

As sheep producers of over 50 years, we can't believe that the Federal Government wants to phase out an industry which has shown to be world best practice.

WA has a Mediterranean climate with an autumn feed gap which makes it very difficult to carry wethers through to the winter months as we have ewes lambing in May and winter cereals being sown, hence young wethers have to be moved off the farm.

The argument about putting them though abattoirs does not have any truth because at the moment only [REDACTED] are killing merino wethers and they are booked up for 6 to 8 weeks. We are carrying 800 at the moment which we are feeding oats and lupins at a huge expense to the business. With WA freight advantage closer to the middle east its just seems a no brainer to put them on a boat like shown on ABC Land Line Program on Sunday 28/5/2023 and get them to a market that needs live sheep not lamb in a box which they don't like!!

The abattoir space in WA at the moment is too small to process all the sheep and at this time they are staffed by N.Z. and South Sea islander workers. Not many Australian workers want to be in that industry so I can't see how the Federal Government is going to make this work!

We have used this trade for the last 35 years and without the export trade it will result in cutting sheep numbers and turning to more crop with more co2 going into the atmosphere!

The ending of live export will cause a huge impact on all the industries which hang off the back of a business which has served us well. The economic and mental health problems will be huge, and I hope Mr Watt will be able to sleep soundly afterwards!!!

[REDACTED]