



Balgun Harcourt Pty Ltd ATF West Family Trust Trading as CJ & KL West

JAMES WEST

Director

Hello Live Sheep Export Committee,

After attending your meeting in Wagin I felt it important to point out that the phase out must be over a long period, preferably 15 to 20 years.

Why may you ask?

Answer

Not enough slaughter facilities in WA to handle a larger number of sheep.
To run even 2 shifts. Labor is not easily found.

This farming enterprise runs 3000 ewes and we have spent 40 years developing a flock of sheep, using ASBVs, concentrating on fast growth so our wether lambs are now turned of 1 month after weaning to the domestic trade. Very few have been on a live export ship for many years.

The following ASBVs are in the top 5% & 10% of the Australian flock.

- **Post Weaning Weight**
- **Yearling Weight**
- **Yearling Eye Muscle Depth**
- **Yearling Fat Depth**
- **Early Breech Wrinkle**
- **Dual Purpose Index**

Our Clean Fleece Index is now well over 50% of the Australian average.

This explains that we have elite genetics in our flock. Many producers will decide to head in the same direction with their breeding. This will cause young sheep prices to drop substantially. This business could decide to exit the industry completely. It would be with regret that the genetic resources developed since 1993 could be lost to the slaughterhouse. We would prefer this to not happen.

I trust this committee will give this proper consideration.

Regards

James West