

From: [Fran Alcock](#)
To: [Committee, Agriculture \(REPS\)](#)
Subject: Live sheep export
Date: Thursday, 6 June 2024 12:08:25 AM

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture.
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra A C T 2600

Dear Committee members

Re: Inquiry into Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by sea) Bill 2024)

This submission opposes the Australian Government's policy to phase out live sheep export.

I have been a passionate sheep farmer for over 50 years, so I have seen many good times and bad times. This threat to ban live export is potentially the worst. It will severely impact our business, and also the shearers whom we employ.

I intend to reduce our merino ewe flock from 1400 to 700. I also intend to cull out 2/3rds of last year ewe lambs. All wethers will be sold.

The proposal for more on-shore processing will not result in more Australians being employed. At our local abattoir almost all employees come from the islands outside of Australia. This is not helping the housing crisis.

The live export trade is like a relief for the WA sheep industry. When we have a drought it is an import trade to clear sheep which are too light for the domestic market.

We, WA farmers, are also an important source of breeding stock when the Eastern states need to replace their stock, after fires and drought. At the end of the 2019 drought on the East coast 4 million sheep, mostly ewes, travelled from West to East in one year. Which included some of ours ! The Eastern states will not be able to obtain ewes from WA in the future. As for the wethers, if there is no export outlet or space at abattoirs they will need to be destroyed. Even this year in excess of 1.5 million have made the trip.

Shooting and burying your own livestock is a very tough and difficult job to do. Mental health will be an issue. Since your announcement I have been feeling very depressed.

It is NOT just us that will be affected by this ban. It will have a flow on effect in ALL country towns, from reduced animal supplies business's, to transport and shearers, schools, bus drivers, teachers etc.

I have great concern for all live stock farming with the animal activists claiming victory with this ban. This is despite the fact that we have world class standards on our ships.

Yours sincerely

Grant D Alcock