment of animals across all sectors. Maintaining the ban aligns with these societal values and strengthens consumer trust and confidence in our agricultural practices.

4. Exposure to Extreme Conditions

Long journeys expose sheep to extreme temperatures, which can lead to heat stress, dehydration, and various illnesses. The confined conditions on ships often lack adequate ventilation, exacerbating these risks and leading to severe health issues or even death among the animals.

5. Inconsistent Animal Welfare Standards

Ensuring consistent animal welfare standards across international borders is an insurmountable challenge. Different countries have varying levels of regulation and enforcement when it comes to animal welfare, making it nearly impossible to guarantee that exported sheep receive the humane treatment they deserve.

6. Ethical Reputation of the Nation

Banning live exports significantly improves our nation's ethical reputation on the global stage. It demonstrates a commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare and positions us as leaders in humane agricultural practices. Reversing the ban would be a step backward and could tarnish our international standing.

7. Cruel Practices During Handling

Reports have shown that cruel practices, such as rough handling and physical abuse, are common during the shipment of live animals. These practices not only cause immediate suffering but can also lead to long-term physical and psychological damage.

In light of these points, I strongly urge you to maintain the ban on live sheep exports. This decision will reflect our nation's commitment to animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and ethical integrity. I respectfully request that Parliament upholds the current ban to ensure that we continue to set high standards for humane treatment and ethical agricultural practices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,