

The decision to phase out live exports by sea is extremely bizarre, for a government that claims to be sane enough to run an entire country.

There is no suitable timeline to phase out this method, but it is already too late. Prices at saleyards have crashed, due to the uncertainty.

It has already affected our business. However, it is way more than a business, I have devoted my entire life, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, (practically), to looking after the livestock side of the farm, and I find it extremely offensive that the government is interfering in something I have helped my late father build up and continue to improve.

My dad died of a heart attack shortly after live exports were stopped by a previous government. There needs to be a royal commission into the affects of the former and present live export by sea government decisions.

Support and adjustment options for those affected by government decisions

- Agricultural Research:
Rams could be bred, or given a chemical, in order to produce only or predominately female progeny.
- Livestock producers to have permanent representation in parliament, with any decisions affecting primary production of animals to be approved or disapproved by this permanent body.
- Alternative ways to get sheep to markets

Each current live sheep customer Government could place their embassies at existing or new ports, so livestock can be legally trucked by road to the embassy, which would technically be the country being exported to. Live export ships could then be loaded, as they would technically be a domestic export of the embassy owning country at the port.

- Road Alternative

Construct a Road Bridge and highway across the Torres Straight, into PNG. A continuation of this road bridge network across PNG, Indonesia, to Singapore and Malaysia, would enable Live animals to be transported by road or rail, the entire way to their destinations.

- Better Air Freight links

Build an international freight airport near the Brand or Great Northern highways, in the northern part of the Western Australian wheatbelt, so sheep can be directly and more easily air freighted to their destination.

- Reduce Red Tape in converting sheep country to cropping country

Currently an Act of Parliament will soon be in force in Western Australia, whereby it will be illegal to disturb the soil without getting permission from the relevant heritage authority. (ACH Act 2021).

If sheep producers are being forced to crop more, due to the affects of Government decisions, at least make it actually easier to put the crop in!