



31 May 2023

Mr Phillip Glyde  
Chair  
Independent Panel  
Phase out of live sheep exports by sea  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601

By online form

Dear Mr Glyde,

**RE: Phase out of live sheep exports by sea**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit input to the Independent Panel as you consult with impacted and interested stakeholders and provide advice to the Australian Government on how and when they plan to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

As you might expect, the NFF Horticulture Council (the Council) would not normally concern itself with matters relating to animal welfare. However, members of the Council are sufficiently concerned, even disturbed, at the very real prospect the proposed ban on live sheep exports will set a dangerous precedent for the rest of agriculture that we have decided to express these concerns and deep reservations.

It is our hope, and in fact expectation, that you, along with your fellow panellists will convey these concerns and reservations held broadly across agriculture industries with Minister Watt and the Australian Government more broadly, despite it not being strictly within your remit.

Depriving industry of key markets and stifling productivity through unwarranted, prohibitive policies compromises agriculture's long-term viability and sustainability, and undermines everywhere industry-led efforts to proactively respond to consumer and market expectations.

Enacting policies reacting to and appeasing activist agendas that are fundamentally extreme and absolutist, not representing the broad views of the Australian public, will only serve to encourage further activism and ultimately, more unduly prohibitive policies. This is the slippery slope we're on.



For these reasons, the Council stands with the rest of the agriculture industry in remaining strident in our objection to the phase-out of live sheep export and continued opposition to this policy until it is overturned.

Should you, fellow panellists, or staff of the Department wish to discuss any of the above further, please be in contact with me by email at [REDACTED] or phone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



**RICHARD SHANNON**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NFF Horticulture Council