

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Australian Government  
Canberra, ACT

27 May 2023

Dear Panel Members,

**Re: Phase-out of Live Sheep Exports by Sea**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea. I strongly believe that the phase-out must start and finish as soon as possible. Each delay prolongs the suffering endured by sheep, ranging from the daily stresses of sea transport to the distressing reality of fully conscious slaughter in importing countries.

Adequate support for farmers will be instrumental to the success of this phase-out. I strongly support the provision of comprehensive support measures that enable farmers to transition to alternative and sustainable agricultural practices. This could include exploring opportunities for the promotion and expansion of plant-based agriculture, which aligns with evolving consumer demands and ethical considerations.

The live sheep export trade has a profound impact on Australia's international reputation as a fair and compassionate nation. Countries like New Zealand have set a precedent by ending live exports, bolstering their reputation as leaders in animal welfare. It is essential for Australia to align with global expectations and demonstrate our commitment to humane practices.

Moreover, prolonging the live export trade undermines public trust in Australia's agricultural sector. The continuation of this trade hinders the perception of our nation as a responsible and ethical producer of agricultural goods. By urgently phasing out live sheep exports, we can rebuild and strengthen public confidence in the integrity and compassion of our agricultural industry.

In conclusion, I urge the Australian Government to take immediate action in commencing and finalising the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea. Animal welfare must be prioritised, and the support provided to farmers during this transition is also critical.

Australia now has an opportunity to reclaim its position as a leader in animal welfare and restore public trust in our agricultural sector.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Holly Sitters