

Phaseout Timeline



Figure 45 Timeline for Phaseout, Source: EP3

Preliminary elements that would benefit from immediate action include funding for change consultancy, farm enterprise change trials, lamb feedlot trials & extension, redevelopment of sheep meat airfreight capacity (particularly focused upon the MENA region) and the introduction of an intermittent west to east freight equalisation scheme.

Change consultancy would encompass services relating to; on-farm assistance to oversee enterprise change trials, extension staff to assist sheep producers unfamiliar with the lamb feed lotting process to trial the concept on farm at a small scale (under 5,000 head), financial counsellors to assist with cashflow, budget, subsidy/rebate applications and management of debt, recruitment specialists to assist with preliminary assessment of training and development services to assist impacted workers likely to need retraining/redeployment and relocation during the transition phase, and mental health counselling services as needed.

Farm enterprise change trials would likely require formal approvals from animal ethics committee, which can take two years to set up, and, ideally, the trials would run for several years to account for any potential seasonal variations.

Lamb feedlot trials and extension work relevant to this process would be focused on sheep producers not experienced with feedlot design, animal welfare requirements within a feedlot environment and feedlot management practices. This program would be directed towards small scale on-farm feedlot operations and act as a proof of concept for WA sheep producers to demonstrate that lamb finishing via an intensive system is a viable option for their enterprise and that it could help them manage risks associated with the shorter growing season specific to the Western Australian context. This program would be separate from the assistance provided to commercial large-scale lamb feedlot operators as part of their initial development or expansion plans.

Redevelopment of sheep meat airfreight capacity refers to a targeted approach to increase air traffic flows, particularly from the MENA region, in order to enhance market access for Middle Eastern light

What is the Preferred Phaseout Timeline?

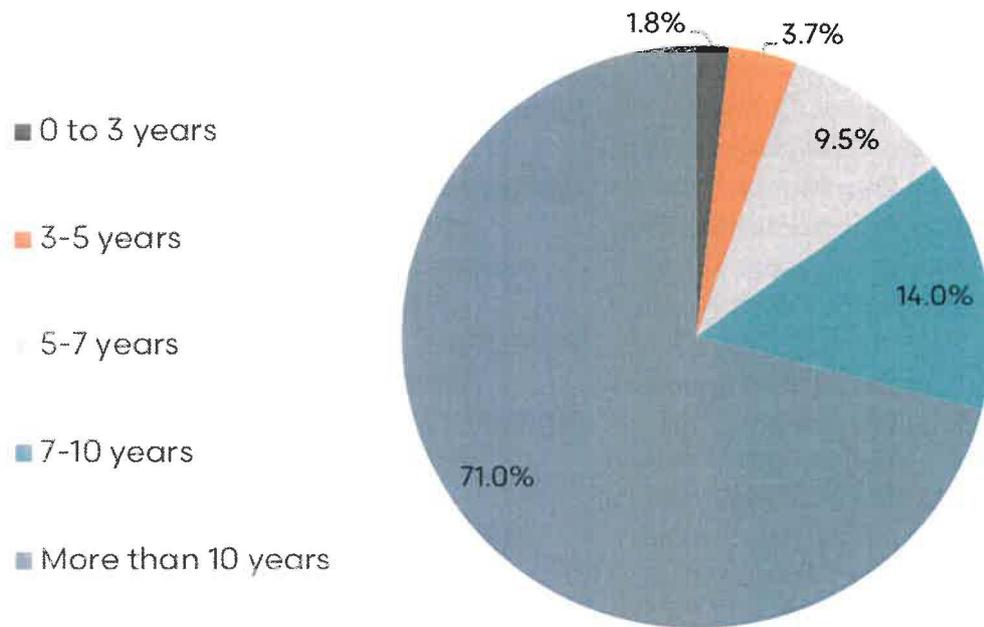


Figure 44 Preferred Timeline for Phaseout, Sources:EP3

i. Analysis of the Timeline for Phaseout

The proposed phaseout of the live sheep trade has several impacts across the supply chain, with the transition requirements of many supply chain participants conditional upon key interrelated elements or supply chain adjustments to have taken place, in advance, in order to ensure a successful transition outcome.

An example of this supply chain reliance would be that consistent supply of sheep and lambs, that meet processor specifications for their destination markets, are available before processing plant capacity expansion such as lairage or cold store space is undertaken. Or, alternatively, to ensure that the supply of accommodation facilities is adequate in regional towns before the processor labour force is expanded.

Figure 45 provides an outline of the long-term phaseout process across several supply chain aspects identified for a successful transition, bearing in mind that year zero is set from when the phaseout process formally begins, not the current year.

It is assumed that the phaseout plan will be finalised by the Australian Government in late 2023 or early 2024 for implementation after the next election, which is most likely to be in 2025. Therefore, year zero in the timeline is estimated to begin in 2025.