



**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – INDUSTRY INQUIRY INTO PREVENTION
OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (RESTRICTIONS ON STOCK
ANIMAL PROCEDURES) BILL 2019 HEARING – 11 August 2020**

Supplementary Questions:

1. If the bill were to pass in its existing form, mulesing would be banned by 2022. What are the available operation strategies for woolgrowers to achieve the new requirements?

If this bill were to pass there is not enough time as stated during the enquiry when asked to change genetically before 2022.

- More frequent crutchings for most merino sheep.
 - More reliance and applications of chemical which may mean sheep are unable to be shorn or crutched due to residual chemical in the wool. Chemical resistance is more likely to occur through the overuse and reliance of chemical.
 - Exodus from the industry.
2. Could the outcome of the bill result in large numbers of merino sheep being offloaded to the saleyards? What would be the effect of this on the sheep and wool markets in NSW? Would a possible outcome be large scale slaughter of wool producing sheep?

There is a huge risk that many woolgrowers would exit the industry if mulesing were not a legal husbandry procedure, so the possibility of sheep being sent to saleyards or direct to slaughter would be high.

Throughout a large area of NSW, producers are trying to restock and rebuild numbers naturally as the season improves moving out of the debilitating drought, so the impact may not be as high as if there were high flock numbers.

As with any market, when there is an influx of product onto the market during a concentrated period, supply may outstrip demand, leading to a negative impact on prices paid.

3. If the bill were to pass in its current form would it trigger or require an Industry Adjustment Package from government? What would be the impact on employment in regional NSW?

The economic impact on the NSW wool industry of this proposed bill would be massive. This impact would not just stop at the producer level, it would extend to regional and national implications of a negative effect on the moral, social and economic level.

The regional economic impacts of removing sheep from rural areas are well-known and lead to a substantial decline of small rural communities. These communities, including schools, health facilities and business are dependent on the patronage of staff and families from sheep and wool enterprises.



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A relevant comparison on the negative impact on regional economies that occurs when significant numbers of wool producers exit the industry can be made with the impact of wild dog predation in western Queensland.

If this proposed bill were to be passed, which trigger calls for an Industry Adjustment Package – This package would need to be extended further down the line from the producer to small business and regional economies