

Submission on the banning of live sheep exports by [REDACTED]

Independent Observers reported breaches of the Australian Standards (ASEL) on 75% of the accompanied Middle East sheep voyages.

The 2018 Awassi Express high mortality voyage revealed shocking shipboard conditions at a time when the industry claimed they were world leaders in animal welfare.

These voyages inherently include ship movement, 24-hour lighting and 90 dB noise for 20-plus days, along with prolonged heat stress. Even with the changes implemented since 2018, 38 out of 41 voyages accompanied by Independent Observers have reported heat stress. The ships are not air-conditioned and no amount of ventilation helps when the ambient conditions exceed a sheep's heat stress threshold.

While this trade persists, animals will continue to suffer.