



## **SUBMISSION FOR THE PHASING OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS IN AUSTRALIA**

**Psychologist, author and communications Trainer Clare Mann**

I recently attended a live public call with the NSW government representatives and farmers and listened carefully to the considerations to phase out live exports. I heard about the impact to farmers, local communities etc. My understanding is that the ending of sheep exports might be considered in the next election of 2025 and there is a focus on the phasing out of this trade. I have since (and before) carried out extensive research into the reality of live exports and would like to add my input as a psychologist of thirty years experience and a member of the public, concerned for the progress and moral integrity of Australia.

I have practised extensively as an organisational/occupational psychologist and have worked in organisations in over 20 countries, helping leaders improve productivity, influence culture and commitment and make workplaces enjoyable places to work. I am not a stranger to the economic realities of running large, medium sized and small businesses. I have also practised for the last twenty years more clinically with individuals and couples dealing with trauma and issues like depression, anxiety, meaninglessness etc. I am well published and share this information to highlight my experience and research knowledge in the areas of leadership and social and psychological wellbeing.

Organisations constantly have to change to adapt to changing economic and social conditions. The arguments given for the live export of sheep appear to be to maintain tradition and economics, yet the live export of sheep represents a very small proportion the sheep meat industry. So I looked at other considerations that must be considered, ie. the costs involved in continuing the industry.

Sheep in the live export trade suffer immeasurable pain, fear and trauma on long voyages and repeated exposes over the last 20 years by organisations like Animals Australia reveal the horrific conditions sheep are subjected to in live exports. Exposes revealed in Four Corners and Sixty Minutes had the public horrified that a government would allow sentient animals from Australia to literally be tortured in this way. We can't justify the continuation of a small market (which could be serviced differently in Australia) given the suffering of these animals. Who are we as a society if we allow this?

### **Considerations:**

- Sheep suffer immeasurable pain and suffering when live exported. When they reach their destination, any standards of minimum care are impossible to impose, hence animals are often slaughtered in the street, dirty backrooms of houses etc. They are stabbed in the eyes to disorientate them and slaughtered sometimes with blunt knives in very high local temperatures. This prolongs suffering and we can't justify this horrific treatment of animals merely to continue a tradition.





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The ESCAS system has been shown repeatedly to be ineffective in ensuring standards and tracing animals from Australian farms to slaughter.


- Extensive research reveals that there is a high correlation between adult violent crimes towards other people (domestic and societal) with cruelty towards animals (domestic and wild). Whilst I have not conducted research on how people are influenced by what they see a leadership allows, I would say that how a leadership indicates it is ok to treat animals in our society, will influence how people eventually treat each other.

- The government has an opportunity after several years of huge challenges for the Australian public to indicate some moral integrity and leadership beyond economics. A government needs to give hope to people that we are a nation worthy of respect and how we treat defensive animals indicates something very powerful to human animals about how we should be treating the environment and each other. Bringing forward the ending of live exports is an opportunity to do this – and work with communities and farming industries to adapt their non-export businesses and in many cases, change the product line.

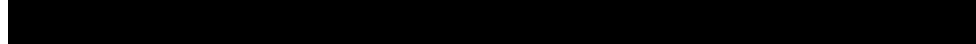
As a psychologist and concerned member of the public, I want this government to not only speed up the phasing out of the live export trade but END the trade – it is fairly small, and morally indefensible and doing so will have immeasurable positive effects on society beyond economics. However the economics can be overcome with creative solutions.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



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Registered Psychologist



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