



13/05/2023

The Chairman,  
Live Export Panel  
Canberra

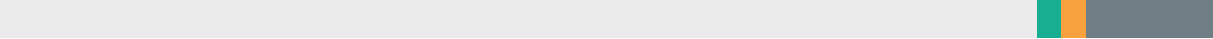
Dear The Chairman,,

It was my honor to meet you and the Panel at the [REDACTED] meeting when you were touring this part of the State of Western Australia last month. I believe that you gleaned from that that we farmers are serious about the impact of the Federal Government Live Export Policy.

You have heard (and captured) many of the reasons why sheep farmers need access to international markets for our produce.

In [REDACTED] I asked if the Report that you produce will be made public. Your answer in the negative prompted me to ask you and the Panel if you valued your integrity at the [REDACTED] meeting. I am sure that you and Panel members are aware of the modern propensity to select only the statements that suit the needs of the holder.

Whilst I realize that your Panel are only flack catchers for a government too weak to face the people they are crucifying and too weak to resist the emotional argument of animal activists, surely you understand that this same government will feed you to the wolves if it suits them.



I anticipate that your report will contain of the facts and truths that have been put before you. That:

Live Export is essential to uphold the market price of WA sheep.

There is limited domestic market for sheep meat in WA.

High Labor costs mean that local processing actually devalues the product internationally. Any push to process those sheep locally should not be subsidized by farmers.

There is limited domestic capacity to process these sheep. COVID outbreaks and staff shortages have created an oversupply right now that combined with the Federal Government Policy announcement has seen the market value of sheep decline markedly.

There is a need for major investment in meat processing and it remains essential that the processing costs are driven down to remain competitive. However, no viable business case could be written is such a collapsing industry. The government MUST restore faith.

We have consistently performed above the regulator's standards and yet the animal activists continue to use outdated information and dubious footage of a voyage that is now essentially discredited.

The industry has been damaged by what can only be described as industrial sabotage. There are many more sheep available for Live Export than there is shipping capacity. The exporting companies have taken their ships and trade elsewhere to countries with much lower standards.

Those who remove Australian sheep from the trade will be responsible for the welfare of millions of sheep that will be exported from other countries to fill the need. These countries have less animal welfare scruples.

The importing countries will continue to do so with or without Australia.

Saudi Arabia are about to re enter the market in Australia after some years out. They have realized the quality of our product and want it times a million sheep.

Meanwhile the immediate effects in rural WA are real. Right now the confidence in the sheep industry has collapsed. Your unannounced tour smelt of a clandestine operation to kill off the industry. Could not have scripted a worse strategy if you tried.

Good people with nothing to hide and no responsibility for this action are finding their business, life and family are devastated and the mention mental health impact is rising. With minimal rain and overstocking due to market failure induced by the Federal Government interference, farmers are likely to suffer most.

That this enquiry is accepting submissions from non industry spectators is concerning. Without anything to lose these individuals are dictating policy based on nothing more than emotion and old data. The industry is far better than these people would have you believe, and they continue to misrepresent the truth. Any such submissions should be required to be accompanied by a direct debit facility on their income. Growers should not bear the cost of their morality or the lack thereof.

So back to INTEGRITY.

I believe the Panel were surprised by the extent of the issue.

A Panel with any integrity will report that the Terms of Reference are an impertinence to the industry. They should be disregarded by you and instead you should by now have found that Live Export is not negotiable.

That is, of course, IF the Panel (and it's members) is truly independent.

Sincerely,

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