

Dear valued members of the panel,

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission regarding the phase out of live sheep exports by sea. My name is Samantha Ryan and I am a citizen of Australia living in [REDACTED]. I am originally from just outside Cambridge in England but spent a great deal of my childhood in rural Lincolnshire, running around playing on a moderately sized cattle and sheep farm. I think this is where my love and passion for animals and the countryside started. I was exposed to the hardship of farming in my younger years and am very pro supporting our Aussie farmers.

I have a few points to raise regarding some of the questions posed in this consultation paper.

## **Mechanism**

### ***1) How should the government implement the phase out of live sheep exports by sea? Why should the government use this approach?***

The government has an obligation to Australian citizens to phase out the live export of sheep by sea as they promised to do so in their election campaign. There is only one way for the government to implement this phase out and that is urgently!

Since the early 2000's Australian citizens have been vocal in their opposition to the live export trade and remain passionate about ending this cruel and barbaric practice. The government have simply got to review what is already in place in terms of strategies as surely, they have some - otherwise why would they have promised to phase out the live export of sheep by sea?? - and act, if they are indeed serious about this matter. They must focus on proving the farmers impacted by the phase out of live sheep export by sea with alternative opportunity for growing their businesses in Australia.

Change management is a large component of my work and it is fair to say that change is never welcomed by everybody, most people like to avoid change at all cost. Ultimately, when change is necessary, there comes a point when we have to stop talking about it and just get the job done - and ending live export of sheep by sea is necessary to stop the suffering of millions of living, breathing, feeling, sentient beings. The government's focus must be on keeping Australian jobs in Australia and looking towards the future of farming which does not include this awful practice. Setting a specific date to end this practice will provide the farmers with a point of reference and allow them to consider other avenues of income. Currently it seems that farmers are continually being threatened with the prospect of ending of this particular income stream, this must be highly stressful for them. If they are given a date, they have something to work towards, instead they are labouring under a misapprehension that this dated and cruel practice is going to continue. That said, the farmers by now should be well and truly prepared for this practice to end. They know it won't continue, they know it will end and it seems the government are continually providing them with false hope. Provide them with alternative opportunities, whether it be in farming or some other industry that promotes sustainable growth, they must not be disadvantaged.

## **Timeframe**

### ***2) What is an appropriate timeframe to phase out live sheep exports by sea? What are your reasons for proposing this timeframe?***

The government must act now, not wait until next term-will there be a next term? While they are ignoring this important phase out, millions and millions of sheep continue to suffer unimaginable pain and stress. The boats that the sheep are transported on are unregulated, there is no accountability of those on board to demonstrate that the animals are provided with fresh food and water; sheep are highly sensitive to heat and often perish on these horrific journeys. It appears to me that the term 'phase out' is simply means of turning a blind eye and putting the whole subject on constant review. When are we going to see some change? It is now time for this to be decided and legislated. I am also deeply concerned that the Terms of Reference for this phase includes no reference at all about the welfare of these animals, demonstrating that this is of no concern to the current government.

### ***9) What can be learnt from other countries that have ceased live sheep exports? What lessons can be learned from Australian states or territories that no longer export live sheep by sea?***

#### ***Opportunities***

Australia must look at countries like New Zealand and observe how their economy did not suddenly collapse when they ended the export of live sheep by sea. At the moment we are lagging behind on the world's stage in terms of our animal welfare, it is time that we led by example and took the courage of our convictions to **commit** to phasing out this awful, shameful practice.

Thank you for your time reviewing this submission.

Sincerely,

Samantha Ryan