



Animals' Angels' Australia (AAA) submission on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea

Dawn Lowe
Project Manager

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our views on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

AAA is an animal welfare organisation based in Frankfurt, Germany with operations in Australia since 2004. In Australia we focus our efforts on animals during the transport and saleyard processes by regularly monitoring for compliance with relevant animal welfare law and reporting our findings to the relevant authorities.

Office in Frankfurt
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www.animals-angels.de

AAA visited the Port of Fremantle for a decade observing live animal export activities. Animal welfare breaches and problems were not difficult to find but achieving change through official channels was consistently unrewarding. We routinely observed systemic non-compliance with the ASEL and alleged breaches of the State AW legislation.

The association is recognised as a non-profit organisation. Donations are tax deductible.

Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main
Register number: [REDACTED]
Chairwoman: Julia Havenstein
Vice Chairman: Sven Strobel

Our experience matches that reported in the 2018 review by Phillip Moss AM¹ where an exporter is quoted as saying that 'breaches in the live animal exports supply chain for which an exporter has full control and responsibility, the exporter will still have little reason to expect sanction for carelessness, poor management of livestock and/or disregard of the ASEL guidelines'.

Our privacy notice:
www.animals-angels.de/Datenschutz

Increased risks to animal welfare during phase out

That there is an existing issue with inadequate animal welfare in the live export industry will, in our opinion, be made worse as a consequence of a declining investment in the dying industry which will inevitably be impacted by a loss of experienced staff moving to other forms of employment.

¹ Moss, P (2018) Review of the Regulatory Capability and Culture of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Regulation of Live Animal Exports, report to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, [Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra]. Exercising its powers 118.

We request that a conscious effort be made to ensure that animal welfare management is a priority during the phase out with specific attention to the following:

- ensuring sheep who are not fit to export and transport are not transported to the port, they remain at the registered premise and are treated humanely without delay, and

- ensuring sheep who are not fit to export but are transported to the port are drafted off and treated humanely without delay, and

- regular welfare checks occur for sheep held on trucks overnight at the port, and

- regular welfare checks of sheep drafting and loading at the port, especially during hot weather, and

- regular welfare checks on board the vessel whilst it is in port, and

- ensuring **independent animal welfare monitoring** across the export industry with formal reporting to the relevant authorities to give the general public confidence that animal welfare is being protected.

Other submissions

We are aware of and support submissions of RSPCA Australia and Australian Alliance for Animals.

Dawn Lowe
31 May 2023