

**Submission: Phase out of live sheep exports by sea**

I am a livestock agent in [REDACTED] and operate in the [REDACTED] I was raised in Perth, and made the shift to the Wheatbelt 10 years ago to pursue a career in livestock. I have been operating my own livestock agency and services business since 2015.

Live export is the cornerstone of my business.

The trading of sheep from farms where the sheep are bred, to farms where the sheep are grown and fattened for the live export market constitutes over half of my business.

The phase out of live export will cause loss of markets. This will make the trading of sheep, which already occurs on narrow margins, unsustainable.

Relying only on export markets which are equipped to take chilled meat, and no longer trading with markets who want and require the live product risks our market sustainability. Reduced prices resulting from reduced market access will inevitably reduce the numbers of sheep run in Western Australia.

Without the trading of sheep for live export, I worry that my business will no longer be sustainable. I expect I would have to leave the industry, and move back to Perth to begin a new career. These job losses will not be isolated, and will have significant negative outcomes for regional Western Australia.

There is no sustainable path to the forced closure of the live export trade. There is no primary producer who wishes to see poor welfare outcomes for livestock at any level of the supply chain. A forced closure only punishes the primary producer. The role of government is not to close industries with demonstrated improvement and world's best welfare standards. The role of government should be to regulate and ensure that welfare standards are maximised, and maintained. The modern export supply chain is something Australians can be proud of, and should continue to be an example of industry and government bodies working to create best practice.

Do not end live export, instead continue effective regulation to maintain a sustainable world leading sheep industry for the betterment of Western Australia

[REDACTED]