



**THE HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP**

FEDERAL LEADER OF THE NATIONALS  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA

31 May 2023

Mr Phillip Glyde  
Chair, Independent Panel  
c/- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: [livesheep.phaseout@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:livesheep.phaseout@agriculture.gov.au)

Dear Mr Glyde

I wish to make a submission on behalf of the Federal Coalition to state our position that we do not support the phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

The live sheep export trade is valued at \$85 million, supports over 3,000 jobs, and has an essential role within the social fabric of many regional communities in Western Australia.

The Federal Coalition is committed to upholding the highest standard of animal health and welfare, while supporting a lawful and sustainable live export trade.

In recent years, the animal welfare performance of the live sheep export industry has been exemplary, and it's a direct result of the comprehensive range of reforms that the sector has achieved since 2018.

These measures have included an industry-initiated moratorium on sheep exported during the northern hemisphere summer, increased space for animals, improved ventilation requirements, better data collection, temperature monitoring, the presence of independent government observers on deck, and public reporting.

The effectiveness of these reforms within the live sheep export industry are reflected in record low mortality rates - which currently stands at 0.14 per cent in 2022.

It is concerning that an industry that has successfully reformed at their own cost is being forcibly shut down, noting that this decision stems from election commitments that were made in 2019 and 2022. This policy has not been made on any sort of tangible animal welfare evidence.



Along the supply chain, Australia has the highest animal welfare standards in the world. If the live sheep trade is shut, perverse animal welfare outcomes are the direct result – because our international trading partners will source their sheep from other countries who do not share our nation’s exceptional animal welfare measures.

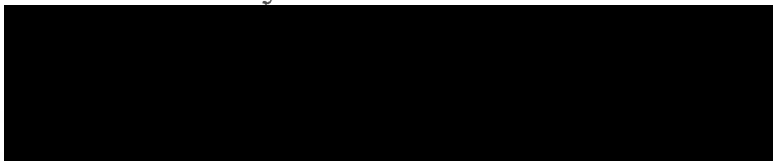
This decision will impact the entire supply chain - from the farmers to the shearers, fodder suppliers, truck drivers, livestock agents and exporters, as well as their families and communities. Hearing some of the stories from impacted sheep producers, who love what they do, is distressing.

Ultimately, shutting down live sheep exports will have enormous consequences for Australian agriculture - especially in Western Australia.

The Federal Coalition is urging the Albanese Labor Government to overturn its decision, examine the available evidence and science, and talk directly to our fellow Australians whose livelihoods are under serious threat.

We strongly oppose any measures to deliberately shut down a lawful and sustainable agricultural industry, and if re-elected the Federal Coalition will act to reverse this policy and reinstate live sheep exports.

Yours sincerely



David Littleproud MP  
Shadow Minister for Agriculture