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

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Partially Confidential

The live sheep export industry is an outdated barbaric industry that subjects sheep, who are sentient beings, to horrendous suffering from unbearable heat, overcrowding, filthy living conditions, and negligent/cruel treatment at the hands of humans with absolutely no consideration for their welfare. The sheep, those who survive, are then subjected to violent and cruel deaths at their destination after weeks at sea.

The majority of Australian citizens want this cruel trade abolished. We have all seen, heard and read the evidence, well-documented by Animals Australia, World Animal Protection and the RSPCA, so there can be absolutely no denying that the suffering of sheep exported to the Middle-East is real.

I urge the committee to prioritise the welfare of our sheep by considering the severe impact these conditions have on their lives and uphold the Federal Government's legislation to ban the live export of sheep.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) claim that NSW Farmers are concerned that their entire sheep industry will suffer as a result of the end of the live sheep export trade. On the contrary, this will not be the end of their industry but rather a huge opportunity to benefit from the expansion of the chilled and frozen meat trade for export which I believe has a far longer and more profitable future than the live export trade, which is currently in decline.

In addition. the infrastructure to further develop the chilled and frozen meat industry will provide employment opportunities for those who will be displaced by the ending of the live export trade. They would have the opportunity to explore plant-based agriculture which is a fast growing and sustainable business in Australia. As more people are learning about the cruel, abusive practices of modern farming they are moving towards vegan, vegetarian or "flexitarian" diets for the sake of their own health and to end the suffering of animals, as I did. Banning the cruel live export trade will show the world that Australia is a compassionate country, that has wisely followed the example of other countries who have banned the barbaric live export trade, and are working towards kinder farming practices.