



Balgun Harcourt Pty Ltd ATF West Family Trust
Trading as CJ & KL West

ABN 53780079716

JAMES WEST

Director

Dear Chairman
Standing committee for Agriculture,

It is important to point out that the export of live sheep should not be phased out. Or if they unfortunately are phased out must be over a long period, preferably 20 years.

Why may you ask?

Answer

Not enough slaughter facilities in WA to handle a larger number of sheep. This is clearly shown this year with many sheep needing to be sold because of seasonal conditions.

The loss of live shipping of sheep will affect the viability of many towns as there will be many less shearers needed. This flows on through all the other industries who service us ie; trucking firms & drivers, stockmen & agencies, cafes and schools. There will be far more lost than 107 million dollars compensation that is offered.

This farming enterprise used to run 3000 ewes and we have spent 40 years developing a flock of sheep, using ASBVs, concentrating on fast growth so our wether lambs are now aimed to be turned off 1-2 months after weaning to the domestic trade. None have been knowingly on a live export ship for many years.

The following ASBVs are in the top 1% & 5% of the Australian flock.

- **Post Weaning Weight - 1%**
- **Yearling Weight - 1%**
- **Yearling Eye Muscle Depth - 5%**
- **Yearling Fat Depth - 5%**
- **Early Breech Wrinkle - 5%**
- **Dual Purpose Index - 5%**

Our Clean Fleece Index is now well over 50% of the Australian average.

This explains that we have elite genetics in our flock. Many producers will now decide to head in the same direction with their breeding. This has already caused young sheep prices to drop substantially below the cost of production. Many of our wether lambs have gone for slaughter in South Australia this year. This has reduced the price of lamb substantially in the East of Australia.

This business could decide to exit the industry completely. We have in place the equipment and machinery which we can use to double our cropping hectares immediately. Thus, transiting to a total cropping enterprise. This will mean a loss of these elite genetics that have taken half of my working life to develop. We have already reduced our mating numbers to 1800 head.

It would be with regret that the genetic resources developed since 1993 could be lost to the slaughterhouse. We would prefer this to not happen.

I trust this committee will give this proper consideration.

Regards

James West