

**Submission
No 163**

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

Name: Mr Patrick Murphy

Date Received: 17 September 2024

Committee Members
Legislative Council Committee on phasing out live sheep exports
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
17/09/2020

Dear members,

I am pleased to take the opportunity to make a submission into the Impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea in New South Wales.

Firstly, I would like to point out the main concern you have about this inquiry is money. Why does the government want to prop up an unethical, unhealthy and environmentally destructive industry?

Governments at both, State and Federal level have given various animal agriculture industries billions of dollars of subsidies over the years; yet they are still struggling, they are still unviable, they are still unethical, they still destroy the environment.

Why are Governments splashing taxpayer dollars to these businesses?

They are not more important than other industries; especially as, since there has been no tangible improvement in the nature of these businesses, as a matter of fact, they are getting progressively worse.

Look at all the complaints from the farmers in the other submissions, they are proof that there has literally been billions of dollars of taxpayer money flushed down the toilet.

What would I have to do, as a small business owner, to get so much money thrown at my business?

How would I qualify?

By the looks of it, all I would have to do is to abuse, exploit and kill animals, and I would qualify.

Why don't you spend that money transitioning away from provably unsuccessful businesses?

Farmers are permanent sooks. They act like spoilt little brats who carry on when they don't get their own way, despite all the money they get given.

They act so entitled, saying things like “I am a 3rd (4th, 5th, 6th) generation farmer” – So what, who cares, and why does it matter that you have been handed down a profitable business to run?

They make up all sorts of emotional stories, to tug at your heart strings, just so they can keep on gouging the taxpayers for their benefit.

They say “the town will close down” and things like “This will destroy our community” with NO evidence whatsoever. Even if they were able to prove these emotional claims; it doesn’t mean they should continue to be subsidised for doing the wrong thing.

If you are in favour of economically viable business models, then market forces should apply equally to them, as they would any other business.

My argument to the below terms of reference, are included below each one of the matters I have selected to mention.

(a). evaluate the economic impact of phasing out live sheep exports in New South Wales sheep producers and related supply chains in regional towns, including:

(i) transport operators

Transport operators can continue their business without any long-term impact, it is simply a matter of transporting different items instead of sheep.

(ii) fodder and grain producers

There are a couple of simple options available here:

Still stick to what they are doing, but find other markets to sell their grain and fodder to. Like most businesses, searching to find new customers is a constant, being lazy and feeling entitled is not a justification for keeping a (literally) dying business operating.

(iii) other associated industries,

Other industries that ride of the back of the suffering of animals of live export should, not only transfer to relying on other more ethical industries, but they should WANT to.

(b) evaluate the impact on the sheep industry in New South Wales if farmers are unable to restock with animals from Western Australia (WA)

If you can’t ruin the environment in one state, let’s ruin the environment in two states...

This proposition is ridiculous. You must be totally ignorant, or biased if you don’t understand the environmental impact, the amount of water used in agriculture, the loss of habitat of many species and the increase in predation of native animal, by non-native animals.

(c) evaluate the price implications on New South Wales sheep and lamb producers of having stock from WA regularly sold at our sales

You are overlooking the “price implications” and environmental implications of transporting animals from one side of the country to the other – for what? To continue to support an unethical, unfinancial business model.

There are much better alternatives available than “eating meat”- there are so many different and healthier sources of protein than animal protein. There are so many varieties of legumes and pulses, it incredible.

As an example, the people of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka consume approximately 4 kg of meat in a year; Australians (as well as people in the UK and the USA) would consume that amount of meat in two weeks. You need to understand, we are overconsuming meat at incredible levels. Our health isn't better for doing so.

As a matter of fact, we would save billions of dollars on our health care system if we reduced, or better still, ditched meat consumption all together.

(d) examine whether the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea will have any impact on NSW Government revenue and bottom line

i. biodiversity, including threatened and endangered species and ecological communities listed under Commonwealth, state or territory law,

As I pointed out before, the main concern you have about this inquiry is money. So I will repeat my points here again for emphasis:

Why does the government want to prop up an unethical, unhealthy and environmentally destructive industry?

Governments at both, State and Federal level have given various animal agriculture industries billions of dollars of subsidies over the years; yet they are still struggling, they are still unviable, they are still unethical, they still destroy the environment.

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If you are in favour of economically viable business models, then market forces should apply equally to them, as they would any other business.

[\(e\) examine potential implications in demand for New South Wales mutton after the phase-out of the live sheep trade](#)

Why are you talking about keeping up demand for a known carcinogen, heart attack inducing, diabetics and Alzheimer's causing food, when there are alternative and healthier options available? This inquiry should be the catalyst for permanently moving away from meat and on to more sustainable food supplies.

[\(f\) examine reasons used by the Federal Government for the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea and whether the Federal Government should provide compensation to New South Wales sheep producers](#)

The reasons the Federal Government has opted to phase-out the live sheep export trade (apart from promising to do so) is because it, by its very nature is inherently cruel; as shown by the "60 minutes program, time and time again:

Here is a quote from Channel 9's Liam Bartlett back in 2018 - This sort of thing is still going on today, and for ANY government to support it is disgraceful - STOP LIVE EXPORT NOW!

"In 2003, we first broadcast a major expose on the appalling standards that exporters were happy to subject their cargo to in order to turn a profit. Richard Carleton's story was difficult to watch but important to air and the program bravely made the decision that public awareness of animal cruelty, in Australia's name, was more important than being seen to be a friend of commerce at any cost.

That landmark investigation was followed by another in 2005 and again in 2006.

Incredibly, some 12 years later, we find ourselves yet again seeking answers but this time, it's very different.

Uniquely, thanks to the bravery and conscience of a young whistle-blower, we have visual evidence of what really happens on-board a 3 week journey to the Persian Gulf.

Faisal Ullah's breakthrough video paints a dreadful picture of the conditions and treatment of thousands of Aussie sheep and allows us to witness, for the first time, the true nature of this secretive business."

"For many years, we have requested media access to these ships to use our own cameras to capture the truth but the industry has rejected our approach.

As recently as last December, we again asked to accompany one of these ships but, not surprisingly, were denied.

So at great risk to himself and knowing it meant a certain end to his budding career as a navigation officer, Faisal filmed 5 different voyages over a 7 month period last year – voyages that saw more than 4,000 sheep die from heat stress, overcrowding and all the associated horrors. In one day alone, more than 800 succumbed to the conditions.

Those pictures, although uncomfortable to view, proved beyond doubt what many have suspected for years; multiple breaches of the Australian standards for the export of livestock (ASEL)."

"These standards are the bedrock of the business, the basic requirement that exporters must fulfil in order to be granted an export license under the Act by the secretary of the department of Agriculture.

In short, if you don't meet the standards, you don't get to export sheep – or at least that's what the law intends.

In reality, as we now know from Faisal's iPhone, the standards can be ignored, the sheep can go to hell but the exporter can stay happily in business. So, where you might ask is the regulator?

Well, in this case the departmental secretary and his entire team of bureaucrats is missing in action.

Not only did he reject our request for an interview, his office also expressed their non-interest in viewing our video evidence.

Similarly, the federal minister for agriculture, David Littleproud turned down our initial request for an interview and instead directed us to the departmental secretary.

Nobody in a position of authority overseeing this industry wanted to be publicly accountable." Continue to read more here..

Source: <https://9now.nine.com.au/60-minutes/liam-bartlett-sheep-ships-and-videotape/4fe31999-c199-49c6-890c-1c65d726eec5>

[\(g\) examine animal welfare concerns relevant to the determination to cease live sheep export by sea by the Federal Government](#)

If you have not seen the actual footage of the live export "death ships" by Faisal Ullah, then you need to stop reading any further, and go and watch it now. It will show you the truth, not the lies the Farmers (intentional) are telling you.

If you have any moral decency, you will know, the live export industry must be banned immediately - no pathetic excuses needed or listened to.

[\(\(h\) examine the impact to local meat processors](#)

This is a slightly ambiguous question, so I will assume it means the Australian local meat processors, not the overseas meat processors.

Like all businesses, there comes challenging times, but this time, their time has (eventually) come. Their social licence has expired.

The live export industry has had over 20 years to “get their house in order”. They have failed miserably, time and time again. This cannot continue, it will NEVER get any better. They are doing what they have always done, and there is NO incentive to change, even when they have been exposed NUMEROUS times.

If that didn't shock them into cleaning up their business practices, nothing ever will.

I will not continue to answer any further points, as I have been quite strong in the points I am making, and if you can't see reason to phase-out live exports by now, then I am wasting my time.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Murphy.