

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

To The Committee for the Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry regarding the impact of the legislated live export ban on sheep farmers in New South Wales.

I am an animal lover and have been in favour of a ban on live exports for decades. I welcomed the Albanese Labor government's legislation for live sheep exports to be banned in 2028.

Live Export is extremely cruel as these poor animals are subjected to very long sea voyages over several weeks. The animals become extremely stressed from the high temperatures, dehydration and are susceptible to disease and illness as they are being confined in such overcrowded conditions. The ships are never cleaned and so the animals lie in excrement which always leads to infections and disease. There is the risk that the unsanitary conditions could ultimately affect the health of the people eventually eating these diseased animals.

When the ships arrive at their destinations, usually the Middle East, the animals are handled aggressively. The slaughter of these animals is always crude, unsanitary and without any form of stunning. Hidden cameras have captured many of these processes and these have been shown on Australian television.

Subjecting these sentient animals to such cruelty cannot be the only solution. This must stop.

I shall make a few comments on some of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

(a) I believe that there would be minimal impact on sheep producers in New South Wales unless these sheep were being transported across to Western Australia for export.

(i) Transport operators would be affected to a degree as the animals would be transported to the local abattoir instead of a port.

(ii) The fodder and grain producers will only be feeding the animals as they are grown to slaughter weight. They, of course, will no longer be feeding the animals on the ships.

(f) I believe the NSW farmers would be better off as they will could demand more money for each animal as chilled or frozen meat compared to a live animal. Animal welfare would be greatly improved as slaughter in Australia would be in line with Australian Standards which would include stunning methods to reduce stress in the animals.

(g) My introduction covered the brutality of the live export industry and the related suffering of all these animals. By having the animals slaughtered here, the animals would be spared the harsh cruelty of long voyages followed by crude killings.

(h) As the foreign customers are from the Middle East, there will need to be expansions to abattoirs which would need to include compliant Halal and Kosher certification processes to satisfy our customers from that region.

There will need to be further investment in the local abattoirs to accommodate the increase in animals being processed for export. Investment in industrial refrigeration and freezers at these facilities would be needed while the packaged products await export.

There will be an opportunity to create more jobs for this process as qualified butchers will be able to prepare the animals for consumption. Jobs will be created for the packaging of these products.

Additional truck drivers will be needed for the refrigerated trucks when the finished products are transported for export.

(i)The document produced by the Federal Department of Agriculture following the Government Inquiry into live export showed that there was much greater profitability in the sale of chilled or frozen mutton and lamb compared to live export.

Therefore, the change to exporting an end-user product would have a positive impact on the Australian economy as well as the sheep producers. The onus is now on the Department of Foreign Trade to convince our existing live export customers that this is how Australia will be supplying their mutton and lamb going forward.

I believe that the legislation on banning the live sheep export industry would affect Western Australian sheep producers as they adapt from one method of export to another. I do not believe that NSW sheep producers supply animals for the current live export arrangements as I think that distances are too great. However, this Inquiry can provide an opportunity for changing the old farming ways for the better and that farmers can recognise that these animals are sentient beings and not just commodities.

The world is changing. We are becoming a more caring society. Banning live sheep export in Australia can improve our ethical reputation in the eyes of the outside world. The public demands more humane treatment of animals and banning this archaic and cruel practice will be a huge step in achieving this.

We need to do things better.

I thank you for your time.