

**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

Thursday 12 September 2024

[Submitted via online form](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I write to make a submission to Committee on the *Impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea on New South Wales*.

I'm a registered voter and resident of NSW, raised in regional NSW but recently moved to Sydney.

**I support Australian farmers, and I strongly support ending live sheep export.**

I support the passed legislation to end live sheep export, and I urge the Committee to support it too. I want to see this phase-out progressed as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

I have been engaged in advocacy on this issue since becoming aware of live animal exports more than 20 years ago. In that time, **I have supported efforts to achieve improvements to the trade in the meantime; but I do not believe the trade should continue and I have seen no evidence to support that it should continue.**

**My concern for animal welfare is a key factor in my voting decisions.**

While there is little doubt some improvements have been achieved, **these have been enforced by government upon a reluctant and resistant industry, and only as the result of persistent efforts by animal welfare advocates, including exposing information and conditions that the industry has fought hard to keep in secret.**

Pro live sheep export advocates claim their sector has changed, while still to this day, denying and defending those many disasters and incidents that ultimately turned the tide of public opinion against their practices.

Regardless of these efforts, it is abundantly clear that no amount of regulation can overcome the many serious and cumulative risks to animal welfare that are inherent to this practice.

Recent [analysis by the RSPCA, of reports from the Australian Government's Independent Observers on board ships from 2018 to 2023, confirm these serious issues remain.](#)

And this risky and volatile practice which is in terminal decline anyway (plummeting by around 90% since 2002-2003) is unnecessary, when sheep meat exports are growing exponentially. There are huge market opportunities available through this shift, with the added benefits of growing capacity at home, value-adding and creating jobs in rural and regional parts of Australia.

**The public's opposition to live sheep export is a problem that will not go away.** Many instances of research conducted consistently over many years continue to show strong community opposition and an unwavering will for the trade to be phased out with appropriate support for affected farmers.

New South Wales farmers are fortunate in that we have not had to rely on live export for a very, very long time. I don't believe NSW taxpayers want their government engaging at all in prolonging in this cruel and unpopular practice. While pro live export lobbyists may with toe recruit support from their interstate colleagues, **this simply is not an issue that's in the best interests of us in NSW.**

Nonetheless, we know farming is rarely easy, and western sheep farmers and others in the supply chain will need to adjust. But **a future free from live export is a better, more sustainable future – for farmers, for animals, and for the community.** Live export may have once had a place in the Australian farming landscape, but that place is now in the past.

Live sheep export is inherently cruel, unfixable, unnecessary, and unsustainable; and it is no longer supported by the Australian community. It should have been stopped long ago. I commend the current federal government for taking action to end the trade on behalf of all caring Australians.

It is time for a better, more humane, and more sustainable future for Australia's sheep and sheep industry. Keeping the sheep here, and processing them as close to the farm gate as possible, is not only lower risk from an animal welfare perspective, but will add more value to our domestic supply chains and create jobs for Australians.

Once again, I support the legislation enacting this and I urge the NSW Parliament to do so as well, and to take whatever steps it can to expedite the phase out as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

Yours sincerely,