

31 May 2023

## **RE: Submission Live Sheep Trade Phase Out**

### **About Our Business**

We have a mixed enterprise [REDACTED]. Our enterprise is approximately 80% cropping and pastures, 20% sheep. We crop wheat, canola, lupins, barley with pastures of serradella and clover. We also participate in the export hay industry. Sheep are an integral part of our enterprise and we have anywhere between 4500 – 6500 head throughout the year.

### **Live Sheep Trade Phase Out**

We strongly support the live sheep trade by sea, predominantly because it gives us a choice of market that is necessary in our Western Australian climate. We do not support its phase out.

For the sheep industry in Australia and our state to survive it needs, as many markets as possible.

The live export trade gives us a choice in the stock we run and where we can sell to. Our stock is not suited to the local processors. They are suited to our climate and particularly when we experience drought. The live sheep trade is a certain market option for us. It relieves pressure during dry springs.

We need this trade in Western Australia because we can not finish lambs off like in the eastern states, our water reserves are limited.

We need sheep in our enterprise, even though it is now a much smaller part of our business. Sheep support and complement our cropping system.

Sheep allow us to have a substantial legume rotation which adds value to our cropping i.e. less input costs (chemical and nitrogen) as well as a better return on the inputs we do put in.

Sheep are an important rotation in our cropping program and assists us in chemical rotation as well. If we lost some of this rotational flexibility, we would be growing a lot more GM canola.

With suitable rotations we can maximise production and management of our land which in some cases is lesser performing country and high risk cropping.

Even if farmers do not run sheep on their property, the sheep industry still adds value to that property through sustaining land prices. Those farmers not in the sheep industry still can produce lupins and straw for pellets off their land, to feed sheep (and other livestock) in WA and across the country.

The Western Australian sheep industry needs the live sheep trade by sea to enable all of the above to occur. Should this trade by sea be phased out, it will negatively impact our business as well as the other businesses we support, as well as effecting the sheep industry across the country.

Additionally, Western Australia continues to experience shortages of labour across multiple industries, including agriculture. We believe this is unlikely to be relieved in the long term. The live sheep trade is a market and GDP contributor where we do not need to supply the labour, the majority of effort and resources required are in our trading countries. This is a positive for our industry and our State when access to local labour is difficult and we have a low unemployment rate.

IA and JK [REDACTED]