



Xavier Martin
President

14 June 2023

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: livesheep.phaseout@agriculture.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Phase out of live sheep exports by sea consultation

NSW Farmers appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission to the phase out of live sheep exports by sea consultation, being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to implement the election commitment of the Albanese Government.

NSW Farmers is Australia's largest state farming organisation, representing the interests of its primary producer members across New South Wales. We also speak up on issues that matter to farmers, such as economics, trade, rural and regional affairs.

NSW Farmers strongly supports the continuation of live sheep exports by sea. The Australian Government should not phase out this industry.

Live sheep exports by sea from Western Australia underpin the sheep industry in New South Wales (in particular, the market for wethers) and other states. Therefore, phasing out exports of live sheep by sea will have negative flow-on impacts to producers across Australia and the national sheep market.

Furthermore, impacts will be felt in other sectors of the agriculture industry. For example, grain growers have raised concern they will receive less money for their product if the Western Australia sheep flock declines and subsequently, decreases demand for and value of feed grain.

With varying, extreme climatic conditions a part of Australia's landscape, live sheep export is a fundamental market tool that enables farmers to manage livestock while upholding high standards of animal welfare, both during trying seasons domestically and within international markets, and market failure.

Should you wish to discuss this matter directly with NSW Farmers, we would appreciate the opportunity to do so. A meeting can be arranged by contacting our [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Xavier Martin
President

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