

**Submission  
No 164**

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

**Name:** Mr Mitchell Laughlin

**Date Received:** 17 September 2024

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To the members of the inquiry,

My name is Mitchell Laughlin, . Although I work at I am writing in my personal capacity to express my concerns about the live sheep export trade.

I am grateful to Dr Jed Goodfellow's support from the Australian Alliance for Animals for educating myself and others on this matter.

I believe the live sheep export industry fails to uphold the animal welfare standards that Australians expect. Despite recent regulatory reforms, serious welfare issues persist. Sheep are subjected to extreme conditions during their voyages, including prolonged exposure to heat, humidity, and unsanitary environments. They face numerous stressors such as inadequate food, lameness, infections, and respiratory diseases due to high ammonia levels.

Sheep endure hot, humid conditions for weeks on end during their sea voyages to the Middle East, forced to stand, lie, and sleep in their own faeces. They are exposed to multiple cumulative stressors, including inanition (failure to eat given sudden changes to pellet-only food), lameness, salmonellosis, infection, and respiratory diseases due to the high levels of ammonia on board the ships.

Upon arrival in the Middle East, Australian sheep are slaughtered without stunning, causing extreme pain, fear, and distress. This method is in stark contrast to Australian practice, where sheep are stunned before slaughter, sparing them the conscious experience of the cutting and bleeding out process. This includes Halal accredited slaughter for the meat export trade to the Middle East.

Public sentiment is clear: a majority supports ending live sheep exports. The 2023 Independent Panel on the Phase-Out of Live Sheep Exports received over 800 submissions and 3,300 survey responses, with over 80% in favor of ending the trade. Similarly, the House Agriculture Committee Inquiry into the Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea Bill 2024 gathered over 13,000 submissions, with more than 85% supporting the Bill.

It is also worth noting that the NSW sheep industry has not relied on the live exports for years, with no NSW sheep sourced for live export since 2018. The industry's exposure to live exports is minimal, representing less than 3% of annual national turn-off and less than 2% of national sheep meat export value.

Ending live sheep exports would align Australia with its commitment to high animal welfare standards and would not significantly impact the NSW sheep industry.

Thank you for considering my views.

Warm regards,  
Mitch