

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

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Labor has reneged on their promise to stop the ghastly live export trade, immediately. Instead they are prolonging the torture and suffering of these animals—wasting money which could be put to better use, in consultations. Those who profit most from this terrible trade in animals suffering are some of the richest people in this country. If the government was honest about giving jobs to Australian workers, rather than furthering enriching the coffers of Australia's wealthy, including the mining and beef queen Gina Reinhart, they would process the meat in Australia. Reinhart holds the most land. She controls 9.2 million hectares, or 1.2% of Australia's landmass, through three different corporate entities, according to data compiled by Guardian Australia. (Ben Butler 17 May 2021) The Government would also save Australian taxpayers money in subsidies. These traders also benefit from insurance payments when thousands of animals die in transport. Another very profitable racket.

The former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Animal Welfare (nicknamed by some as Minister for Animal Cruelty), Barnaby Joyce, was also the live export industry's biggest cheerleader. He scrapped the department's animal welfare branch in 2013. He angered many Australians with his disregard for animal welfare, and his jokes.

He is mates with Gina Reinhart. It was then reported on the evening news that she helped him financially with his election. Not long after, Gina Reinhart was given the opportunity to buy, together with her Chinese business partner, Shanghai Cred Corporation, Australia's second largest cattle property, the Kidman cattle empire. This meant they could send more of Australia's cattle to China, to be tortured (the Chinese wrongly believe the more an animal is made to suffer the better the meat) and slaughtered. Reinhart feels encouraged to expand her empire, buying more and more cattle and sheep stations. She has already stated that she will increase the number of cattle on one of the stations by 6,000 and is determined to export 30 million cattle to China. China's animal welfare standards are non-existent and almost impossible to control.

Politician Bob Katter, who spoke out against the Kidman deal, called it a cheap con. This was reported by Bidda Jones and Julian Davies in The Sydney Morning Herald in an article about live exports controlled by small band of multinational companies.

Andrew Wilkie accused the federal government of lying when it said a ban would hurt farmers and regional communities, insisting that processing meat in Australia before exporting would create thousands of jobs. "For the government to claim otherwise is either naive or dishonest. And I'd suggest in this case it's dishonest. Why the government would pander to such a small proportion of the meat industry for the benefit of such a small number of commercial entities beggars belief."

How can Labor not act to stop immediately, knowing millions of innocent creatures are subjected to unimaginable suffering in this horrific aberration that is the live export trade? And there's the other matter—the connection between cruelty to animals and violence to humans. I have spent the last eight years researching and writing about this subject. My book was published by Australian Scholarly Publishing recently.

Australia is a backward country when it comes to animal protection. A government which is indifferent to animal suffering will not care for its people. Most Australians love animals. Animal issues are the most viewed and commented upon on social media.