

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to you in regards to our Live Export Trade and the impact it will have for the future of our industry.

My name is David Jasper & I farm in the S/W wheatbelt area of WA. We are predominantly grain producers but have a sheep & cattle enterprise which is complimentary to the sustainability of our family farm & which has a flow on effect which effects our farming enterprise. The cattle enterprise also utilises less productive areas or non cropable areas of the farm which have been sown to tagaste ie: (that is a tree legume that is ideal for cattle feed)

The live animal trade is a very important alternative market for our animal sales. It provides a floor in the market with pricing, needed employment opportunities for regional areas, access to increasing markets, increased producer incomes, a reduction in producers risk in terms of their farming operation with stock & grain.

Local processors have indicated they would not be able to handle the number of livestock that would become available if the live trade was stopped. Therefore up to 2,000,000 older sheep would need to be transported over east for processing, at an additional cost of approx \$25 a head or \$48,000,000 at current prices, without the effect of the carbon footprint impact.

It has taken many years to improve animal welfare standards in our own country. Improving animal welfare standards in other countries may take some time but with Australia's help & guidance a lot has already been achieved & I'm sure a lot more can be achieved in the future that will provide benefits to producers, exporters & animal welfare

It is clear to me that we must maintain live exports as not to destroy a billion dollar industry affecting thousands of peoples employment, producers income & a significant flow on effects & benefits this industry has for our country as a whole.

David Jasper.