

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

Name: Miss Michelle Hayward

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I support the live export ban.

I am deeply concerned that the live export ban will be weakened or overturned by vested interests. This cannot be allowed to happen. It is absolutely unacceptable that such moral progress is being threatened.

Anyone with a heart knows that live export is absolute hell for animals. Weeks and potentially months at sea (if shipments are rejected - often due to disease), living, and possibly dying in foot high, slippery, toxic waste, all whilst experiencing unbearable heat levels. These journeys are the stuff of nightmares.

The longer they spend at sea, the longer they risk accidents and drowning; threatening both the animal and human lives on board.

All so that our animals can be butchered, for profit, in countries that do not even recognize animals as sentient beings; let alone adhere to any form of 'humane' slaughter.

The farming industry will lose any sense of good will from the public if they attempt to reverse this ban. Good husbandry includes what you willingly allow your animals to endure for personal gain, once they leave your care. Exposé after exposé has revealed what they go through. There is no farmer on Earth that does not know what live export entails.

Routine slaughter on home ground is bad enough. Live export followed by a completely unregulated death is even worse. We are talking about destination countries that tie animals up and throw them in car boots to be slaughtered at home in 40+ degree heat.

Those animals that survive live export are victimized twice. Instead, they should be slaughtered at home, as close as possible to where they are raised. If the Middle East has to export animals for slaughter because they can't survive being raised in their climate, it is not Australia's job to see this as a gap in the market. This is not a gap. It is a natural absence. Our animals should not enter these countries just to die horrendous deaths.

Additionally, meat production is one of the top contributors to climate change and pollution. Live exports increase the impacts of the industry immensely. These completely unnecessary journeys have a huge carbon footprint in comparison to refrigerated shipments; whilst the direct dumping of untreated manure, medication, and animal corpses into the sea has more immediate negative impacts on marine life, including hormonal imbalances and eutrophication of the sea.

As consumers, we want all animals that originate from our country (and worldwide!) to be treated well. Live export is the antithesis of this.

The UK had recently banned all live exports, and has received praise from campaigners around the world. Australia must do the same.

Farmers should be proud not to participate in this trade, and use it to promote the country on the national and international market.

Refrigerated produce can be sent anywhere. Animals should not.

Please support and implement the ban with the utmost urgency.