

From: [Greg Neaves](#)
To: [Committee, Agriculture \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Inquiry into Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024
Date: Thursday, 6 June 2024 3:00:06 AM

To all,

Whom should seriously reconsider this ban on the live sheep export trade from Western Australia.

As a 66 year old livestock agent (GBG Rural Services) and have served in the industry for 51 years. I feel more than qualified to outline the impacts on the Farming communities from this " Totally ridiculous piece of legislation.

To mention the following key points.

And the fact that, clearly demonstrates the complete lack of knowledge and involvement this government has in the live export trade, is quite frankly. A sad situation.

For these obvious reasons

A) The sheep export trade has had a complete transformation change from four or more years in the past. Its animal practices are first class,(losses are less than reported in normal farming activities) Reporting is regularly and well documented.

No farmers, Agents or shipping companies want or can tolerate losses. There is no earthly reason why we would tolerate that outcome.

B) The huge impact from closing the trade will have devastating impact on farming communities.

From Growers, transport operators, Agents, Animal veterinarian and assorted inputs for their care, shearers , wool sales, numerous employees associated with sheep husbandry practices, to name a few.

Then the impact on the small communities, from lack of numbers, ie schools, and services. All will be lost.

C) there are large tracts of land only suitable for grazing, not cropping.

Should the sheep go, that will have to be cropped or abandoned. This will have a detrimental impact on the country and land holders.

D) This government is so totally out of touch when they claiming to set up new processing plants to handle the extra sheep turnoff.

The western Australian sheep are wool growers , not like our eastern state cousins whom mainly produce meat sheep and have more population to consume them.

Our distance to these markets makes us non competitive.

Simple put. Australia population consumption of sheep over 2 year old is minimal. There are no markets for wethers, rams etc. all get exported.

Why. Because our labour cost to process are far too expensive for a third world country to purchase, not to mention chilling facilities they need to handle the product.

Farmers want be able to produce sheep at the price point need to make it work.

Not to mention the obvious fact you can't get labour to work in rural processing plants.

Why would any government ban this trade is beyond comprehension.

They're position is based on past history, four or more years outdated, And there political gain from preference votes with radical minor parties.

Not based on any science

There destroying a sustainable industry. A important export income

And rural employment.

Surely we can do better than that as a country

Not to mention that we are ideally positioned to help feed our worldly neighbours.

And the trade want stop. It will be supplied by other countries with standards far below our high level

I sincerely hope that you view this with clear honesty.

And make the correct decision.

Thanks for your consideration

Greg Neaves
GBG rural services
Western Australia