

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MS23-000506

To: Minister Watt (For Decision)**LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS PHASE OUT ANNOUNCEMENT – LETTERS TO STAKEHOLDERS**

Timing: 1 March 2023 — so letters can be prepared for distribution immediately following your announcement on 3 March 2023

Recommendation:

1. That you **sign** letters to relevant stakeholders to advise them that the consultation process to inform how and when the government will phase out live sheep exports by sea has commenced.

Signed / Not signed**Minister Watt:****Date:****Comments:**

Clearing Officer:	Caroline Wardrop	A/g Assistant Secretary, Live Sheep Exports Phase Out Taskforce	Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Director, Live Sheep Exports Phase out Taskforce	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Points:

1. On 3 March 2023 we understand you intend to launch the consultation process to inform how and when the Australian Government will phase out live sheep exports by sea.
2. This will include announcing you have established an independent, four-person panel to consult on this matter and deliver a report to you by 30 September 2023.
3. It will be vital to ensure all relevant stakeholders, including those involved directly in live sheep exports, farmers, businesses across the supply chain, animal welfare organisations, unions and other interested parties participate in this process.

4. To facilitate this, letters have been prepared to the following groups for your consideration and signature (a list is provided at **Attachment A**):
 - a. Exporters directly impacted by the phase out (**Attachment B**)
 - b. Live animal export industry representative bodies (**Attachment C**)
 - c. Relevant agriculture industry representative bodies (**Attachment D**)
 - d. Relevant Rural Research and Development Corporations (**Attachment E**)
 - e. Animal welfare organisations (**Attachment F**)
 - f. Relevant workers' unions (**Attachment G**)
 - g. State and territory agriculture ministers (**Attachment H**)
 - h. The Leader of the Nationals Party, Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee. (**Attachment I**)
 - i. Federal Senators and Members of Parliament from Western Australia (**Attachment J**)
5. Other letters may be prepared on your or your Office's request.
6. Letters to select trading partners will also be provided separately, as we seek assistance and input from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including from relevant embassies and high commissions.
7. Letters will be released immediately following your announcement and we will work with your office to ensure this is managed appropriately.
8. A/g First Assistant Secretary, Andrew McDonald, and your Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) , will also provide a virtual briefing to industry, animal welfare organisations and unions on the afternoon before the announcement.
9. A website will also go live as soon as your announcement has been made to ensure there is publicly available information about the phase out and the consultation process.

Sensitivities and Handling

10. We are working with your office and the department's media and communications teams to ensure the announcement is appropriately managed.

Consultation: NIL

Legal advice / Legislative impacts: Nil

Financial impacts: Nil

Farmer/Stakeholder Implications:

11. The phase out will impact farmers, industry and the communities that rely on the trade. There will also be strong interest from the public and community, including animal welfare advocacy groups.
12. The make-up of the panel will be of particular interest to all interested stakeholders and we anticipate this will receive attention.

Opportunities for First Nations people and their communities:

13. First Nations people and communities will be included in the consultation process.

Climate Change and Environmental Considerations: Nil

Attachments:

- A:** Recipient list
- B:** Exporters directly impacted by the phase out
- C:** Live animal export industry representative bodies
- D:** Relevant agriculture and industry representative bodies
- E:** Relevant Rural Research and Development Corporations
- F:** Animal welfare organisations
- G:** Relevant workers' unions
- H:** State and territory agriculture ministers
- I:** Specific parliamentarians
- J:** Federal Senators and Members of Parliament from Western Australia

Attachment A

LIST OF RECIPIENTS

Category	Organisation / Individual
Exporters directly impacted by the phase out	Rural Exports and Trading Western Australia (RETWA)
	Livestock Shipping Services (LSS)
	Emanuel Exports
Live animal export industry representative bodies	Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC)
	Western Australia Livestock Exporters Association (WALEA)
	Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA)
	Queensland Livestock Exporters Association (QLEA)
Relevant agriculture industry representative bodies	National Farmers' Federation
	AgForce
	Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association
	Australian Meat Industry Council
	Australian Veterinary Association
	Cattle Australia
	GrainGrowers
	Grain Producers Australia
	Livestock Producers SA
	Livestock and Rural Transport Association of Western Australia
	NSW Farmers
	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
	NT Farmers
	Pastoralists and Graziers Association WA
	Primary Producers SA
	Queensland Farmers' Federation
	Red Meat Advisory Council
	Sheep Producers Australia
	Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
	Victorian Farmers Federation
	WA Farmers
	Wool Producers
	Fletcher International (Benale Abattoir – Albany)
	WAMMCO Abattoir – Katanning
	Craig Mostyn Group (V&V Walsh Abattoir – Bunbury)
Relevant Rural Research and Development Corporations	LiveCorp
	Meat & Livestock Australia
	Australian Meat Processors Corporation
	Australian Wool Innovation
	Grains Research and Development Corporation
Animal Welfare organisations	The Australian Alliance for Animals – Jed Goodfellow
	The Australian Alliance for Animals – Craig Emerson
	Animals Australia
	RSPCA Australia
	RSPCA WA
	Humane Society International - Australia
	Australian Workers' Union

Category	Organisation / Individual
Relevant workers' union	Australian Workers' Union WA Branch
	United Workers Union
	Australian Meat Industry Employees' Union
	Transport Workers' Union
	Transport Workers' Union WA Branch
	Maritime Union Australia
	Maritime Union Australia WA Branch
State and territory agriculture ministers	WA Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC
	SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Hon Clare Scriven MLC
	NT Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries, the Hon Paul Kirby
	VIC Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Gayle Tierney MP
	QLD Minister Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, the Hon Mark Furner MP
	NSW Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western NSW, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP
	TAS Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Hon Jo Palmer MLC
	ACT Minister for the Environment, the Hon Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Specific parliamentarians	Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong
	Minister for Trade and Tourism, Senator the Hon Dom Farrell
	The Hon David Littleproud MP, Leader of the Nationals Party
	Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens
	Senator Glenn Sterle, Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
	Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan, Deputy Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Federal Senators and MPs from WA	Senator Slade Brockman
	Senator the Hon Michaelia Cas
	Senator Dorinda Cox
	Senator Patrick Dodson
	Senator the Hon Sue Lines
	Senator Matt O'Sullivan
	Senator Fatima Payman
	Senator Louise Pratt
	Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC
	Senator Dean Smith
	Senator Jordan Steele-John
	Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
	Ms Kate Chaney MP
	Mr Ian Goodenough MP
	The Hon Patrick Gorman MP
	The Hon Andrew Hastie MP
	The Hon Matt Keogh MP
	The Hon Madeleine King MP
	Ms Tania Lawrence MP
	Mr Sam Lim MP
	The Hon Nola Marino MP
	Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas MP
	The Hon Melissa Price MP

Category	Organisation / Individual
	Ms Tracey Roberts MP
	Mr Josh Wilson MP
	Mr Rick Wilson MP



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Michael Gordon
Executive Director
Rural Export and Trading Western Australia
PO Box 1362
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr Gordon

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you will have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

I have asked the panel to reach out to you and your staff, and engage with you, as part of the consultation process. Officers from my department will be in touch shortly to organise a meeting with the panel.

Should you wish to contact my department directly, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03/03/ 2023

Cc Mr Murray Frangs, General Manager, Rural Export and Trading Western Australia



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Ahmad Ghosheh
General Manager
Livestock Shipping Services
POST BOX 1441
SOUTH PERTH WA 1441

Dear Mr Ghosheh

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03/03/ 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Nicholas Daws
Director
Emanuel Exports
PO Box 131
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Mr Daws

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03/ 03/ 2023



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MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Greg Pankhurst
President
Queensland Livestock Exporters Association
PO Box 1011
EAGLE FARM QLD 4009

Dear Mr Pankhurst

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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03 / 03 / 2023



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MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr David Warriner
President
Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association
GPO Box 3531
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr Warriner

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Tom Dawkins, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr David Galvin
Chair
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
PO Box 4225
MANUKA ACT 2603

Dear Mr Galvin

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023

Cc Mr Mark Harvey-Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr John Cunningham
Chairman
Western Australian Livestock Exporters Association
PO Box 137
APPLECROSS WA 6953

Dear Mr Cunningham

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Roger Fletcher
Director
Fletcher International Exports
Locked Bag 10
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Mr Fletcher

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

As part of this commitment, the Australian Government is interested in exploring new opportunities, including expanding domestic meat processing, increasing sheep meat exports, and delivering more jobs for rural and regional Australia. As the Director of Fletcher International Exports, which owns one of the largest export registered sheep meat processing facilities in Western Australia, I would value your and your company's involvement.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Craig Heggaton
Chair
WAMMCO International
PO Box 703
KATANNING WA 6317

Dear Mr Heggaton

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

As part of this commitment, the government is interested in exploring new opportunities, including expanding domestic meat processing, increasing sheep meat exports, and delivering more jobs for rural and regional Australia. As the Chair of one of the largest export registered sheep meat processing facilities in Western Australia, I would value your and your company's involvement.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Coll MacRury, Group CEO, WAMMCO International



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Georgie Somerset AM
President
AgForce
PO Box 13186
BRISBANE QLD 4003

Dear Ms Somerset

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

I have asked the panel to reach out to you and your staff, and engage with you, as part of the consultation process. Officers from my department will be in touch shortly to organise a meeting with the panel.

Should you wish to contact my department directly, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

cc. Mr Michael Guerin, Chief Executive Officer, AgForce



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Scott McDonald
President
Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association
Level 3, 25 National Circuit
FORREST ACT 2603

Dear Mr McDonald

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

cc Mr Mathew Munro, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Gary Hardwick
Chair
Australian Meat Industry Council
PO Box 1208
CROWS NEST NSW 1585

Dear Mr Hardwick

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Patrick Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Meat Industry Council



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Dr Bronwyn Orr
President
The Australian Veterinary Association
40/6 Herbert St
ARTARMON NSW 2064

Dear Dr Orr

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Dr David Andrew, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Veterinary Association



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr David Foote
Chair
Cattle Australia
Locked Bag 9
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Foote

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Luke Bowen, Chief Executive Officer, Cattle Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Rhys Turton
Chair
GrainGrowers
PO Box Q1355
QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING NSW 1230

Dear Mr Turton

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Shona Gawel, Chief Executive Officer, GrainGrowers



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Barry Large
Chair
Grain Producers Australia
PO Box 370
BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

Dear Mr Large

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Colin Bettles, Chief Executive Officer, Grain Producers Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Joe Keynes
President
Livestock Producers SA
PO Box 211
GOODWOOD SA 5034

Dear Mr Keynes

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

cc. Mr Travis Tobin, Chief Executive Officer, Livestock Producers SA



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr David Fyfe
President
Livestock and Rural Transport Association of Western Australia
PO Box 61
FLOREAT WA 6014

Dear Mr Fyfe

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Jan Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, Livestock and Rural Transport Association of Western Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Fiona Simson
President
National Famers' Federation
Locked Bag 9
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Ms Simson

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Xavier Martin
President
NSW Farmers
PO Box 459
ST LEONARDS NSW 1590

Dear Mr Martin

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

cc. Mr Pete Arkle, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Farmers



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr David Connolly
President
Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
PO Box 4845
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr Connolly

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Will Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Simon Smith
President
NT Farmers
PO Box 748
COOLALINGA NT 0839

Dear Mr Smith

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Paul Burke, Chief Executive Officer, NT Farmers



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Tony Seabrook
President
Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia
PO Box 889
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Mr Seabrook

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Professor Simon Maddocks
Chair
Primary Producers SA
PO Box 259
KENT TOWN DC SA 5071

Dear Professor Maddocks

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

cc. Ms Caroline Rhodes, Chief Executive Officer, Primary Producers SA



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Allan Dingle
President
Queensland Farmers' Federation
PO Box 12009
BRISBANE Q 4003

Dear Mr Dingle

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Jo Sheppard, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Farmers' Federation



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr John McKillop
Chair
Red Meat Advisory Council
PO Box 4225
MANUKA ACT 2603

Dear Mr McKillop

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Alastair James, Chief Executive Officer, Red Meat Advisory Council



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Andrew Spencer
Chair
Sheep Producers Australia
Level 2 Burns Centre
28 National Circuit
FORREST ACT 2603

Dear Mr Spencer

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Bonnie Skinner, Chief Executive Officer, Sheep Producers Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Ian Sauer
President
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
PO Box 193
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Dear Mr Sauer

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Hugh Christie, Chief Executive Officer, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Emma Germano
President
Victorian Farmers Federation
PO Box 12009
BRISBANE Q 4003

Dear Ms Germano

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr John Hassell
President
WAFamers
PO Box 1105
BENTLEY DC WA 6983

Dear Mr Hassell

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023

Cc Mr Trevor Whittington, Chief Executive Officer, WAFarmers



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Steve Harrison
President
WoolProducers Australia
Locked Bag 9
BARTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Harrison,

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Jo Hall, Chief Executive Officer, WoolProducers Australia



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr John Berry
Chair
Australian Meat Processor Corporation
PO Box 1961
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Berry

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Chris Taylor, Managing Director, Australian Meat Processor Corporation



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Jock Laurie
Chair
Australian Wool Innovation Ltd
GPO Box 4177
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Laurie

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr John Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Wool Innovation Limited



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr John Woods
Chair
Grains Research and Development Corporation
PO Box 5367
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Woods

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Nigel Hart, Managing Director, Grains Research and Development Corporation



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Troy Setter
Chair
LiveCorp
PO Box 1174
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Setter

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023

Cc Mr Wayne Collier, Chief Executive Officer, LiveCorp



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Alan Beckett
Chair
Meat and Livestock Australia
PO Box 1961
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Beckett

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Jason Strong, Managing Director, Meat and Livestock Australia



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

The Hon Dr Craig Emerson
Director
Australian Alliance for Animals
2 Paddington St
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

Dear Dr Emerson

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Dr Jed Goodfellow, Co-Founder, Australian Alliance for Animals
Dr Bidda Jones AM, Co-Founder, Australian Alliance for Animals
Dr Meg Good, Co-Founder, Australian Alliance for Animals



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Tim Childs
Chair
Animals Australia
Locked Bag 1236
NORTH MELBOURNE VIC 3051

Dear Mr Childs

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Glenys Oogjes, Chief Executive Officer, Animals Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Julianne Petersen
Chair
Humane Society
Garigal Country
PO Box 439
AVALON NSW 2107

Dear Ms Petersen

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Ms Erica Martin, Chief Executive Officer, Humane Society International – Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Dr Richard Russell
Chair
RSPCA Australia
PO Box 265
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Dr Russell

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Richard Mussell, Chief Executive Officer, RSPCA Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Lynne Bradshaw AM
Chair
RSPCA Western Australia
PO Box 3147
MALAGA WA 6090

Dear Ms Bradshaw

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

Cc Mr Ben Cave, Chief Executive Officer, RSPCA Western Australia



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Graham Smith
Federal Secretary
Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union
227 Henley Beach Road
TORRENSVILLE SA 5031

Dear Mr Smith

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Marina Chambers
National President
The Australian Workers' Union
Level 1, 16-20 Good Street
GRANVILLE NSW 2141

Dear Ms Chambers

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Andy Hacking
Branch President
The Australian Workers' Union WA Branch
PO Box 8122
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849

Dear Mr Hacking

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Will Tracey
WA Branch Secretary
Maritime Union of Australia
Level 2, 2-4 Kwong Alley
NORTH FREMANTLE WA 6159

Dear Mr Tracey

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Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

I have asked the panel to reach out to you and your staff, and engage with you, as part of the consultation process. Officers from my department will be in touch shortly to organise a meeting with the panel.

Should you wish to contact my department directly, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Paddy Crumlin
National Secretary
Maritime Union of Australia
Level 2, 365 Sussex Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Crumlin

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Mr Tim Dawson
WA State Secretary
Transport Workers' Union
PO Box 191
WELSHPOOL BC WA 6986

Dear Mr Dawson

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Michael Kaine
National Secretary
Transport Workers' Union
447 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Kaine

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced and invite you to participate.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

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More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
Parliament House
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

I would like to reiterate and reassure you that the phase out will not apply to live cattle exports, and that the government continues to strongly support Australia's live cattle trade, noting its importance to Northern Australia.

Given you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking you and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will ensure my government can determine the

most practicable way to bring about the phase out. It will also assist the panel to develop an informed transition plan for my government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** at **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@aff.gov.au or on **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**. You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

Officers from my department will be in touch with your department shortly, should they wish to participate in the consultation process. They may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business
PO Box 1382
MARGARET RIVER WA 6285

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

I acknowledge the Western Australian Government does not support phasing out live sheep exporters by sea. However, I am committed to delivering this policy.

Given the impact to your stakeholders in your state, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will ensure my government can determine the most practicable way to bring about the phase out. It will also assist the panel to develop an informed transition plan for my government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

I have also asked the panel to engage with your department as part of the consultation process. Officers from my department will be in touch shortly to organise a meeting with the panel. Should they wish to speak with my department directly they can contact Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Paul Kirby
Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries
Parliament House
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I would like to reiterate and reassure you that the phase out will not apply to live cattle exports, and that the government continues to strongly support Australia's live cattle trade, noting its importance to Northern Australia.

Given you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking you and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will ensure my government can determine the

most practicable way to bring about the phase out. It will also assist the panel to develop an informed transition plan for my government's consideration.

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Officers from my department will be in touch with your department shortly, should they wish to participate in the consultation process. They may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
236 West Tamar Road
Riverside TAS 7250

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

Officers from your department may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450 should they wish to discuss the policy.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Dugald Saunders MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western New South Wales
PO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

Officers from your department may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450 should they wish to discuss the policy.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, including in South Australia given I understand farmers in your state supply sheep to the trade. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Given the potential impact to farmers in your state, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) @aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

I have also asked the panel to engage with your department as part of the consultation process. Officers from my department will be in touch shortly to organise a meeting with the panel. Should they wish to speak with my department directly they can contact Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Agriculture
PO Box 4367
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties

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Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) @aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

Officers from your department may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450 should they wish to discuss the policy.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Noting you may have an interest in this matter, I am seeking your and your department's participation in the consultation process. This will assist the panel in developing an informed transition plan for the government's consideration.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) @aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

Officers from your department may also reach out directly to Mr Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry at andrew.mcdonald@aff.gov.au or on 02 6272 3450 should they wish to discuss the policy.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan
Senator for Queensland
Deputy Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to you in your capacity as Deputy Chair of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, Ms s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Don Farrell
Minister for Trade and Tourism
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister for Trade and Tourism to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I have asked the panel to engage with stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, trading partners, animal welfare organisations and state and territory governments.

I note there are sensitivities relating to trade and diplomatic relations with importing countries, particularly in the Middle East. Acknowledging this, my department has been working closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Austrade to ensure these are appropriately managed. This includes providing significant support to Australia's diplomatic staff in country to ensure they are appropriately informed.

Where appropriate, I will write to trading partners to advise them of and invite them to participate in the consultation process. These letters are being prepared with support from DFAT, including the relevant embassies and high commissions.

I also note there is some interest in the panel engaging with impacted trading partners. My department will work closely with DFAT to settle these arrangements.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** at **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@aff.gov.au or on **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**. You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Senator Mehreen Faruqi
Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@aff.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au) or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon David Littleproud MP
Leader of the Nationals
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Littleproud

I am writing to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia
Chair of Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Senate Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am writing to you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia and Chair of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii). You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs to advise you that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

I have asked the panel to engage with stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, trading partners, animal welfare organisations and state and territory governments.

I note there are particular sensitivities relating to trade and diplomatic relations with importing countries, particularly in the Middle East. Acknowledging this, my department has been working closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Austrade to ensure these sensitivities are appropriately managed. This includes providing significant support to Australia's diplomatic staff in country to ensure they are appropriately informed.

Where appropriate, I will write to trading partners to advise them of and invite them to participate in the consultation process. These letters are being prepared with support from DFAT, including the relevant embassies and high commissions.

I also note there is some interest in the panel engaging with impacted trading partners. My department will work closely with DFAT to settle these arrangements.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)** at **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**@aff.gov.au or on **s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**. You may also wish to meet with the panel, which my team would be happy to arrange.

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Member for Cowan
Minister for Early Childhood Education
Minister for Youth
PO Box 219
KINGSWAY WA 6065

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Cowan that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Slade Brockman
Senator for Western Australia
Unit 4, 1 Harper Terrace
SOUTH PERTH WA 6151

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 1966
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Ms Kate Chaney MP
Member for Curtin
PO Box 186
FLOREAT WA 6014

Dear Ms Chaney

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Curtin that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)@aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Dorinda Cox
Senator for Western Australia
Unit 11, Level 2, 440 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Patrick Dodson
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 3490
BROOME WA 6725

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Ian Goodenough MP
Member for Moore
Suite 6, 129 Grand Boulevard
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Dear Mr Goodenough

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Moore that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) at [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) @aff.gov.au or on [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

The Hon Patrick Gorman MP
Member for Perth
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister
PO Box 901
INGLEWOOD WA 6932

Dear Assistant Minister

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Perth that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

The Hon Andrew Hastie MP
Member for Canning
PO Box 968
MANDURAH WA 6210

Dear Mr Hastie

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Canning that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Member for Burt
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
PO Box 465
KELMSCOTT WA 6991

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Burt that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Madeleine King MP
Member for Brand
Minister for Resources
Minister for Northern Australia
PO Box 5062
ROCKINGHAM BEACH WA 6969

Dear Minister

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Brand that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Tania Lawrence MP
Member for Hasluck
PO Box 2228
ELLENBROOK WA 6069

Dear Ms Lawrence

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Hasluck that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Sam Lim MP
Member for Tangney
PO Box 329
WILLETTON WA 6155

Dear Mr Lim

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Tangney that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 1322
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Nola Marino MP
Member for Forrest
PO Box 2028
BUNBURY WA 6231

Dear Ms Marino

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Forrest that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas MP
Member for Swan
PO Box 1060
VICTORIA PARK WA 6981

Dear Ms Mascarenhas

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Swan that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Matt O'Sullivan
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 3466
SUCCESS WA 6964

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Fatima Payman
Senator for Western Australia
Shop 10-12 Forrestfield Forum
80 Hale Road
FORRESTFIELD WA 6058

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Louise Pratt
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 531
BELMONT WA 6984

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

The Hon Melissa Price MP
Member for Durack
2B/209 Foreshore Drive
GERALDTON WA 6530

Dear Ms Price

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Durack that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 369
BELMONT WA 6984

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Ms Tracey Roberts MP
Member for Pearce
Shop 3, Kingsway City Shopping Centre
168 Wanneroo Road
MADELEY WA 6065

Dear Ms Roberts

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Pearce that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

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I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Dean Smith
Senator for Western Australia
PO Box 40
MADELEY WA 6065

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Senator Jordan Steele-John
Senator for Western Australia
Office 1.19, Level 1
140 William Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Senator

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Senator for Western Australia that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Josh Wilson
Member for Fremantle
PO Box 1224
FREMANTLE WA 6160

Dear Mr Wilson

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for Fremantle that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

I have asked the panel to consider how and when the government might most appropriately phase out live sheep exports by sea. The panel, and the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy. I have asked the panel to report to me by 30 September 2023.

The panel will undertake an extensive consultation process, including face-to-face meetings and forums across Australia, particularly in Western Australia given the impact of this policy to the agriculture sector in that state. I have asked them to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, and other relevant parties.

I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000506

Mr Rick Wilson MP
Member for O'Connor
PO Box 10415
KALGOORLIE WA 6430

Dear Mr Wilson

I am writing to advise you in your capacity as Member for O'Connor that consultation to inform the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea has now commenced.

The consultation process is being led by an independent panel comprising Mr Phillip Glyde (Chair), the Hon Warren Snowdon, Ms Sue Middleton and Ms Heather Neil. Collectively they bring a diverse set of skills and experiences, including in agriculture, public administration, economics, and animal welfare, as well as understanding the needs of, and challenges affecting rural and regional communities. Their collective experience ensures they are well placed to listen to and understand the views and needs of all impacted and interested parties.

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I understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact farmers, the export industry, supply chain participants and communities that rely on this trade. Therefore, the government has said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament, allowing farmers, communities and businesses time to adjust.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further with me, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) at s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@aff.gov.au or on s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

More information about the phase out and how to participate in the consultation process will also be available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

03 / 03 / 2023

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MS22-002145

To: Minister Watt (For Decision)**LIVEEXCHANGE STAKEHOLDERS - SUPPORT FOR LIVE CATTLE TRADE****Timing:** 9 November 2022 — The LIVEXchange conference begins on 9 November 2022.**Recommendations:**

1. That you sign the attached letters to stakeholders attending the LIVEXchange conference in Darwin on 9-10 November 2022.

Signed / Not signed

2. Note – your office has requested the letters are sent today, ahead of the LIVEXchange conference opening tomorrow.

Noted / Please discuss**Minister Watt:****Date:****Comments:**

Clearing Officer:	Andrew McDonald	Assistant Secretary, Business Reform Branch, Trade Reform Division	Ph: 6272 3450 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Assistant Director, Business Reform Branch, Trade Reform Division	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Points:

1. The LIVEXchange conference is being held in Darwin on 9 – 10 November 2022. The conference is the major event for Australia's livestock export industry.
2. These letters provide assurance to these stakeholders that the government continues to support the live cattle export industry.

Consultation: YES

3. Plant and Animal Exports Division has provided comment on the text of the letters.
4. Your office has been consulted on the letters and intended recipients.

Legal advice / Legislative impacts:

5. Nil.

Financial impacts:

6. Nil.

Farmer/Stakeholder Implications:

7. Stakeholders are concerned the government's commitment to phasing out live sheep exports by sea may be extended to the live cattle trade.

Opportunities for First Nations people and their communities:

8. First Nations people will be included in the consultation process for implementation of the live sheep exports phase out commitment. How are First Nations people already engaged in this policy/program area, and what tangible benefit/s are generated for them?

Attachments:

- A:** Letters to LIVEXchange participants



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

PDR no.

MS22-002145

Adviser

Ministerial Submission Coversheet

Subject	LiveExchange Stakeholders - support for live cattle trade
Client (if applicable)	Minister Watt

Division	Trade Reform Division (TRD) D2		
Contact officer	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Telephone	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by (SES)	Andrew McDonald	Telephone	02 6272 3450

Finance Division	Name of contact:	<Name>	Date approved: / / 2023
The Finance Division is satisfied that all due processes have been followed and agree to the financial data/information contained in the submission.			
Legal Division	Name of contact:	<Name>	Date approved: / / 2023
The Legal Division is satisfied that the summary of legal advice contained in the submission is an accurate summary of the legal advice that was provided.			

FOR MO USE ONLY:

	Scheduled date	Actual date
Date registered		08 November 2022
Dept to Minister's Office		
DLO to Adviser(s)		
Adviser(s) to Chief of Staff		
Chief of Staff to Minister		
MO/AMO COMMENTS:		



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS22-002145

Mr David Galvin
Chairman
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
PO Box 4225
MANUKA ACT 2603

info@livexcouncil.com.au

Dear Mr Galvin

I am writing ahead of the upcoming LIVEXchange 2022 conference. While unfortunately I am not able to attend on this occasion due to Senate Estimates, I wanted to send my best wishes for the conference.

In doing so, I would like to express the Australian Government's strong support for Australia's live cattle export industry. The industry is an important export earner, an important job creator and an important source of food security for our trading partners.

As you are aware, prior to the election, the Government committed to phase out live sheep exports by sea. I am working to honour that pledge and have committed to close consultation with industry and stakeholders. I have made clear on a number of occasions that this policy does not apply to the live cattle trade.

The Government is strongly committed to ensuring the welfare of exported cattle. Along with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, industry has an important role to play in continuing to improve standards and to enhance cooperation with our trading partners to maintain the welfare of the animals once exported.

I look forward to working with you to support the growth of the Australian live cattle export industry and wish you all the best for a productive and successful event.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS22-002145

Mr Tom Dawkins
Chief Executive Officer
NT Livestock Exporters Association
GPO Box 3531
DARWIN NT 0801

ceo@ntlea.com.au

Dear Mr Dawkins

I am writing ahead of the upcoming LIVEXchange 2022 conference. While unfortunately I am not able to attend on this occasion due to Senate Estimates, I wanted to send my best wishes for the conference.

In doing so, I would like to express the Australian Government's strong support for Australia's live cattle export industry. The industry is an important export earner, an important job creator and an important source of food security for our trading partners.

As you are aware, prior to the election, the Government committed to phase out live sheep exports by sea. I am working to honour that pledge and have committed to close consultation with industry and stakeholders. I have made clear on a number of occasions that this policy does not apply to the live cattle trade.

The Government is strongly committed to ensuring the welfare of exported cattle. Along with, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, industry has an important role to play in continuing to improve standards and to enhance cooperation with our trading partners to maintain the welfare of the animals once exported.

I look forward to working with you to support the growth of the Australian live cattle export industry and wish you all the best for a productive and successful event.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS22-002145

Mr Troy Setter
Chairman
Livecorp
PO Box 1174
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

tsetter@livecorp.com.au

Dear Mr Setter

I am writing ahead of the upcoming LIVEXchange 2022 conference. While unfortunately I am not able to attend on this occasion due to Senate Estimates, I wanted to send my best wishes for the conference.

In doing so, I would like to express the Australian Government's strong support for Australia's live cattle export industry. The industry is an important export earner, an important job creator and an important source of food security for our trading partners.

As you are aware, prior to the election, the Albanese Government committed to phase out live sheep exports by sea. I am working to honour that pledge and have committed to close consultation with industry and stakeholders. I have made clear on a number of occasions that this policy does not apply to the live cattle trade.

The Government is strongly committed to ensuring the welfare of exported cattle. Along with, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, industry has an important role to play in continuing to improve standards and to enhance cooperation with our trading partners to maintain the welfare of the animals once exported.

I look forward to working with you to support the growth of the Australian live cattle export industry and wish you all the best for a productive and successful event.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MS22-001542

To: Minister Watt (For Noting)

LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS – MARKET ACCESS PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS**Timing:** 27 January 2023 — to guide the department's resourcing considerations in 2023.**Recommendations:**

1. Given the government's commitment to the phase out of the live sheep trade by sea, that you **NOTE** that the department intends to cease negotiation of new market access protocols for live sheep exports where the predominant mode of transport is expected to be by sea.

Noted / Please discuss

2. That you **NOTE** that industry is likely to be critical of this position, as it strongly advocates for the department to continue to pursue negotiation of new protocols while the trade remains open.

Noted / Please discuss

3. That you **NOTE** that live sheep exports (by sea) to markets without protocols can still continue in accordance with the *Export Control Act 2020* and *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021* on a consignment-by-consignment basis.

Noted / Please discuss

4. That you **NOTE** the department will engage with representatives from the Australian Live Exporters Council (ALEC) and LiveCorp (including seeking to brief them in late January 2023); your views will be sought on timing for this to occur; and talking points will be provided to you / your office to also engage with them on this matter.

Noted / Please discuss**Minister Watt:****Date:****Comments:**

Clearing Officer:	Nicola Hinder PSM	A/Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Trade Group	Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	Andrew McDonald	A/FAS, Trade Reform Division	Mob: s. 47F(1)

Key Points:

1. Representatives of the live animal export industry (sheep), via the established department/industry protocol committee (chaired by LiveCorp), s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

- a. Market access 'protocols' mean a government-to-government agreement where the rules and technical requirements for a particular commodity is pre-agreed and established.
 - b. In practice, this allows more efficient and streamlined regulation as it allows the department to certify that a product being exported meets a given country's requirements without having to negotiate with that country on each consignment.
2. The relevant protocols are in varying stages of negotiation and development, s. 33(a)(iii)
s. 33(a)(iii)
 - a. Protocols are agnostic to the mode of travel.
 - b. The new protocols proposed for the markets listed above are for feeder and slaughter sheep, which are predominantly exported by sea (more than 99 per cent). Less than 2 per cent of feeder/slaughter sheep are exported by air.

3. s. 33(a)(iii)

- a. Industry has made it clear they are strongly opposed to any action that would cease the negotiation of market access protocols for live sheep exports.
 - b. s. 33(a)(iii)

In doing so, industry representatives stated that the trade remains legal, and indicated that they believed the government's policy to phase out the live export sheep trade could be swayed.
4. Whilst fully appreciative of industry's views, the department considers there are numerous risks associated with the continued negotiation of new market access protocols when concurrently pursuing a phase out of live sheep exports.
 5. These risks involve:
 - a. Diplomatic sensitivities arising from the mixed messaging of pursuing protocol negotiations to facilitate trade while also engaging with trading partners about Australia's supply of live sheep exports being phased out.
 - b. Resourcing required to establish the market protocols when the department is unaware of any significant or continuous commercial opportunities that are currently going unfulfilled.

- c. Potential community / animal welfare views that opening new markets while phasing out the trade is contrary to government policy.
6. The department therefore intends to cease negotiating new market access protocols for live sheep exports where the predominant mode of export is expected to occur by sea. The department proposes to do this by not allocating resources to these market negotiation activities.
 7. It should be noted that this would not result in an administrative end to the trade prior to the formal phase out, and that the department will continue to support market regulatory and access activities in support of live sheep exports (by sea) until the implementation of the phase-out.
 - a. Exporters wishing to export live sheep by sea will continue to be able to access markets without government-to-government agreed protocols until the phase out is completed via import permits on individual consignments. Prescribed livestock may be exported under the *Export Control Act 2020* and *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021* if certain conditions are met. This will include situations where a government certificate is required to meeting importing country requirements.
 - b. The department will also continue market maintenance activities, including updates to existing protocols, to ensure trade continues to be regulated.
 8. Any industry requests for new protocols for live sheep exports where the predominate mode of transport is expected to occur by air will continue to be considered within the department's resourcing capacity. This would most typically be for high value breeder sheep, but there may be some circumstances where feeder or slaughter sheep are exported by air (e.g., such as currently occurs for Malaysia).
 9. Additional background information is provided at Attachment A.

Consultation: YES

10. With the CEOs of the Australian Live Exporters' Council (ALEC) and LiveCorp. Internally with the Divisions of: Biosecurity Animal, Plant and Live Animal Exports and Trade, Market Access and International, and Legal and Governance.
11. s. 33(a)(iii),
who were supportive of the intended approach so long as it applies to new markets that do not have protocols in place.

Legal advice / Legislative impacts:

12. **s. 42(1)**

Financial impacts: Nil.

Farmer/Stakeholder Implications / Sensitivities and Handling:

13. Industry will be highly sensitive to any ceasing of new protocol work for markets.

14. ALEC has suggested that it would consider ceasing the negotiation of new protocols to be an administrative end to the trade prior to the formal phase out, and contrary to your undertaking to consult on the phase out before implementation.
15. Further meetings with ALEC/LiveCorp will be prudent on this matter and we intend to meet with them again in January 2023. Talking points to support you and/or your office's engagement with ALEC/LiveCorp will be separately provided to your office.

Opportunities for First Nations people and their communities:

16. There are no known impacts to First Nations people regarding the issues in this briefing.

Climate Change and Environmental Considerations:

17. Nil

Attachments:

- A:** Background information on market access protocols and import permits

Attachment A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MARKET ACCESS PROTOCOLS AND IMPORT PERMITS

1. Market access protocols are agreed government-to-government protocols that outline the standing health conditions required for animal products (including live sheep) to be permitted for entry to an importing country.
2. Protocols are not differentiated by transport mode, rather they are based on the end use of the livestock – feeder, slaughter or breeder. Feeder and slaughter sheep are predominantly exported by sea; however, Malaysia and Brunei, did import around 17,000 slaughter sheep by air in 2021.
3. Market access priorities for the export of cattle, sheep and goats are set by a protocol committee, chaired by LiveCorp.
4. The protocol committee comprises representatives from the livestock export industry, sheep and cattle organisations, and the department.
5. The protocol committee generally meets twice a year.
- 6.

s. 33(a)(iii)

7. These priorities were re-affirmed at the committee's most recent meeting in Darwin on 7 November 2022.
8. The process to negotiate protocols can be complex, take many years to complete, and potentially require significant resources by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the importing country's competent authority.

9. s. 33(a)(iii)

10. s. 33(a)(iii)

11. Exporters can also export live sheep from Australia without an agreed protocol in place via an import permit-based approach.
12. Import permits can be issued by an importing country, with the permit stating the health conditions an animal needs to meet to allow access.
13. Once received, departmental staff work with the exporter to determine whether requirements can be met and, if so, may issue a health certificate, being a government

certificate under the *Export Control Act 2020*, in line with the importing country requirements.

14. In 2021–22, 13 consignments of sheep were exported to 6 markets where import conditions (protocols) are either not agreed or are found in import permits issued by the foreign authority, including Taiwan, the Philippines, Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei and Thailand.
15. Under these arrangements all sheep were exported by air, and 3,673 were breeder sheep while 5,681 were slaughter sheep (to Brunei only).



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

PDR no.

MS22-001542

Adviser

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission Coversheet

Subject	LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS - MARKET ACCESS PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS
Client (if applicable)	

Division	Trade Reform Division (TRD) G2		
Contact officer	Andrew McDonald	Telephone	s. 47F(1)
Cleared by (SES)	Nicola Hinder PSM	Telephone	s. 47F(1)

Finance Division	Name of contact:	N/A	Date approved: / / 2023
The Finance Division is satisfied that all due processes have been followed and agree to the financial data/information contained in the submission.			
Legal Division	Name of contact:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) / Jadd Sanson-Fisher	Date approved: 8 /12/ 2023
s. 42(1)			

FOR MO USE ONLY:

	Scheduled date	Actual date
Date registered	19 January 2023	
Dept to Minister's Office		
DLO to Adviser(s)		
Adviser(s) to Chief of Staff		
Chief of Staff to Minister		
MO COMMENTS:		

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

MS22-001062

To: Minister Watt (For Decision)

COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA TO, OR THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SUMMER AND ANIMALS RULES AMENDMENTS

Timing: 28 July 2022 - Exporters require a timely decision for commercial planning purposes

Recommendations:

1. That you note the department has reviewed the effectiveness of regulatory settings, for the export of live sheep by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer (1 May to 31 October inclusive) and committed to publish the final report (a draft is at **Attachment A**), originally by the end of June 2022.

Noted / Please Discuss

2. That you note that, following public consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement, the regulatory settings were revised (via amendments to the *Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021*) (Animals Rules) in April 2022. The revisions were primarily to manage heat stress risks for sheep exported in late May to some Persian Gulf destinations, and to allow exports in the first two weeks of June to, or through, the Red Sea, where heat stress risks were lower than previously understood.

Noted/Please Discuss

3. That you note the review's key findings (**Attachment B**) and recommendations (**Attachment C**). The review concluded that regulatory settings introduced in 2020, including an absolute prohibition period during the hottest, most humid part of the Northern Hemisphere summer, were effective in improving animal welfare outcomes and minimising the risk of heat stress and heat stress mortalities for sheep exported to the Middle East. Date changes, further to those made in April 2022, are recommended in the final report. These are: shortening the end of the prohibition to the Red Sea and Qatar by 1 week and for direct voyages to Oman by 1 month. Other recommendations include increasing the minimum ration allowance and deploying extra data loggers.

Noted/Please Discuss

4. That, given the commitment to phase out live sheep exports, you agree to not implement further recommendations to reduce the Red Sea, Qatar or Oman prohibition periods but do agree to non-date related recommendations, including increasing the minimum ration allowance and deploying an extra data logger on each vessel's bridge.

Agreed / Not Agreed

5. If you agree with 4, that you agree that the department will work with your office to develop communication materials and coordinate the release of the review.

Agreed / Not Agreed

Minister Watt:		Date:	
Comments:			
Clearing Officer:	David Hazlehurst	Deputy Secretary, Agricultural Trade Group	Ph: 02 6272 2332 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	Carol Sheridan	Assistant Secretary, Animal Welfare Branch, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division	Ph: 02 6272 4420 Mob: s. 47F(1)

Key Points:

1. The review of live sheep exports by sea to, or through the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer (NHS review, **Attachment A**) assessed the effectiveness and adequacy of the current regulatory settings in reducing the risk of heat stress in sheep exported to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer. The department considered an updated climatology analysis based on 42 years of accumulated data (from 1979 to 2021) from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), voyage reports from 15 voyages to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer months (1 May-31 October inclusive) from 2019 to 2021, scientific literature, an analysis of data from environmental data loggers placed on sheep decks, and internal and external stakeholder feedback.
2. The review concluded that the regulatory settings introduced in 2020 have been effective in improving animal welfare outcomes and reducing the risk of heat stress and heat stress mortalities for sheep exported to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer.
3. The findings of the review (**Attachment B**) support the use of the ambient wet bulb temperature (WBT)¹ threshold (29 degrees C) that was first implemented by the department in 2019 and confirmed through the Regulation Impact Statement process (RIS) in April 2020. The findings also confirm that prohibition periods should be maintained to reduce the risk of heat stress in sheep exported by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the hottest, most humid part of the Northern Hemisphere summer.
4. The updated climate and meteorological data in the 2021 BOM report has enabled more precise delineation of the prohibition dates.

¹ The temperature read by a thermometer with the bulb covered by a water-soaked cloth over which air is passed, or by an automated data logger. Wet bulb temperature takes into account air temperature and humidity and may also vary with air pressure and elevation.

5. The updated climate data showed there is an increased heat stress risk for voyages departing Australia from 22 to 31 May to Persian Gulf destinations (other than Oman and Kuwait). Voyages were previously permitted during this time. The data indicated heat stress risks for Qatar are similar to other Persian Gulf destinations (other than Oman and Kuwait), so Qatar should align with these. The data also indicated a reduced heat stress risk for voyages departing Australia to Red Sea destinations during the first two weeks of June (1 – 14 June), and from 8 September onwards. The recommended dates for absolute and conditional prohibition periods as well as additional conditions are at **Attachment C**.
6. To address these findings in a timely manner, and pending finalisation of the review, the Animals Rules were amended on 6 April 2022² to change the prohibition dates for Qatar, Red Sea destinations and Persian Gulf destinations (except for Kuwait and Oman) at the start of the Northern Hemisphere summer (i.e. May and June). These amendments introduced conditions to mitigate heat stress risks for vessels departing Australia from 22 to 31 May to Persian Gulf destinations (except for Kuwait and Oman) and provided an additional 2 weeks in early June where voyages can depart Australia for destinations in, or reached via, the Red Sea.
7. The heat stress risk mitigation measures applied during the conditional prohibition period include excluding heavier, more heat-sensitive classes of sheep from consignments, increasing the heat tolerance of individual sheep through shearing, reducing the WBT rise on decks by setting minimum pen air turnover (PAT) rates, and providing additional feed.
8. Since the amendments in April, the department conducted further analyses and considered feedback received during consultation to finalise the review. Based on the updated climate information, and consistent with the rationale for previous amendments, recommendations for additional prohibition date changes affecting arrangements at the end of the Northern Hemisphere summer include: shortening the end of the prohibition by 1 week for destinations to, or through, the Red Sea (from 14 September to 7 September); aligning prohibition dates for Qatar with other Persian Gulf destinations by bringing the resumption forward by 8 days (from 22 September to 14 September) and shortening the prohibition for direct voyages to Oman by 1 month (from 14 September to 14 August). Other recommendations include increases in minimum feed allowances and the deployment of extra loggers on vessels. These relate to improvements in welfare outcomes and voyage monitoring. The non-date related recommendations are detailed at **Attachment C**.
9. Under the *Export Control Act, 2020* (ECA), you have the discretion to give directions to the Secretary in relation to the performance of the Secretary's functions or exercise of the Secretary's powers in making rules under the ECA.

² Section 432 of the *Export Control Act 2020* (**Act**) allows the Secretary to make, by legislative instrument, rules prescribing matters required or permitted by the Act to be prescribed by the rules, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the Act.

10. Given the commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea, on balance we recommend not implementing the further recommendations to reduce the Red Sea, Qatar or Oman prohibition periods at the end of the prohibition in August and September.
11. You could consider rolling back the 2-week shortening of the prohibition period for exports to, or through, the Red Sea in June (included in the *Animals Rules* in April 2022).
12. Alternatively, all the recommendations in the report for additional changes to the prohibition dates, based on the BOM analysis, could be accepted and included in the *Animals Rules*.
13. Beyond prohibition dates, we recommend adopting recommendations 10, 11 and 12 and retaining the extra voyage conditions in May incorporated into the *Animals Rules* in April 2022.
 - a. Recommendations (10, 11 and 12), relating to defining voyage departure locations, deploying extra data loggers and increasing the minimum ration allowances do not impact the lengths of the prohibition periods.
 - b. The extra conditions applying to non-Kuwait consignments to the Persian Gulf in the last 10 days of May (incorporated in the *Animals Rules* in April) directly support improved welfare outcomes.
14. Depending upon your decision, any amendments to the *Animals Rules* would be made by the Secretary under section 432 of the *Export Control Act 2020*.
15. The department recommends industry is advised of any regulatory changes at the earliest opportunity to assist with their voyage planning.
16. The department intends to publish the final report at the earliest opportunity. Originally the department committed to publishing the report by the end of June. The department also intends to publish written submissions to the review (where appropriate privacy permissions were given) on the Have Your Say website following the publishing of the final report.

Background

17. In April 2018, footage was aired which showed Australian sheep in severe heat stress while being transported to the Middle East. This footage raised awareness of sheep welfare on board vessels and increased public scrutiny of the livestock export trade.
18. Following the publicised heat stress events, the *Independent review of conditions for the export of sheep to the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer* (McCarthy 2018) was undertaken. Recommendation 3 of the McCarthy Review was that 'industry should move from a risk assessment based on mortality to a risk assessment based on animal welfare'. In addition to the McCarthy Review, the *Review of the Regulatory Capability and Culture of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Regulation of Live Animal Exports* (Moss 2018)

acknowledged that the welfare of exported animals is of significant interest to the Australian community.

19. In response to the McCarthy Review, the department implemented the Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Sheep by Sea to Middle East) Order 2018 (Middle East Order 2018), which came into effect from 7 July 2018. The Middle East Order 2018 introduced a range of additional voyage conditions to improve welfare outcomes for exported sheep including increased pen space allowances based on allometric calculations, independent verification of a vessel's PAT rates, automated watering systems and a heat stress management plan to be in place for each voyage.
20. However, during the height of the Northern Hemisphere summer (when conditions are hottest and most humid), no combination of additional space, ventilation or other measures can effectively mitigate the risk of heat stress. The Australian Livestock Exporters Council also recognised the heightened risk of heat stress during this period and independently announced its own 3-month moratorium on live sheep exports during June, July and August, taking effect from 1 July 2019. In 2019, after a review into heat stress risk assessment, the department implemented an interim prohibition on sheep exports from 1 June to 22 September pending completion of a RIS process.
21. In undertaking the RIS process, the department analysed the economic benefits and impacts of 3 regulatory options to limit the risk of heat stress in live sheep exported to, or through, the Middle East, during the Northern Hemisphere summer. The RIS considered the best available science and evidence including a climate analysis conducted by the BOM in 2019, the Heat Stress Risk Assessment review, industry research and voyage reports from May 2019 voyages.
22. Using a risk-based analysis through the RIS process, the department determined that a 95th percentile maximum ambient WBT of 29°C was an appropriate threshold to manage heat stress risk to sheep on export voyages to, or through, the Middle East. A 95th percentile WBT threshold means that 95% of all recorded temperatures at a specific location were below this threshold.
23. The new regulations moved the risk assessment from one based on the risk of mortality to one based on the risk of sheep becoming heat stressed.
24. In 2020, based on the RIS analysis, the department implemented a prohibition on live sheep exports from 1 June to 14 September with additional prohibition periods for Qatar and Oman, combined with additional conditions for the permitted periods between May to October (inclusive). By preventing live sheep exports to, or through, the Middle East during the highest heat stress risk period, the Northern Summer Order 2020 aimed to reduce the risk of heat stress to a very low level.
25. When the department implemented new regulatory settings for live sheep exports to, or through, the Middle East by sea during the Northern Hemisphere summer in 2020, it undertook to review the settings after two Northern Hemisphere summer periods (i.e. at the end of the 2021 Northern Hemisphere summer).

Consultation:

26. On 17 December 2021, the department released a draft report for public consultation. It received over 700 submissions when consultation closed on 28 January 2022. Over 600 of these submissions were templated-style campaign submissions against live sheep exports.
27. In addition, the department invited stakeholders for meetings when the draft report was released, and subsequently met with several stakeholders in December 2021 and January 2022.
28. Due to high levels of interest in the review, the department undertook additional engagement throughout March 2022, both face-to-face and via videoconference, with animal welfare organisations, sheep producers, exporters and industry representatives, including visiting with stakeholders in Western Australia.

Sensitivities and Handling

29. Live animal exports is an important issue for the community. Any changes to the regulatory settings for the export of live sheep will have implications for the live animal export industry, including producers and others in the sheep export supply chain, and be of interest to animal welfare groups. The recommendations are aimed at maintaining, or improving, the welfare of exported sheep.
30. Animal welfare advocates will criticise any reduction in the prohibition period for Oman and Red Sea destinations, arguing that sheep will continue to be exposed to heat stress risks and especially in light of the government's commitment to phase out live sheep export.
31. The amendments, including those made in April 2022, are disallowable. The period for a notice of motion for disallowance to be moved in relation to the amendments (if made), is 15 sitting days following tabling in parliament, which could run into late 2022, depending upon the parliamentary sitting calendar.
32. Exporters require a timely decision on any changes to live sheep export regulation to permit them adequate time to plan for the resumption of voyages after the conclusion of the prohibition periods to various Middle East destinations.

Legal advice / Legislative impacts:

S. 42(1)

Financial impacts:

34. N/A

Farmer/Stakeholder Implications:

35. It is anticipated that any changes to the regulatory settings for the export of live sheep will have implications for the live animal export industry and be of interest to animal welfare groups. The proposed changes to the prohibition periods (based primarily on new climate and meteorological data) are set out in the table at **Attachment C**. Some of the absolute prohibition periods are shorter than those introduced in 2020; some are longer. However, vessels would be permitted to sail to some markets during the conditional prohibition period, provided the heat stress risk mitigation measures (proposed in the final report) are implemented.

Attachments:

- A:** Draft report (subject to further revisions before publication)
- B:** Key findings (as set out in the draft report)
- C:** Recommendations (as set out in the draft report)



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Forestry**

PDR no.

MS22-001062

Adviser

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission Coversheet

Subject	Northern Hemisphere summer prohibition review: draft report
Client (if applicable)	

Division	Plant and Live Animal Exports Division (PLAED) G2		
Contact officer	Carol Sheridan	Contact officer	Carol Sheridan
Cleared by (SES)	David Hazlehurst	Cleared by (SES)	David Hazlehurst

Finance Division	Name of contact:	n/a	Date approved: / / 2022
n/a			
Legal Division	Name of contact:	Jadd Sanson-Fisher	Date approved: / / 2022
The Legal Division is satisfied that the summary of legal advice contained in the submission is an accurate summary of the legal advice that was provided. [NOTE: no legal advice contained in the brief]			

FOR MO USE ONLY:

	Scheduled date	Actual date
Date registered	03 August 2022	06 July 2022
Dept to Minister's Office		
DLO to Adviser(s)		
Adviser(s) to Chief of Staff		
Chief of Staff to Minister		

MO/AMO COMMENTS:



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-009540

Senator the Hon Carol Brown
Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 376
HOBART TAS 7001

senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Brown,

Thank you for your representation of 29 September 2022 on behalf of your constituent, **s. 47F(1)** of **s. 47F(1)**, concerning a timeline for the phase out of the live sheep export trade.

As you know, the Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated ethically. While we acknowledge the improvements made by industry in recent years, we are also aware that some in the community continue to express concern regarding the conditions that sheep experience during export and upon arrival.

We have affirmed our election commitment to phase out live sheep exports, however we have also clearly stated the phase out will not take place during this term of government. We are conscious the phase out will affect the export industry, as well as others along the supply chain, including farmers and communities who engage in the trade. I therefore wish to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way.

I am keen to ensure there is a thorough consultation process that gives interested persons, businesses, and groups the opportunity to shape the implementation of the phase out. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will update its website with such information as it occurs.

Thank you again for bringing **s. 47F(1)** 's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

06 / 10 / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-009673

Mr Chris Patmore
Chair
PGA Livestock Committee
PO Box 889
WEST PERTH WA 6872

pga@pgaofwa.org.au

Dear Mr Patmore

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 October 2022 concerning your appraisal of the priorities for the government's work, including the phase out of live sheep exports.

I can assure you that both I and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are devoting significant time and resources to the various priorities you have nominated. In fact, many of them are issues I have publicly stated are priorities for me as Minister.

The delivery of election commitments is also something you would expect to be a priority for our government. I have publicly affirmed that the Australian Government will deliver against its election commitment to phase out live sheep exports, however I have also clearly stated the phase out will not take place during this term of government. I am aware the phase out will affect the export industry, as well as others along the supply chain, including farmers and communities who engage in the trade.

For this reason, I have commenced initial conversations with my department on the implementation of this commitment that will require discussion with interested persons, businesses and groups the opportunity to shape the implementation of the live sheep export phase out. As I have previously stated, the phase out will occur in an orderly and deliberate way.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

8 / 11 / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-009849

Ms Erin Thompson MP
Member for Davenport
PO Box 1137
FLAGSTAFF HILL SA 5159

davenport@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Thompson

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 October 2022 concerning live animal exports.

The Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated ethically. I have publicly affirmed that the government will deliver against its election commitment to phase out live sheep exports, however I have also clearly stated the phase out will not take place during this term of government. I am aware the phase out will affect the export industry, as well as others along the supply chain, including farmers and communities who engage in the trade.

For this reason, I have had the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry working with me on the design and timing of a forthcoming consultation process. When opened, the consultations will be wide ranging and will provide interested persons, businesses and groups the opportunity to shape the implementation of the live sheep export phase out. I will use the results of the consultation process to progress the phase out in an orderly and deliberate way. I anticipate being able to release further information about the consultation process soon. The department will also update its website with such information as it occurs.

The government believes in the humane treatment of all animals and is committed to further improve animal welfare. Through the October 2022-23 Budget, the government is providing \$4 million over four years from 2022-23 to deliver its election commitment to establish an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare. Implementation will be via an expansion to the current office of the Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports to create the office of the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports.

The government has also recently announced funding for the renewal of an Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS). A renewed AAWS will re-establish a national framework for priority setting and associated national standards and measures for improvement of animal welfare outcomes, through an evidence-based and collaborative approach.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-014470

Mr David O'Brien
Managing Director
Lucazara

s. 47F(1)

Dear Mr O'Brien

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 November 2022 following our meeting to discuss the future of live sheep export trade.

As identified in our meeting, the Australian Government has committed to phasing out Australia's live sheep exports by sea. The Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP and I have made it clear this will not take place during this term of government. This is to ensure farmers, communities and exporters can be consulted and have time to plan and prepare for Australia's move away from the trade.

The government recognises the significance of the live sheep exports to our trading partners, as well as others along the supply chain, including our exporters and farmers. To inform our approach, I intend to consult widely to develop a transition plan that is considered and orderly. Consultation will consider issues such as the timeframe for implementation, how it will be done, and what kind of opportunities might exist to grow markets for our world-class sheep meat products.

Live export of Australian sheep will continue while the government considers the mechanism and timing for the phase out. The trade will not cease until appropriate arrangements and an agreed implementation plan is in place.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

07 / 12 / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC23-001844

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Member for Sydney
Minister for the Environment and Water
PO Box 2676
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Dear Minister Plibersek

Thank you for your representation of 18 January 2023 on behalf of your constituent, **s. 47F(1)** concerning clarification of the Australian Government's policy on live animal exports.

The Albanese Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Please advise Ms Kerr that the Australian Government is committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea in an orderly and considered way, and in consultation with affected stakeholders.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, and I have made it clear the phase out will not occur during this term of government. The Government will use this time to undertake consultation with stakeholders across the supply-chain, including animal welfare groups, to develop a responsible plan. While I recognise parts of the community are calling for a relatively quick end to live sheep exports by sea, it is important for farmers, transporters, shearers and communities impacted by the phase out to have time to prepare for a move away from the trade.

In addition to implementing the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea the Albanese Government is taking strong steps to strengthen animal welfare in Australia. In the 2022-23 Budget the Government committed \$4 million to establish an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare. This function will strengthen animal welfare assurance and increase accountability and transparency for animal welfare in livestock exports.

At the 2022 Election, Labor committed to working with the States and Territories, industry and animal welfare groups to deliver a renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. The Strategy will work to deliver a more streamlined and harmonised approach to animal welfare in Australia.

Thank you again for bringing **s. 47F(1)**'s concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2023



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003497

Senator Mehreen Faruqi
Senator for New South Wales
72 Campbell Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator *Mehreen*

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management. I look forward to the challenges that my new portfolios present.

The Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. The government has committed to further improve animal welfare including through establishing an Office of the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare Function, as well as working with states and territories to renew an Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

The government has committed to phasing out live sheep exports. However, I am conscious that a phase out will affect many people, including the farmers and the communities who are involved with the trade. For this reason, the government intends to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way to ensure we account for the impacts across the supply chain.

I welcome your invitation to discuss these matters. My office will be in touch to arrange a mutually suitable time.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

31 / 8 / 2022

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MB22-000251

To: Minister Watt**MEETING WITH MR DAVID O'BRIEN****Timing:** For meeting on 8 June 2022, time tbc**Location:** Your office**Meeting with:** Mr David O'Brien, who we expect is the Managing Director of LucaZara (Agribusiness, UAE)**Prior meetings:** Nil**Proposed note taker:** Nil**What we want:** To hear Mr O'Brien's views on agricultural trade to the Middle East and to seek any views Mr O'Brien may hold regarding the proposed phase out of live sheep exports.**What they want:** s. 47F(1)**Issues and Sensitivities:**

1. **s. 47F(1)**
2. The phase out of the export of sheep, in consultation with industry and the Western Australian Government, formed part of the government's election commitments.
3. The phase out will be implemented as a transition over a number of years. This will ensure that our farmers and the markets have enough time to plan and prepare their businesses for a move away from live export.
4. It is a complex supply chain, with many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep. The government will ensure that the views of these businesses are heard as part of this process, which will be undertaken in a considered and orderly way. The view of the Western Australian Government will also be vital, I will have more to say about the consultation and engagement process for this policy in the near future.
5. It is forecast the phase out of live sheep exports may result in some 550,000 sheep being diverted for slaughter within Australia's meat processing supply chain.

Clearing Officer:	Carol Sheridan	Assistant Secretary, Animal Welfare Branch	Ph: 02 6272 4420 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Animal Welfare Policy and Engagement	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

6. A phase out of live sheep exports by sea will require careful handling to manage international sensitivities. Australia is the largest supplier of live sheep to several Middle Eastern countries. Given current food security pressures in the Middle East, early engagement will be required, particularly with Kuwait.

Background

7. Sheep are currently exported by air from a number of Australian states and by sea from Western Australia (WA). Exports by sea comprise the greatest volume of exports and the adjustment to the phase out will be felt most strongly in WA.
8. The volume of sheep exported by sea and air differ, and there are different animal welfare implications by sea and air.
 - a. In 2021, total exports by air were 22,572 head with a mortality rate of 0.004% (1 mortality) and 552,957 total were exported by sea with a mortality rate of 0.196% (1,082 mortalities).
 - b. Sheep exported by air are usually for slaughter or are more valuable breeding animals. The top 3 air export markets are Malaysia, Brunei and China. Sheep exported by sea are usually feeder or slaughter, with 90% of sheep exported to destinations in the Middle East.
9. In 2021, Australia exported over 51,000 tonnes of sheep meat (frozen and chilled carcasses and processed meat) to the Middle East with a value of \$487 million. Western Australia contributed over 90% of Australia's live sheep exports, but only 18% of the country's sheep meat exports.

Consultation: NIL

Attachments

A: Biography of Mr David O'Brien



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Water and the Environment**

MB22-000318

To: Minister Watt

Minister Watt Meeting with Sheep Meat Exporters

Event and purpose	Discussion with sheep meat exporters; Fletcher International Exports, Minerva Foods, and V&V Walsh, to understand domestic processing capacity should sheep live animal exports cease.
Date	Friday 24 June 2022
Time	10:00 am – 11:00
Location	Perth Regional Office - Airport
Minister arrives	9am at the Regional Office
Minister departs	11.45am
Parking	Visitor parking is available at the Regional Office.
Dietary requirements	N/A.
Event contact	s. 47F(1) (WA DPIRD s. 47F(1))
Met by	s. 47F(1) (s. 47F(1))
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fletcher International Exports – Roger Fletcher • Minerva Foods – Harold Sealy • V&V Walsh – Brent Dancer
Prior meetings	Meeting with union members from 9.00am to 9.45am
Key message(s)	<p>First meeting with the listed prominent leaders in Australia's domestic production of export sheep meat.</p> <p>The Australian export meat industry is one of Australia's largest agricultural export industries one of Australia's largest manufacturers, and one of the largest rural and regional employers.</p> <p>The government is committed to the ongoing success of the Western Australian agricultural industry.</p>

Media notified	N/A
Issues/sensitivities	Workforce shortages Biosecurity
See attachments:	A: Order of Proceedings B: Background and talking points C: Q&As D: Map E: List of Attendees

Clearing Officer:	Jason Lucas	Assistant Secretary, Meat Export Branch, Exports and Veterinary Services Division	Ph: 02 6271 6104 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Meat Export Branch	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

ATT A) ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

10:00AM (AWST)	Minister arrives
<Time e.g. 6.10 pm>	<e.g. Minister to give speech>
<Time e.g. 6.30 pm>	<e.g. Minister to finish speech>
<Time e.g. 6.35 pm>	<e.g. Minister to answer Q&A, photo opportunity, presentation>
11:00 (AWST)	Minister departs

ATT B) BACKGROUND

About the event

This engagement with Fletcher International Exports, Minerva Foods, and V&V Walsh is your first meeting with these three (3) leading manufacturers and exporters of Australian sheep meat products.

About the stakeholders

1. Fletcher International Exports (Fletcher) (Establishments 8; and 2309)

- a. Fletcher is one of Australia's leading exporters of lamb and sheep meat products. A private, family-owned company, Fletcher operates two processing facilities: one located in Dubbo, New South Wales; and the other near Albany in Western Australia.
- b. These two plants have a combined processing capacity of more than 90,000 sheep and lambs per week, which equates to a potential 4.5 million head processed per year.
- c. Fletcher's throughput is balanced roughly 1/3rd processing new season lambs and 2/3rd processing aged mutton. Leading markets for Fletcher's include China, the USA, Japan, and Singapore.
- d. Roger Fletcher has a strong interest in growing market access with India.

2. Minerva Food (Establishments 119; and 1459)

- a. Minerva Food, a South American meat processing conglomerate, entered the Australian meat processing market in 2021 with the purchase of two existing Australian sheep meat abattoirs, Establishments 119 (Great Eastern Abattoir) and 1459 (Shark Lake, Esperance) in Western Australia.
- b. While EST 1459 is currently non-operational, Minerva Food has stated it plans to grow the capacity of both sites, combined, to process 1 million head of sheep per annually.
- c. The leading market for Minerva Food in 2021/22 was the Middle East.

3. V&V Walsh (Establishment 686)

- a. V&V Walsh is one of Australia's largest dual species (sheep and cattle) processing facilities. Establishment 686 is located in Bunbury, Western Australia, and has been producing sheep and cattle meat and meat products since 1957 as a multi-generational family business.
- b. EST 686 employs over 1,000 staff with the capacity to process close to 1 million head of sheep (and between 50-100k cattle) per annum.
- c. V&V Walsh largely process lamb, but also small numbers of merino cross and dorpers. The leading markets for V&V Walsh are China and the USA, but the company also maintains sizeable trade to Japan, Korea, Mexico, and South Africa. On the cattle side, V&V Walsh process around 65,000 head of cattle per year.

About the Sheep Industry – Live animal exports and meat processing

4. After years of drought induced turn-off, Australia's overall national sheep flock growth continues to increase steadily on the back of encouraging seasonal conditions. Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) forecasts that the national flock will reach 74.4 million head in 2022, marking a 4.9% increase on 2021 levels.
5. **Nationally**, sheep and lamb processing is expected to total 27.6 million head in 2022.
 - a. Sheep processing is expected to reach 6 million head in 2022, marking a 17.6% increase, or 900,000 head on 2021 levels. These projections for higher sheep slaughter represent the maturation of the Australian sheep flock rebuild and follows consecutive years where older ewes have been retained on-farm.
 - b. Lamb processing is expected to reach 21.6 million head in 2022, a 6.3% or 1.35 million head increase on 2021 levels.
6. In 2021, the total number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in **Western Australia** was 3.6 million head (1.1 million sheep / 2.5 million lambs).
 - a. The department understands that additional slaughter capacity of approximately 1.35 million head exists in Western Australia. This is on the assumption that a number of processing establishments (3) are proposing to restart operations; and existing (operational establishments) being able to increase the number of operational shifts and/or chain speeds to historical capacities (noting that labour constraints are an identified inhibitor).
7. The expected leading constraint to greater processing of sheep is due to labour shortages. This issue continues to significantly affect Australian abattoirs across all of Australia, reducing the overall potential slaughter capacity of most meat processing sites.
8. The current outlook for Australian live sheep export in 2022 is subdued, with Q1 of 2022 particularly weak. MLA estimate that a continued strong flock rebuild will have a positive impact on the remaining 2022 live sheep trade. Exports for 2022 are anticipated to be similar to 2021.
9. With the exception of an increase in the number of sheep exported between 2018 and 2019, yearly consignment numbers for sheep exported from Fremantle decreased from 2017 to 2021, and are on track to continue this trend for 2022. In 2017 about 1.5 million sheep were exported from Fremantle, in 2021 this number fell to 552,957. This trend has continued into 2022.
10. Australia's live export trade relies on a continual supply of merinos which constitute the bulk of our live sheep exports. The absence of Australian sheep exports to Middle East and North Africa (MENA) markets for three months of the year (from June to September) for over three consecutive years has forced importers to source alternative year-round supply. Consequently, the region has seen increased supplies from a mix of countries in Europe, Africa and now also Turkey, none of which have ESCAS requirements.
11. The department maintains a full-time regulatory presence at Tier-2 export meat facilities via a departmental on-plant veterinarian (OPV) and, where required due to importing

country requirements, through a Food Safety Meat Assessor (FSMA) who undertakes post-mortem inspection of the carcase.

12. These officers work for the Veterinary and Export Meat Branch, within the Exports and Veterinary Services Division.

- a. Note: Under the *Export Control Act* (2020) the department requires and provides for an OPV and FSMA (where required) presence at all registered export meat facilities in Australia.

About the speakers

13. You are meeting with:

- a. Mr Roger Fletcher, Managing Director of Fletcher International Exports
- b. Mr Harold Sealy, Director of Minerva Food
- c. Mr Brent Dancer, Chief Financial Officer of V&V Walsh



ATT B) BACKGROUND AND TALKING POINTS

Introduction and welcome

Thank the senior Western Australian sheep processing leadership attendees for their time to discuss how the potential cessation of the sheep live animal export industry may impact the Western Australian agricultural economy.

Issues – if raised.

1. Workforce Shortages

- The Australian Government is aware that workforce shortages remain a key issue across the entire agricultural sector, including for the meat processing industry.
- The Government is supporting the broader meat industry, in accessing overseas workers through a number of channels, including the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme.
- There are currently around 24,000 PALM workers in Australia helping to address ongoing workforce shortages.
- The leading issue preventing greater throughput and production volumes within the sheep meat processing industry in 2022 relates to the availability of unskilled, skilled, and semi-skilled labour.

2. Market Access and Departmental Regulation (Minerva Foods only)

- The Minerva Foods facilities in Western Australia are currently registered as Tier-1 establishments, this limits their access to some international markets. Minerva Foods have applied to the Department to have both establishments listed for Tier-2 status which would allow them far greater access to international markets.
- To achieve Tier-2 status requires a thorough review process by the Department to ensure the establishment is able to effectively meet stringent importing country requirements on an ongoing basis. Management from Minerva Foods has been strongly pushing the Department to be granted Tier-2 status by July 2022.
- The Department continues to work with Minerva management to rectify outstanding issues to ensure they meet all compliance requirements to obtain Tier-2 listing.

Conclusion

- The Australian Government will continue to invest in resolving workforce labour issues.
- The Department will continue to proactively work with all registered Australian exporters of meat and meat products to assist them in meeting all domestic regulatory, and international importing country, requirements.



ATT C) Q&As

What would be the impact to sheep if live exports ceased?

Analysis by MLA predicts current international demand for Australian live sheep exports for 2022 is likely to be around 600,000 head. The Western Australia small stock processing industry has historically had a significant degree of surplus production potential. Further, over recent years, the Western Australian meat processing industry has seen significant capital investment in increasing production capacity and automation.

It is expected that due to these investments, there remains further capacity to increase production throughput, with overtime shifts, allowing for an additional 500,000-1,350,000 head of processing, if required.

Based upon WA's historical ability to adapt their processing to suit seasonal variability, and the outcome of these recent research and development investments, it is expected that WA could readily absorb the slaughter and processing requirements of those sheep who were destined for the live animal export trade.

If asked about Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious animal disease that affects cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) modelling projects a widespread FMD outbreak in Australia would have an estimated direct economic impact of around \$80 billion to our economy.

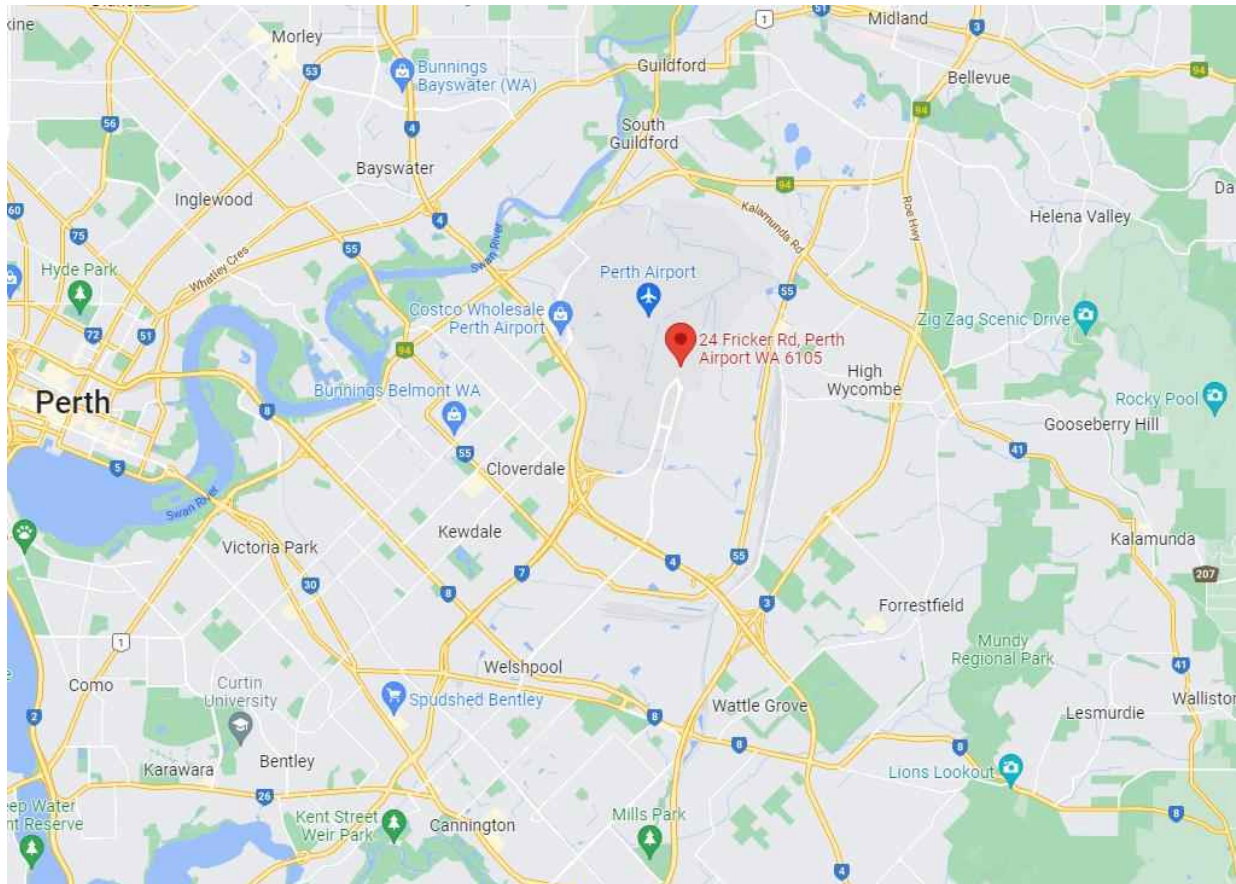
In May 2022, an outbreak of the virus was reported in cattle in Indonesia.

The department has invested an enormous amount of effort to strengthen our biosecurity controls not just for FMD and LSD, but for all biosecurity incursions. The prevention of an incursion is a top priority for Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer. Concerned industry members are encouraged to review the Australian Veterinary Plan at <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/> to understand the nationally agreed approach to manage FMD.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ATT D) MAP

DAWE Perth Regional Office, 24 Fricker Rd, Perth, Airport WA, 6105.



Clearing Officer:	Jason Lucas	Assistant Secretary, Meat Export Branch, Exports and Veterinary Services Division	Ph: 02 6271 6104 Mob: s. 47F(1)
Contact Officer:	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Meat Export Branch	Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

ATT E) LIST OF ATTENDEES

Attendees:**Western Australia Sheep Processing Industry Leadership****Mr Roger Fletcher OAM – Managing Director of Fletcher International Exports – Roger**

has received an OAM for his lifelong service to Australian agriculture, the meat processing industry, and the broader community. Roger's family has been involved in Australian agriculture for multiple generations. Roger has been managing the greenfield Dubbo site since its commission in 1988 and his greenfield Albany site since 1998.



Mr Harold Sealy – Director of Minerva Foods – Mr Sealy has over 20 years' experience in the global livestock industry, with a strong focus and history in the sheep and cattle industries, and most recently as the livestock manager for Livestock Shipping Services. Harold has held numerous positions across Western Australian agriculture, including as the State Livestock Manager for Wesfarmers' Landmark.



Mr Brent Dancer – Chief Financial Officer of V&V Walsh - Brent is the current Chief Financial Officer with V&V Walsh Meat Processors & Exporters, a leading red meat processing, exporting and major supplier to Australian supermarkets. Prior to this, Brent spent 13 years working as a Senior Manager in the Enterprise division at KPMG in Perth supplying accounting, tax compliance and business advisory services to a range of private companies and small listed entities



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-003466

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Dear s. 47F(1)

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 June 2022 concerning the Australian Government's position on live animal exports.

The government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We will consult closely with industry and the West Australian Government and progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. Consultation will include careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly affects.

By implementing the phase out over a number of years farmers, markets and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare for the transition away from live sheep exports. There is also potential to increase domestic meat processing capacity and, through this, to employ more Australians to produce value-added products for our export markets.

The government committed to further improve animal welfare through measures such as the establishment of an Office of the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare Function and renewing the Animal Welfare Strategy.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-003467

s. 47F(1)

Dear s. 47F(1)

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 and 14 June 2022 congratulating me on my appointment as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and your concerns regarding live animal exports.

The Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We will consult closely with industry and the West Australian Government and progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. Consultation will include careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to support the people, animals and trade relationships it directly affects.

By implementing the phase out over a number of years farmers, markets and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare for the transition away from live sheep exports. There is also potential to increase domestic meat processing capacity and, through this, to employ more Australians to produce value-added products for our export markets.

Thank you for your offer to meet on this issue, however I am unable to meet with you at this time.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003481

Mr David Galvin
Chair
Australian Livestock Exporters Council
Level 2
The Burns Centre
28 National Circuit
FORREST ACT 2603

s. 47F(1)

Dear Mr Galvin

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to tackling the many challenges that my portfolios present.

I am committed to delivering on the government's priorities to strengthen Australian agriculture and double the value of the sector by 2030. Work has begun to deliver \$500 million of investment in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and fibre through the National Reconstruction Fund. Together with my department, we are strengthening Australia's biosecurity systems to ensure we keep out pests, weeds and diseases in order to protect our domestic industries. I look forward to working with industry and stakeholders to address key challenges facing the sector including workforce issues, sustainable fisheries and timber shortages.

As you are aware, our government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports. I reiterate that we are not in a rush and our government will implement the phase out in a fair, and orderly way. We will consult widely on the timing and the manner of the phase out.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect not only the export industry, but also others including farmers and communities who rely on this trade. We are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition.

It was good to meet with representatives of the Australian Livestock Exporters Council (ALEC) during my first ministerial trip to Western Australia. I found our discussions while visiting the feedlot valuable. I appreciate you raising your concerns with me, and we will continue to consult with ALEC on this important process. I look forward to further discussions with ALEC in the future.

Thank you again for your letter and supporting information.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003549

Ms Erica Martin
Chief Executive Officer
Humane Society International Ltd
PO Box 439
AVALON NSW 2107

admin@hsi.org.au

Dear Erica

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to tackling the many challenges that my portfolios present.

I am committed to delivering on the government's priorities to strengthen Australian agriculture and double the value of the sector by 2030. Work has begun to deliver \$500 million of investment in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and fibre through the National Reconstruction Fund. Together with my department, we are strengthening Australia's biosecurity systems to ensure we keep out pests, weeds and diseases in order to protect our domestic industries. I look forward to working with industry and stakeholders to address key challenges facing the sector including workforce issues, sustainable fisheries and timber shortages.

The government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect farmers and communities who rely on this trade. We are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We will consult closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. Consultation will include careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects.

By implementing the phase out over a number of years our farmers, markets and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare. There is also potential to increase domestic meat processing capacity and, through this, to employ more Australians to produce value-added products for our export markets.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003624

s. 47F(1)

Dear s. 47F(1)

Thank you for your email of congratulations.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to tackling the many challenges that my portfolios present.

I am committed to delivering on this government's commitments, including by allocating \$500 million from the National Reconstruction Fund specifically for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and fibre, bolstering Australia's biosecurity system to help keep pests, weeds and disease out of Australia, supporting the forestry sector and addressing the timber shortage, supporting sustainable fisheries, and addressing agriculture workforce issues, among others.

The Albanese Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect farmers and communities who rely on this trade. We are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We will consult closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way.

Consultation will include careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects. By implementing the phase out over a number of years our farmers, markets and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare.

With regard to your comments on the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS); this is a set of regulatory conditions placed on exporters, requiring them to have arrangements in place with supply chain partners to ensure humane treatment and handling of livestock is provided from the time that livestock arrive in the importing country, up to and including the point of slaughter. Australia is the only country in the world with such a regulatory system in operation.

In circumstances where non-compliance with ESCAS is alleged, the department takes these seriously and investigates to the fullest extent possible. While no regulatory system can ensure that there will never be an incidence of non-compliance, ESCAS provides a process to investigate and address them in a manner that minimises the disruption to trade and improves animal welfare outcomes. Since the implementation of ESCAS, less than 0.25 per cent of exported feeder/slaughter livestock have been involved in confirmed non-compliance with ESCAS. Since 2019, the proportion of feeder/slaughter livestock involved in non-compliance has been below 0.1 per cent.

The department publishes a summary of the outcomes of each investigation once completed, in a quarterly regulatory compliance report. Actions the department may take in response to the confirmed non-compliances include requiring corrective procedures to prevent reoccurrence of non-compliance, removal of specific facilities from supply chains and suspending entire supply chains.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003806

Ms Holly Ludeman
Managing Director
The Livestock Collective

holly@thelivestockcollective.com.au

Dear Ms Ludeman

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to tackling the many challenges that my portfolios present.

I am committed to delivering on the government's priorities to strengthen Australian agriculture and double the value of the sector by 2030. Work has begun to deliver \$500 million of investment in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food and fibre through the National Reconstruction Fund. Together with my department, we are strengthening Australia's biosecurity systems to ensure we keep out pests, weeds and diseases in order to protect our domestic industries. I look forward to working with industry and stakeholders to address key challenges facing the sector including workforce issues, sustainable fisheries and timber shortages.

The government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect not only the export industry, but also others including farmers and communities who rely on this trade. I reiterate that we are not in a rush and the government is committed to implementing the phase out in a fair, and orderly way. We will consult widely on the timing and the manner of the phase out, including transition support for those who rely on exports.

It was good to meet with representatives of the Western Australian sheep industry during my first ministerial trip to Western Australia. I found the discussions valuable. I appreciate you raising your concerns with me, and we will continue to consult with industry on this important process.

Thank you again for your letter and additional information.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-003995

Mr Stephen Price MLA
Member for Forrestfield
PO Box 2192
HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057

Stephen.Price.MLA@mp.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Price

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to tackling the many challenges that my portfolios present.

I am committed to delivering on this government's commitments, including by allocating \$500 million from the National Reconstruction Fund specifically for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and fibre, bolstering Australia's biosecurity system to help keep pests, weeds and disease out of Australia, supporting the forestry sector and addressing the timber shortage, supporting sustainable fisheries, and addressing agriculture workforce issues, among others.

As highlighted in your letter, we know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect not only the export industry, but farmers and communities who rely on the live animal export trade. We are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We are consulting closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. Consultation includes careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects.

We also believe that there is the potential to increase our domestic meat processing capacity and, through this, employ more Australians to produce value-added products for our export markets.

With regard to the export of dogs (including greyhounds) and their reproductive material, my department's role is to issue export permits and health certificates which assure that the importing country requirements are met. There is currently no regulatory power to control the use of greyhounds, or their reproductive material once exported to another country. Any moves to implement a ban, such as the one you have raised with me, would require amendments to the relevant legislation.

I would note that the number of greyhounds exported for all purposes, including companion animals, breeding, or racing purposes, is relatively low. During the 2020-21 financial year, 155 greyhounds were exported, with the majority of these (127) being exported to New Zealand.

While domestic animal welfare is primarily the responsibility of states and territories, the Australian Government takes a leadership role in the development of national animal welfare standards and guidelines. This occurs primarily via the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG), a cross-jurisdictional body that reports to the Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC).

I understand that the Poultry Standards and Guidelines that will see a phase out of conventional cages are finalised and are actively being considered by AGSOC. I look forward to working with the Western Australian Government and other jurisdictions to bring the process to a close by implementing state-based legislation.

In regard to pig welfare, I understand that my department is working closely with industry and with the AWTG to ensure an appropriate standard setting framework, and that there is a shared understanding that any process should be collaborative and science based.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-004039

Mr Brian Mitchell MP
Member for Lyons
PO Box 61
BRIDGEWATER TAS 7030

brian.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Mitchell

Thank you for your representation of 21 June 2022 on behalf of your constituent, concerning the impact of the live sheep export ban on the movement of breeding stock.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect farmers and communities who rely on this trade. We are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We will consult closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way.

Consultation will include careful consideration of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects.

No decision has been made yet about air exports. There are different risks and community views about sheep exports by air and these will be carefully considered during the consultation process.

By implementing the phase out over a number of years our farmers, markets and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare.

Thank you again for bringing your constituent's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MC22-004389

Ms Lynda Stoner
Chief Executive Officer
Animal Liberation

lynda@animal-lib.org.au

Dear Ms Stoner

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and for your warm wishes.

It is an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, to serve in his Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I look forward to the many challenges that my portfolios present.

The Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. The government committed to further improve animal welfare through measures such as the establishment of an Office of the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and renewing the Animal Welfare Strategy. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

As you may be aware, the phase out of live sheep exports will affect not only the export industry, but also others including farmers and communities who rely on this trade. The government is committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We are consulting closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. Careful consideration is needed of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects.

As you indicated in your correspondence, the government has said that the phase out will not be completed in this term of government. However, work on the phase out has commenced. Implementing the phase out over a number of years means our farmers, markets, meat processors and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention and offering to lend your support to assist in the betterment of animal welfare outcomes.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-004457

Ms Lisa Baker MLA
Member for Maylands
PO Box 907
INGLEWOOD WA 6932

maylands@mp.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Baker

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2022 outlining your advocacy, and that of Western Australian Labor, for agriculture and animal welfare in Western Australia, and highlighting the work you have done.

I appreciate your support for the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports. We are consulting closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way. As you raised in your letter, careful consideration is needed of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects. I recently had productive discussions with a range of stakeholders regarding the phase out during my first ministerial trip to Western Australia, providing me with a greater understanding of issues faced.

While animal welfare is primarily the responsibility of states and territories, the government takes a leadership role in the development of national animal welfare standards and guidelines. This occurs primarily via the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG), a cross-jurisdictional body that reports to the Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC). I understand that the Poultry Standards and Guidelines that will see a phase out of conventional cages are finalised and are actively being considered by AGSOC. I look forward to working with the Western Australian Government and other jurisdictions to bring the process to a close by implementing state-based legislation. In regard to pig welfare, I understand that my department is working closely with industry and with the AWTG to ensure an appropriate standard setting framework, and that there is a shared understanding that any process should be collaborative and science-based.

In regard to your comments about the alternative protein sector, you may have seen that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, in its Protein Roadmap, has identified that the total proteins sector has the potential to be an \$89 billion industry. Alternative proteins will play an important role in this growth as we harness emerging technologies and opportunities, and Australia is already seeing growing consumer demand and investor interest in alternative proteins.

With the growing demand, both within Australia and internationally, the alternative proteins sector has the potential to create significant additional employment in regional Australia, while also providing farmers with the opportunity to diversify their businesses.

Thank you again for your letter and your continued efforts for Western Australian agriculture.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-005762

s. 47F(1)

Dear s. 47F(1)

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 June 2022 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, concerning live exports. Your correspondence has been referred to me as the matter you have raised falls under my portfolio responsibilities as the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Australian Government supports strong animal welfare standards and believes all animals should be treated humanely. Consistent with the policy we took to the last election, the government remains committed to phasing out live sheep exports.

We know the phase out of live sheep exports will affect not only the export industry, but also others including farmers and communities who rely on the trade, and are committed to supporting those communities throughout the transition. We are consulting closely with industry and state and territory governments to progress the phase out in an orderly and considered way.

Careful consideration is needed of the impacts across the entire value chain to identify and support the people, animals, and trade relationships it directly and indirectly affects. By implementing the phase out over a number of years our farmers, markets, and supply chains will be able to plan and prepare.

I have copied this letter to the Prime Minister.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the government's attention.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022

cc: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-007951

Mr David Galvin
Chair
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
Level 2 The Burns Centre
28 National Circuit
FORREST ACT 2603

s. 47F(1)

Dear Mr Galvin

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 September 2022 regarding the community sentiment research conducted by LiveCorp about the Australian livestock export industry.

I commend the industry for undertaking this research and support ALEC's engagement with the community on this issue. I note this research indicates Australians have confidence in the regulation of the live export industry and I acknowledge the work undertaken by industry to improve this sentiment. However, across the community there are a range of views on livestock exports, particularly sheep exports. During the election the government committed to a phase out of live sheep exports and I am working to honour that pledge. The Australian Government remains strongly committed to the future of Australian live cattle exports.

I understand a phase out will impact the export industry, sheep producers and the communities that engage with the trade. I am committed to seeking input from your members and other supply chain participants affected by the phase out as this will help inform government decisions about how to implement this commitment. I want to ensure industry participants have time to prepare to transition away from the trade which is why it will not occur in this term of government.

Thank you also for your offer to present the findings of this research and look forward to discussing this at our next meeting. I understand the findings will also be presented at a Livestock Export Animal Welfare Advisory Group meeting, hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Thank you again for your invitation.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT / / 2022

cc: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade Reform Division

TRD02

PHASE OUT LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

CURRENT ISSUE

The Australian Government committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea as part of its 2022 election campaign (**Attachment A**). The Prime Minister and Minister Watt have publicly stated the phaseout will not occur during this term of government.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- In implementing this commitment, the government will consult widely with stakeholders to develop a timeframe and plan.
- Minister Watt is keen that affected stakeholders are consulted on the timing and how to phase out live sheep exports by sea to ensure there is a fair and orderly implementation plan.
- The details of the consultation process are being settled, with an announcement expected shortly.
- The phase out will apply to live sheep exports by sea only.
- Secretary Andrew Metcalfe AO visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on 15 and 16 January 2023 to engage government authorities and industry on the Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea, and advocate for broader food and agriculture interests.
- Exporters wishing to export live sheep by sea will continue to be able to access markets until the phase out is implemented. This can occur under government-to-government agreed protocols or via import permits on individual consignments.
- Industry requests for the development of new government-to-government agreed protocols for live sheep exports will continue to be considered within the department's resourcing capacity. Notwithstanding, the department considers there are numerous risks associated with the continued negotiation of new market access protocols when concurrently pursuing a phase out of live sheep exports.
- The government also continues to support Australia's live cattle trade.

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Telephone: 02 6272 3450
Last updated: 16 January 2023

SES Lead: Andrew McDonald
Mobile Number: s. 47F(1)
SB23-000081

- Australia's live cattle export trade contributes more than \$1 billion to our national economy each year.
- The welfare of exported cattle remains a top priority and we are continuing to work with the Australian cattle industry and our trading partners to ensure the export process meets the high animal welfare standards the Australian public expects.
- This includes the government's decision to provide \$4 million to establish an Inspector-General for Animal Welfare as part of Budget 2022-23.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Kuwait is Australia's largest importer of live sheep by sea, receiving around 57%, or \$47.5 million worth of all live sheep exported in 2021–22.¹

s. 33(a)(iii)

- Secretary Metcalfe's visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on 15 and 16 January 2023 was to reassure them that the phase out of live sheep exports by sea from Australia is a domestic policy issue that in no way relates to Australia's longstanding trading relationship with them.
- Australia wants to explore opportunities to expand our food and agriculture trade, including chilled and frozen sheep meat products. The Gulf States recognition of extended shelf life for chilled vacuum-packed meat will support this goal.
- Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are significant destinations for Australian food and agriculture exports. Australia's food and agriculture exports to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were valued at A\$6.3 b in 2021-22 including cereals, red meat, pulses, live sheep, cattle, dairy and processed foods.
- First Assistant Secretary Chris Tinning accompanied Secretary Metcalfe and continued to Oman to meet with the Omani government on the same issues on 18 January 2023.

¹ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

Key stats

- In 2021-2022, Australia exported around 488,000 live sheep worth more than \$85 million to countries in the Middle East and Asia (including approximately 22,000 sheep exported by air, largely to Malaysia).²
- Australia's live sheep trade accounts for 0.2% of our total agriculture exports. Australia contributes 6.4% of the world's live sheep trade which makes up around 3% of Australia's total sheep and sheep meat exports.³
- Live sheep exports have been declining from around 1.9 million sheep exported in 2017–18 to around 488,000 in 2021–22.⁴
 - This is due to factors such as rising transport and compliance costs, which reduce the competitiveness of Australia's live sheep trade to major markets in the Middle East.
- Live sheep export volumes are estimated to represent 30% of Western Australia's lamb and sheep turnover.⁵
- In 2020–21, around 95% of all live sheep were exported by sea. All sheep exported by sea were exported from the Port of Fremantle (WA).⁶
- Australia was the largest exporter of sheep meat in 2021, with Australia's top 5 sheep meat (lamb and mutton) markets being China, the United States, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea.⁷
- ABARES has forecasted that the value of sheep meat production in Australia will be around \$4.4 billion in 2022–23.⁸
- There are 41 abattoirs in Australia registered to export sheep meat, with 9 located in Western Australia.⁹ There is potential to expand processing, noting abattoirs have anecdotally indicated ongoing workforce availability issues.
- In 2017–18 there was estimated 1,800 sheep specialist farmers (more than half income derived from sheep, lambs, wool) and 2,400 mixed-cropping sheep farmers in Western Australia.¹⁰

² ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

³ ABARES (*unpublished*) Update to the live sheep trade.

⁴ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

⁵ Dalgleish, M & Agar, O (2019), Value analysis of the Australian live sheep export trade, Mecardo report to LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, accessed October 2022

⁶ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) 2022, All Livestock Exports 2017 to 2022, accessed October 2022

⁷ Meat & Livestock Australia (2022), State of the industry report 2022, accessed October 2022

⁸ ABARES Outlook Sept 2022

⁹ Pers comms from Export and Veterinary Services Division as the regulator of all export registered abattoirs

¹⁰ Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (2020) Live sheep exports to or through the Middle East—Northern Hemisphere summer: Regulation impact statement

- The live sheep exports trade employs 1,037 people nationally (on-farm direct FTE) and 3,443 workers across the supply chain, with 77% of these 3,443 workers attributed to the WA supply chain.¹¹
- A 2021 survey commissioned by LiveCorp found the overall sentiment towards the treatment of animals in the live export industry has improved since its first survey in 2019, with 38.4% in 2019 saying 'it bothers me a lot' to 32.8% in 2021.¹²
- A 2022 survey commissioned by the RSPCA found 67% of respondents want to end live animal exports¹³.

S. 47C(1)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Election commitment

Attachment B – Possible Q&As

¹¹ Dalgleish, M & Agar, O 2019, 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, commissioned by LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, viewed October 2022

¹² Voconiq (2022) 'Live exports and the Australian community 2019-2021', prepared for LiveCorp, accessed October 2022

¹³ The Digital Edge (2022) 'Independent poll', prepared for RSPCA, accessed October 2022

¹⁴ Dalgleish, M & Agar, O 2019, 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, commissioned by LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, viewed October 2022.



Labor supports strong animal welfare standards. We believe all animals should be treated humanely and that it is the responsibility of all governments, state and federal, to ensure that this is done.

To ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are maintained, governments and industry must remain vigilant and be guided by the best available science.

An Albanese Labor Government will provide \$1 million a year to establish the office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and increase accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches. We will work with the State and Territory Governments and allocate \$5 million over four years to renew the Animal Welfare Strategy.

The Inspector-General of Animal Welfare will strengthen reports to the Parliament on:

- New and emerging live export markets.
- The number of head exported and mortalities.
- Any allegations of breaches of animal welfare standards and investigations undertaken.
- Any sanctions or other action taken for breaches of Australia's animal welfare standards.

Currently, only mortalities and actions taken in relation to those mortalities are reported on. We propose to increase transparency and reporting through these measures.

Labor remains committed to the Northern summer live sheep export trade ban based on the scientific evidence included in the draft report by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

The Morrison Government's draft report has recommended that the Northern Hemisphere Summer ban on live sheep exports ban continue. Labor supports the continuation of the ban based on the evidence contained in the draft report. Despite this, the Morrison Government has flagged its intention to roll back the ban.

Labor acknowledges the live sheep export trade is in decline and will phase out live sheep exports in consultation with the industry and the West Australian Government,

including consideration of the impacts for the entire value chain of the industry. Labor supports value adding more here in Australia and believes this will create more job opportunities. We do not believe setting a deadline on the industry is appropriate. Labor will not ban cattle exports. The scientific advice does not support a ban on cattle exports as long as strong animal welfare standards are in place.

An Albanese Government is committed to improving animal welfare through the measures outlined above. Increased reporting and transparency and an independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare are critical to delivering that.

Attachment B**Potential Q&As – For Minister Watt****Does the government remain committed to phasing out sheep exports?**

- I have been very clear it is the government's intention to implement this policy.

Why won't the phase out be implemented in this term of government?

- This is so we can implement the phase out in a sensible and orderly manner, affording time for our farming sector and rural communities to adjust away from live sheep exports.

Why are live sheep exports being phased out?

- I recognise the industry has made improvements following the introduction of tougher regulations.
- There are, however, still inherent risks to this trade that the Australian public is understandably concerned about.
- That is why we are phasing out live sheep exports.

What is the science or evidence underpinning the government's decision to phase out live sheep exports?

- The evidence lies in the number of tragedies that have occurred since the 1980s.
 - 67,000 sheep died on the *Uniceb* when it caught fire and sunk in the Indian Ocean in 1996.
 - More than 5,500 sheep died on the *MV Cormo Express* when the shipment was rejected from Saudi Arabia in 2003.
 - 4,000 sheep died on the *Bader 3* when travelling to the Middle East in 2014.
 - Around 2,400 sheep died on the *Awassi Express* when travelling from Australia to the Middle East in 2017.
- I recognise the industry has made improvements following the introduction of tougher regulations.
- There are, however, still inherent risks to this trade that the Australian public is understandably concerned about.
- That is why the government is phasing out live sheep exports.

How will the government support farmers, particularly in Western Australia, once the live sheep trade is phased out?

- I acknowledge there are many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep.
- I anticipate our consultation process will explore the issues involved in phasing out the trade.

Who will you engage with about the phase out?

- We will consult widely on this matter, including with industry, farmers, supply chain businesses, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, parliamentarians, and state government counterparts, to develop a transition plan that is fair and orderly.

How will the government implement the phase out?

- Extensive consultation will inform how the government will phase out the live sheep exports trade.
- This will include considering consultation results on issues such as the timeframe for implementation, how it will be done and what kind of opportunities might exist in the way of new markets or meat processing.

Will you commit to passing legislation to shut down the industry in this term of parliament, even if the end date goes beyond this term?

- The timeline and mechanism for implementing this commitment will be part of our consultation with stakeholders.

In the 2019 election Labor committed to a five-year timeframe to phase out the trade. When will the export of live sheep from Australia end?

- The phase out will not occur during this term of government.
- I want to ensure farmers and industry are afforded time to prepare for a move away from live exports.

Is there anything the industry can say/do that will change the government's mind?

- I have made it clear to industry that the government is committed to phasing out live sheep exports.
- In doing so, I have also committed to consulting widely on this matter to ensure we develop a transition plan that is fair and orderly.

How will you address industry losses / compensate farmers and workers?

- I acknowledged we are dealing with a complex supply chain, with many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep.
- There is a lot of evaluation and discussion yet to be had around how the government will implement the phase out.

Won't this affect Australia's trade relationships?

- I acknowledge the significance of the live sheep trade to our trading partners and the need to manage our trade relationships well.
- I will consult widely on this matter to ensure that this phase is mindful of our trade relationships.
- I also intend to work closely with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade to ensure we manage these relationships.

Will Australia be able to substitute ‘value-added’ sheep meat products in its existing live sheep export markets?

- We are always looking at opportunities to grow our markets for our sheep meat products.
- We do however understand there may be limitations in some importing countries for frozen and chilled meat to entirely replace live sheep in the short- to medium-term.

What are you going to do to support the industry to find alternative markets?

- We will work with industry to identify new markets and meat processing opportunities.
- The phase out won't occur in this term of government.
- This is so our farmers and other across the supply chain have time to prepare for a move away from live sheep exports.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Division: Trade Reform Division

TRD02

PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

CURRENT ISSUE

The Australian Government committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea as part of its 2022 election campaign (**Attachment A**). The Prime Minister and Minister Watt have publicly stated the phaseout will not occur during this term of government. In implementing this commitment, the government will consult widely with stakeholders to develop a timeframe and plan.

The phase out will apply to live sheep exports by sea only. The government continues to support the live cattle trade and other live animal exports. All animal welfare standards continue to be in place.

KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES

- Despite increased regulation and improvements by industry, the government is committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea.
 - There are still inherent animal welfare risks associated with this trade that the Australian public is concerned about.
- As identified by Minister Watt, we are preparing to consult with affected stakeholders around the timing and how to phase out live sheep exports by sea to ensure we create a fair and orderly implementation plan.
- Support options for industry and the relevant supply chain participants will also be explored as part of this stakeholder engagement.
- Options, such as onshore processing, will also be examined given the potential to generate more jobs and income for Australians, particularly in the form of extra meat processing opportunities.
- Preparations are currently underway to determine how and when stakeholder engagement will take place and reporting timeframes.
- We will actively reach out to stakeholders, particularly affected parties, as soon as we are able to.

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Last updated: 12 October 2022

SES Lead: Nicola Hinder
Mobile Number: 02 6272 4120
SB22-000046

- The phase out will only apply to live sheep exports by sea due to limited animal welfare concerns from live exports by air. In 2021, only 1 mortality occurred out of the more than 22,000 live sheep exported by air.
- The government also continues to support Australia's live cattle trade.
- Australia's live cattle export trade contributes more than \$1 billion to our national economy each year.
- The welfare of exported cattle remains a top priority and we are continuing to work with the Australian cattle industry and our trading partners to ensure the export process meets the high animal welfare standards the Australian public expects.
- This includes the government's decision to provide \$4 million to establish an Inspector-General for Animal Welfare as part of Budget 2022-23.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Kuwait is Australia's largest importer of live sheep by sea, receiving around 57%, or \$47.5 million worth of all live sheep exported in 2021–22.¹

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 47C(1)

¹ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

² Dalgleish, M & Agar, O 2019, 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, commissioned by LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, viewed October 2022.

Key stats

- In 2021-2022, Australia exported around 488,000 live sheep worth more than \$85 million to countries in the Middle East and Asia (including approximately 22,000 sheep exported by air, largely to Malaysia).³
- Australia's live sheep trade accounts for 0.2% of our total agriculture exports. Australia contributes 6.4% of the world's live sheep trade which makes up around 3% of Australia's total sheep and sheep meat exports.⁴
- Live sheep exports have been declining from around 1.9 million sheep exported in 2017–18 to around 488,000 in 2021–22.⁵
 - This is due to factors such as rising transport and compliance costs, which reduce the competitiveness of Australia's live sheep trade to major markets in the Middle East.
- Live sheep export volumes are estimated to represent 30% of Western Australia's lamb and sheep turnover.⁶
- In 2020–21, around 95% of all live sheep were exported by sea. All sheep exported by sea were exported from the Port of Fremantle (WA).⁷
- Australia was the largest exporter of sheep meat in 2021, with Australia's top 5 sheep meat (lamb and mutton) markets being China, the United States, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea.⁸
- ABARES has forecasted that the value of sheep meat production in Australia will be around \$4.4 billion in 2022–23.⁹
- There are 41 abattoirs in Australia registered to export sheep meat, with 9 located in Western Australia.¹⁰ There is potential to expand processing, noting abattoirs have anecdotally indicated ongoing workforce availability issues.
- In 2017–18 there was estimated 1,800 sheep specialist farmers (more than half income derived from sheep, lambs, wool) and 2,400 mixed-cropping sheep farmers in Western Australia.¹¹

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- The live sheep exports trade employs 1,037 people nationally (on-farm direct FTE) and 3,443 workers across the supply chain, with 77% of these 3,443 workers attributed to the WA supply chain.¹²
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- A 2022 survey commissioned by the RSPCA found 67% of respondents want to end live animal exports¹⁴.

For additional information please see:

PLAED01 Northern Hemisphere Summer Review

PLAED02 Inspector General for Animal Welfare

PLAED03 Independent observers

PLAED04 LAE Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

ATTACHMENTS

A: Election commitment

B: Possible Q&As

¹² Dalgleish, M & Agar, O 2019, 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, commissioned by LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, viewed October 2022

¹³ Voconiq (2022) 'Live exports and the Australian community 2019-2021', prepared for LiveCorp, accessed October 2022

¹⁴ The Digital Edge (2022) 'Independent poll', prepared for RSPCA, accessed October 2022



Strengthening Animal Welfare

Labor supports strong animal welfare standards. We believe all animals should be treated humanely and that it is the responsibility of all governments, state and federal, to ensure that this is done.

To ensure the highest standards of animal welfare are maintained, governments and industry must remain vigilant and be guided by the best available science.

An Albanese Labor Government will provide \$1 million a year to establish the office of the independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and increase accountability and transparency for reporting of animal welfare breaches. We will work with the State and Territory Governments and allocate \$5 million over four years to renew the Animal Welfare Strategy.

The Inspector-General of Animal Welfare will strengthen reports to the Parliament on:

- New and emerging live export markets.
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Currently, only mortalities and actions taken in relation to those mortalities are reported on. We propose to increase transparency and reporting through these measures.

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The Morrison Government's draft report has recommended that the Northern Hemisphere Summer ban on live sheep exports ban continue. Labor supports the continuation of the ban based on the evidence contained in the draft report. Despite this, the Morrison Government has flagged its intention to roll back the ban.

Labor acknowledges the live sheep export trade is in decline and will phase out live sheep exports in consultation with the industry and the West Australian Government,

including consideration of the impacts for the entire value chain of the industry. Labor supports value adding more here in Australia and believes this will create more job opportunities. We do not believe setting a deadline on the industry is appropriate. Labor will not ban cattle exports. The scientific advice does not support a ban on cattle exports as long as strong animal welfare standards are in place.

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Why are live sheep exports being phased out?

- I recognise the industry has made improvements following the introduction of tougher regulations.
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What is the science or evidence underpinning the government's decision to phase out live sheep exports?

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How will the government support farmers, particularly in Western Australia, once the live sheep trade is phased out?

- I acknowledge there are many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep.
- I anticipate our consultation process will explore the issues involved in phasing out the trade.

Who will you engage with about the phase out?

- We will consult widely on this matter, including with industry, farmers, supply chain businesses, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, parliamentarians, and state government counterparts, to develop a transition plan that is fair and orderly.

How will the government implement the phase out?

- Extensive consultation will inform how the government will phase out the live sheep exports trade.
- This will include considering consultation results on issues such as the timeframe for implementation, how it will be done and what kind of opportunities might exist in the way of new markets or meat processing.

Will you commit to passing legislation to shut down the industry in this term of parliament, even if the end date goes beyond this term?

- The timeline and mechanism for implementing this commitment will be part of our consultation with stakeholders.

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- I acknowledged we are dealing with a complex supply chain, with many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep.
- There is a lot of evaluation and discussion yet to be had around how the government will implement the phase out.

Won't this affect Australia's trade relationships?

- I acknowledge the significance of the live sheep trade to our trading partners and the need to manage our trade relationships well.
- I will consult widely on this matter to ensure that this phase is mindful of our trade relationships.
- I also intend to work closely with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade to ensure we manage these relationships.

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- We are always looking at opportunities to grow our markets for our sheep meat products.
- We do however understand there may be limitations in some importing countries for frozen and chilled meat to entirely replace live sheep in the short- to medium-term.

What are you going to do to support the industry to find alternative markets?

- We will work with industry to identify new markets and meat processing opportunities.
- The phase out won't occur in this term of government.
- This is so our farmers and other across the supply chain have time to prepare for a move away from live sheep exports.

Question No: SQ22-000831
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Division/Agency: Plant and Live Animal Exports Division
Topic: Review of live sheep exports to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere Summer
Question Date: 22 November 2022
Question Type: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

Can the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provide a copy of the advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the Department's review and final report of the review of live sheep exports to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere Summer (September 2022) and a copy of the Minister's agreement or otherwise to that advice. Can the department confirm this was a recommendation in the final report of the review of live sheep exports to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere Summer (September 2022) (September 2022) below?

"The absolute prohibition period should be from 8 May to 14 August (change from current rules, which prohibit export to Oman from 8 May to 14 September)"

Answer:

1. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry agreed, on 31 August 2022, to the following recommendation of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with regard to the completion of the review of live sheep exports by sea to, or through the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer and Animals Rules Amendments:
 - a. That, given the commitment to phase out live sheep exports, you agree to not implement further recommendations to reduce the Red Sea, Qatar or Oman prohibition periods but do agree to non-date related recommendations, including increasing the minimum ration allowance and deploying an extra data logger on each vessel's bridge.
2. Recommendation 5 of the "Review of live sheep exports by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer" published by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 16 September 2022 states:

Oman

- 5) *The absolute prohibition period should be from 8 May to 14 August (change from current rules, which prohibit export to Oman from 8 May to 14 September).*

The information on this page is NOT provided to the Senate Committee or Secretariat.

Question Number:	SQ22-000831	PDMS Number	<i>SQ22-000831</i>
Asked by:	Bridget McKenzie	Responsible Minister:	Murray Watt
Division/Agency:	Plant and Live Animal Exports Division (PLAED) D2		
Contact Officer (AS or EL2):	Kelly Porter A/g Assistant Secretary Animal Welfare Branch Plant and Live Animal Exports Division	02 6272 2332	
Clearance Officer (FAS):	Joffrid Mackett A/g First Assistant Secretary Plant and Live Animal Exports Division	+61 2 6272 5435 / s. 47F(1)	
Deputy Secretary Approved: <dd/mm/2023>			
COMMENTS:	As extracted from <u>MS22-001062</u> and from the final published report of the Northern Hemisphere summer review at: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/animal-welfare/livestock-welfare-reviews/northern-hemisphere-review		
COMMITTEE DUE DATE:	16 December 2022		

MO CLEARANCE

POLICY ADVISER: Initials: Date:	<i>Comments</i>
PARLIAMENTARY ADVISER: Initials: Date:	<i>Comments</i>
CHIEF OF STAFF:	APPROVED / NOT APPROVED FOR TABLING

	Signed:.....	Date:
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S. 47F(1)

S. 47F(1)

SUGGESTED TALKING / HANDLING POINTS**SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST JANUARY 2023****KEY FACTS AND RESPONSES**

- In recognition of the importance of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in being valued trading partners, I approved Secretary Andrew Metcalfe AO to travel to the Middle East in January 2023.
- Secretary Metcalfe AO, appropriately, met with government officials that were his equivalent, in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as commercial parties, responsible for agriculture, biosecurity and food.
 - Australia's Ambassador to Kuwait, Ms Melissa Kelly, and a senior official of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, accompanied Secretary Metcalfe on these engagements.
- This trip was organised in full cooperation with the Australian Embassy.
- Prior to the trip, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provided advance notice of the trip, and its purpose, to several industry bodies, including the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council.
- After the trip, the department subsequently met with the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council, and LiveCorp, to provide a report on the trip's outcomes.
- The purpose of the trip was to explain the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea, and advocate for broader food and agriculture interests.
- In engaging with the Kuwaiti Government, Secretary Metcalfe emphasised that the phase out of live sheep exports by sea from Australia is a domestic policy issue that in no way relates to Australia's longstanding trading relationship with Kuwait.
- Mr Metcalfe conveyed to the Kuwaiti Government, and commercial parties, that exports of Australian sheep to Kuwait will still take place while Australia considers the mechanism and timing to phase out the trade.
- Mr Metcalfe registered that the phase out will not commence within the current term of the Australian Parliament.
- Mr Metcalfe advised that an extensive consultation process will likely commence in 2023, and that Kuwait will be a key stakeholder included in this consultation.

- Mr Metcalfe acknowledged Kuwait's demand for a secure food supply and Australia's continued commitment to supporting strong global food supply chains and partnering with Kuwait to ensure food security.
- As part of this, Mr Metcalfe indicated that Australia would like to explore opportunities to grow its sheep meat exports.
- My understanding is that the overwhelming response that the Secretary received in the Middle East was one of appreciation for the engagement.
- To ensure there is no misunderstandings in market, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be following up with written correspondence to key contacts to ensure that there is a precise understanding of the Australian Government's commitment.

KEY FACTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- During his visit to Kuwait, Secretary Metcalfe met with:
 - The Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources
 - The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN)
 - Al Mawashi (also known as the Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading), a majority state-owned company and live sheep importer
 - Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries.
- In the lead up to the trip, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry engaged with:
 - in-country staff from Meat & Livestock Australia
 - the department's Consul (Agriculture) – Middle East and North Africa
 - the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Austrade
 - diplomatic staff in the region, including the Ambassador to Kuwait, Ms Melissa Kelly.
- A senior official from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also wrote to the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council's President, Mr David Galvin, on 7 February 2023 to provide an update.
- Following Secretary Metcalfe's visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a senior official from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also travelled to Oman.

Phase out of live sheep exports by sea

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Contact Officer: Andrew McDonald

Date: 17 February 2023

Phone: s. 47F(1)

Responsible Division: Traceability, Plant and Live Animal Exports Division

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS

- The Australian Government committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea as part of its 2022 election campaign.
- The Government feels it is important to honour this commitment to the Australian public.
 - Especially when this is a commitment that the ALP took to two consecutive elections.
- Many of you will be aware that numerous surveys indicate, to varying extents, that a significant proportion of the community does not support live animal exports.
- I understand that you and your member organisations do not or are unlikely to support this policy. I do understand that.
- I also understand that phasing out live sheep exports by sea will impact many people and businesses.
- That is why the Prime Minister and I have said we will not implement the phase out within this term of Parliament.
- We have done this to afford time for planning and adjustment.
- The government has also determined that the phase out:
 - will not apply to live sheep exports by air,
 - nor will it include any other species, such as live cattle.
- I can say that the government continues to strongly support Australia's live cattle trade.

- Additionally, I can assure you that there will soon be an opportunity to contribute to a consultation process, so that we can develop an informed transition plan.
- I appreciate that live exports has played an important role in the sector, particularly in Western Australia.
- That said, I do believe we can transition away from the trade.
- The industry itself has already partly demonstrated that it is possible.
- The number of sheep exported has declined since 2017–18.¹
- And further adjustments have had to be made with the northern hemisphere summer prohibition period.
- Over the period 2014-2018, sheep destined for the live export market represented about 28% of all sheep being turned off on an annual basis from Western Australian farms.²
 - This means there are other market options for the remainder of the sheep being turned off.
- And there is. In 2020, Australia exported sheep meat to 88 different markets around the world.³
- I'm not saying this will be simple, but I do think – if we work together – that this can be done (as domestic processing is done in other parts of Australia).

1 ABARES predicts numbers will increase slightly in 2022-23.

2 Dalgleish, M & Agar, O (2019) 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, prepared for LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, accessed October 2022.

3 Chatham House (2023), Resources Trade, viewed January 2023

- So my invitation to the industry is to constructively work with the government so that we are informed on the most practicable way to bring about the phase out.

MORTALITY STATISTICS

Key Point/s

- Sheep bound for export continue to have higher mortality rates compared to other animals for live export.
- In 2021-22, 0.16% (or 722) of sheep exported died during transit, compared to 0.07% (or 484) of cattle.

Live sheep and cattle by sea mortality rates⁴

Species	Measure	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Sheep	Sheep Exported	1,938,494	1,050,235	922,559	609,128	464,664
	# Mortalities	14,520	2,678	2,203	1,268	722
	% Mortalities	0.75%	0.25%	0.24%	0.2%	0.16%
	# Voyages	77	36	33	12	12
Cattle	Cattle Exported	918,177	1,222,715	1,346,555	866,429	647,763
	# Mortalities	1,067	1,253	1,447	771	484
	% Mortalities	0.12%	0.10%	0.11%	0.09%	0.07%
	# Voyages	224	206	190	162	205

NB. These figures accord with the number of sheep exported as supplied to the department by export companies and vessel operators.

Live sheep and cattle by sea - average voyage duration 2021-22 (days)⁵

Species	Middle East	North Asia	South-East Asia	Total average
Sheep	21.21 days	-	-	21.21 days
Cattle	20.92 days	17.24 (days)	8.39 (days)	10.38 days

⁴ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2023) [‘Reports to Parliament’](#), accessed January 2023.

⁵ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2023) [‘Reports to Parliament’](#), accessed January 2023.

COMMUNITY SENTIMENT SURVEYS

Key Point/s

- Community sentiment surveys show, to varying extents, that a significant proportion of the community either did not support live animal exports or that the industry bothered them a lot.

Important points to note

- Community sentiment is difficult to measure. Results can differ depending on the organisation commissioning the survey and the way questions are asked and reported.
- The current surveys do not differentiate between live sheep exports and the export of other livestock.

LiveCorp – Live exports and the Australian community 2019-2021⁶

- LiveCorp has commissioned Voconiq to conduct surveys of Australians over several years to assess community sentiment toward the livestock export industry.
- Two surveys have been conducted to date in 2019 and 2021, with 8,791 combined participants.
- Of note, the 2021 survey found:
 - 32.8% of participants agreed the live export industry bothered [them] a lot (down from 38.4% in 2019)
 - 72% of participants agreed that animal welfare in the live export industry is a complex issue.
 - Only 35% of participants agreed the live export industry is prepared to change its practices in response to community concern, and just 31% agreed the industry respects community opinions.

RSPCA – Poll on live animal export trade⁷

- The RSPCA commissioned The Digital Edge to conduct a poll on the live sheep export trade in January 2022.
- The purpose of the poll was to measure community sentiment on live animal exports and the northern summer prohibited period.
- The polling was conducted among a representative sample of 1,500 Australians.
- 67% of respondents supported ending live animal exports.
- 45% of respondents felt the Northern Hemisphere Summer prohibition period should be longer, 33% felt it should remain the same, and 22% felt it should be shorter.

The Australian Greens surveys⁸

- On 29 November 2022 the media reported a survey commissioned by the Australian Greens stated more than half of Australian's want the live export industry phased out within two years.

⁶ Voconiq (2022) '[Live exports and the Australian community 2019-2021](#)', prepared for LiveCorp, accessed October 2022

⁷ The Digital Edge (2022) '[Independent poll](#)', prepared for RSPCA, accessed October 2022

⁸ Parliament of Australia (2022) '[Export Control \(Animals\) Amendment \(Northern Hemisphere Summer Prohibition\) Rules 2022](#)', accessed October 2022

- Media suggests the survey found:
 - 26% of Australia's believe there should be an immediate ban on live export
 - 32% believe it should be phased out within 2 years
 - 24% wanted a five-year or longer phase out
 - 17% did not want the industry shut down.⁹
- During the debate on the disallowance motion against the Export Control (Animals) Amendment (Northern Hemisphere Summer Prohibition) Rules 2022, it appears the Greens commissioned Lonergan Research to conduct a poll in 2022 that found 58% of Australians support a ban on live sheep exports this term of government.

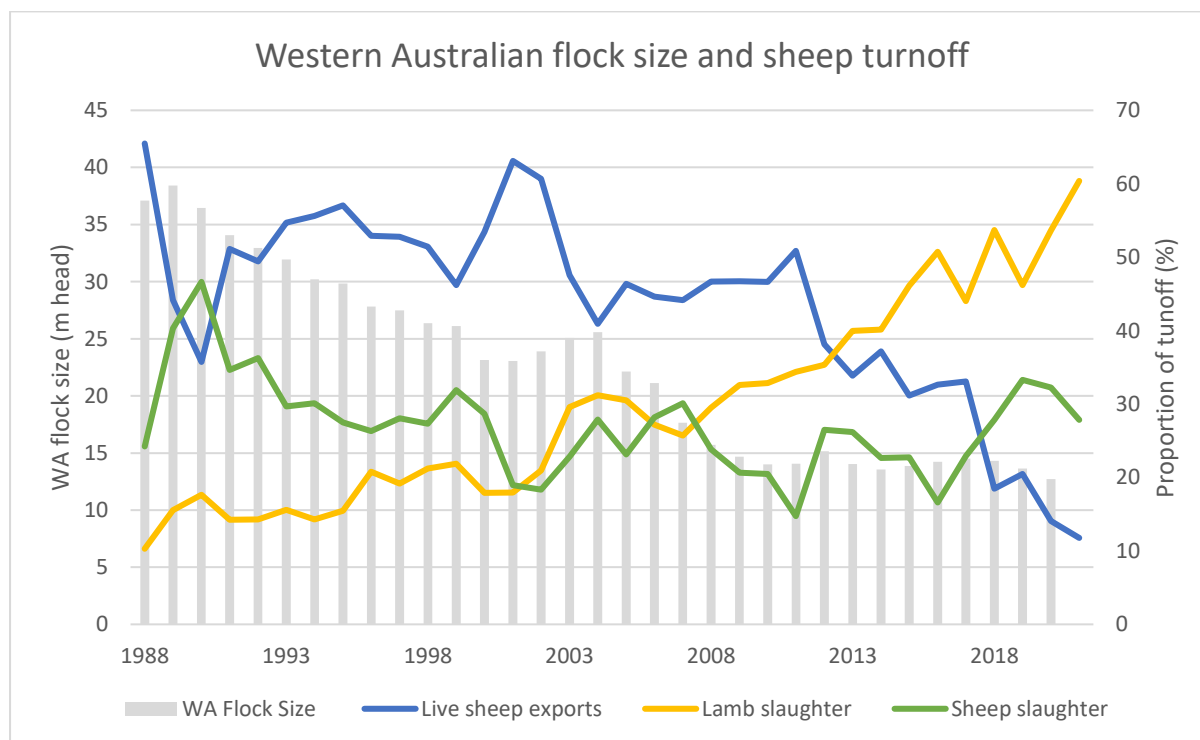
⁹ <https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/7993260/greens-to-push-labor-further-and-faster-on-live-export-ban/>

REGIONAL OVERVIEW – LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

Key Point/s

- Live sheep exports comprised approximately 12% of sheep turnoff (by volume) in Western Australia in 2021–22. This is down from more than 60% in 2001–02. This means there are other market options for the remainder of the sheep being turned off.

Figure 1: Western Australian flock size and sheep turnoff (head)¹⁰



Live sheep **exported by sea** have only departed from the Port of Fremantle since 2020¹¹:

SEA	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	Total
Fremantle	1,593,552	938,669	1,074,344	777,798	552,957	486,323	99,160	5,522,803
Port Adelaide (SA)	239,896	201,118	-	-	-	-	-	441,014
Portland (VIC)	11,824	3,721	2,650	-	-	-	-	18,195
Total	1,845,272	1,143,508	1,076,994	777,798	552,957	486,323	99,160	5,982,012

* Year to date as at 17 February 2023

According to the report, [Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade](#), which was commissioned by LiveCorp¹²:

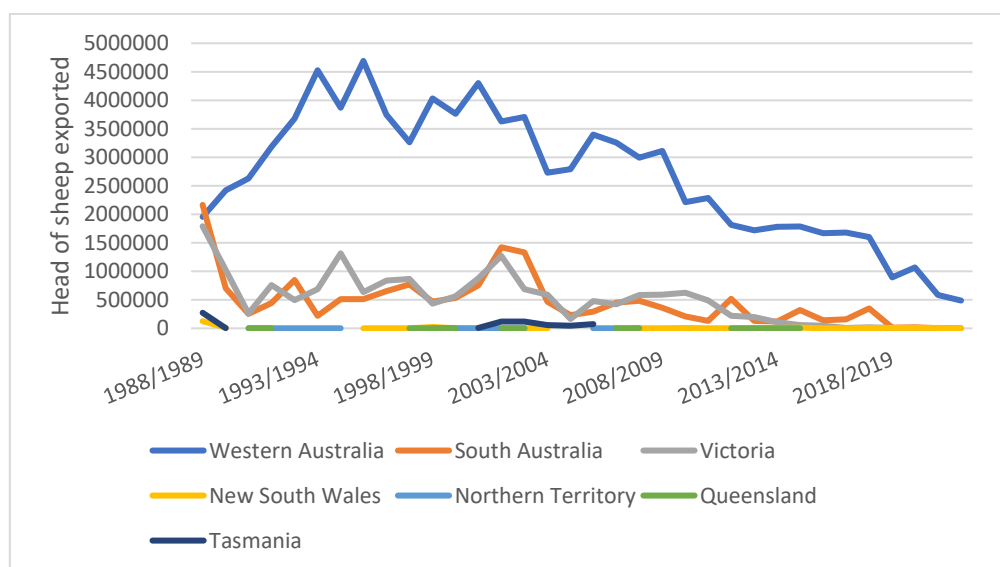
¹⁰ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

¹¹ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2022) 'All Livestock Exports', accessed February 2023.

¹² Dagleish, M & Agar, O (2019) 'Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade', Mecardo, prepared for LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia, accessed October 2022.

- Between 2014-2018, approximately 83 per cent or 1.5 million sheep per year - on average - were exported from Western Australia.
- Between 2014-2018, approximately 279,000 sheep were exported from the Port of Adelaide (SA) on average per year, and 39,000 sheep from Portland (Vic) on average per year. This includes sheep sourced from South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria.
- In Western Australia, sheep destined for the live sheep exports market are sourced from the southwest region of WA. During the period 2014-18, this accounted for approximately 28% of total sheep and lamb turn off for WA.
- Over the period 2014-2018, sheep exported from South-East Australia accounted for 1.2% of total sheep and lamb turn off. This included:
 - 5.6% from South Australian farms
 - 0.3% from Victorian farms
 - 0.1% from the remaining states.
- Sales to live export made approximately 1.5% of total sales in the SA Northern pastoral zone during this period. .

Figure 2: Number of live sheep exported from Australia by state and territories

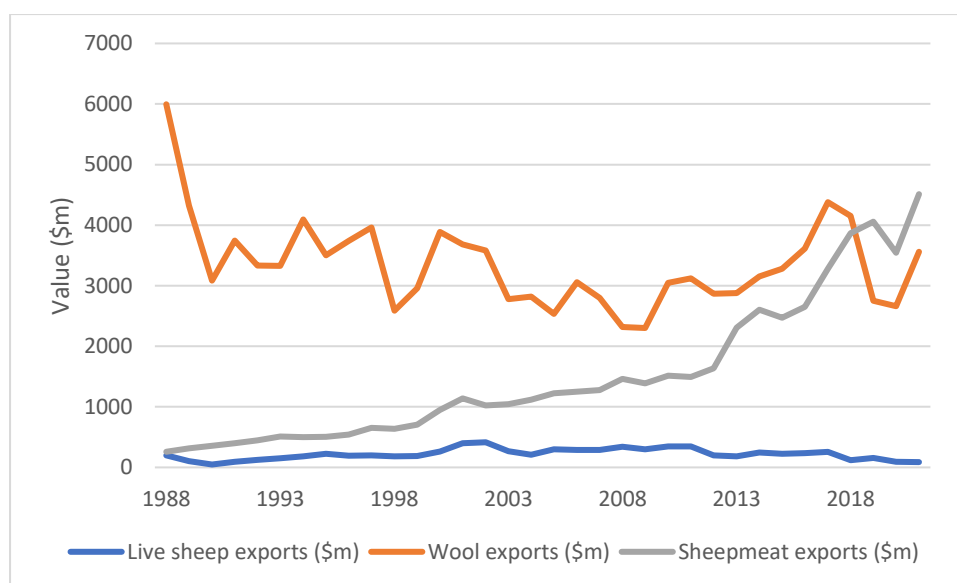


- Sheep destined for the live sheep exports market in WA have since declined further, with only 12% of turnoff in WA going to the live exports trade in 2021–22.¹³
- According to the report, [Value Analysis of the Australian Live Sheep Export Trade](#) (including as identified in case studies contained in the report), Western Australian farmers utilise the live sheep export market for some of the following reasons:

¹³ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

- Access to the trade provides farmers with an assurance they can access markets to turn off stock at any point, assisting them to take on greater risk. (Noting the introduction of the Northern Hemisphere Summer Moratorium has changed these dynamics).
- The live sheep export market provides an orderly method to sell surplus wethers from flocks dominated by merinos (for wool production).
- It allows farmers to control livestock numbers and helps them utilise pasture in a sustainable way, manage businesses efficiently, and ensure additional resilience to the farming enterprise.
- Farmers can utilise the live sheep export trade as a risk management tool, particularly at a vulnerable time in the season, particularly given WA seasonal conditions and a desire to reduce reliance on domestic processing capacity.
- Use of this market is, however, ultimately a commercial decision and not the only option.
- Nationally, the sheep industry has pivoted towards sheep meat exports, with the value of wool exports relatively stable (albeit seasonally variable) following the 1991 crash, sheep meat exports increasing, and live sheep exports decreasing over time.

Figure 3: Value of live sheep, sheep meat and wool exports (\$m)¹⁴



Most consignments of sheep **exported by air**¹⁵ are for breeding purposes, and depart from:

AIR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Adelaide (SA)	17,917	11,765	19,936	6,214	494	-	987	57,313
Avalon (VIC)	-	1,344	-	-	-	-	-	1,344

¹⁴ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

¹⁵ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2022) '[All Livestock Exports](#)', accessed February 2023.

Melbourne (VIC)	1,658	1,481	1,781	3,261	2,741	300	-	11,222
Perth (WA)	20,018	8,706	14,502	20,149	11,687	12,466	-	87,528
Sydney (NSW)	2,551	9,247	5,286	4,059	7,650	3,669	-	32,462
Total	42,144	32,543	41,505	33,683	22,572	16,435	987	189,869

- Feeder / slaughter sheep have been exported by air to Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore, with around 11,000 exported by air to Malaysia in 2022 and around 22,500 exported by air to Malaysia and Brunei in 2021. These sheep were exported from Perth, Sydney, and Adelaide.

SHEEP MEAT EXPORTS AND POTENTIAL NEW MARKETS

Key Point/s

- In 2020, Australia exported sheep meat to 88 different markets around the world.¹⁶
- The AU-UK Free Trade Agreement (in the process of being ratified) and the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (under negotiation) will open new markets for Australian sheepmeat.

Additional information

- Australia was the largest exporter of sheep meat globally in 2020.¹⁷
 - In 2020, Australia exported sheep meat to 88 different markets around the world.¹⁸
 - In 2021-22, Australia's top 5 sheep meat (lamb and mutton) export markets by value were the United States, China, Malaysia, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.¹⁹
- Australian sheep meat production is anticipated to grow by 19% from 692,400t to 806,000t by 2031.²⁰
- While total exports are expected to fall from record levels reached in 2021-22, there continues to be strong demand from the United States and China for chilled and frozen sheepmeat products.²¹
- The AU-UK Free Trade Agreement (in the process of being ratified) and the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (under negotiation) will open new markets for Australian sheepmeat, that together are worth 7% of global Gross Domestic Product.²²
- The AU-UK FTA will provide:
 - immediate access to a duty-free quota of 25,000 tonnes, rising in equal instalments to 75,000 tonnes in year 10 for Australian sheep meat
 - in the subsequent 5 years (years 11-15 after entry into force) a product specific safeguard will be applied on sheep meat imports exceeding a further volume threshold rising in equal instalments to 125,000 tonnes, levying a safeguard duty of 20 per cent for the rest of the calendar year
 - out-of-quota tariffs will remain at most favoured nation (MFN) until year 10 and then be eliminated.²³
- Two of Australia's largest importers of live sheep – Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – imported more sheep meat from Australia than live sheep (by value) in 2021-22.²⁴

¹⁶ Chatham House (2023), Resources Trade, viewed January 2023

¹⁷ Meat and Livestock Australia (2021) '[State of the Industry Report 2021](#)' Date accessed: October 2022

¹⁸ Chatham House (2023), Resources Trade, viewed January 2023

¹⁹ Chatham House (2023), Resources Trade, viewed January 2023

²⁰ Austrade (2022) '[Insight – Australian exporters to benefit from growing global appetite for sheepmeat](#)', accessed January 2023.

²¹ ABARES (2022) Agricultural forecasts and outlook: September quarter 2022, Agricultural Commodities Report, Vol 12.3

²² Meat and Livestock Australia (2022) MLA Global sheepmeat industry and trade report, accessed February 2023

²³ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2022) [Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement: Benefits for Farmers](#), accessed February 2023

²⁴ ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

- Australia's largest export market for live sheep, Kuwait, imported more sheep meat from Australia in two consecutive years from 2017-18 to 2018-19.
 - In 2021-22 imports were comparable, with Kuwait importing A\$47.5m of live sheep and around A\$44m of sheep meat.²⁵
- In 2022, Kuwait accepted extended shelf-life for Australian chilled for chilled vacuum-packed sheep meat for 90 days from slaughter.
 - Kuwait was the last of the Gulf States to recognise the extended shelf-life policies which has been a barrier to upscaled export of these products.²⁶

Table 1: Value of total sheep meat and live sheep exports trade from Australia (AUD million)²⁷

Commodity	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Sheep meat	\$3,282.2m	\$3,865.2m	\$4,056.4m	\$3,544.7m	\$4,511.5m
Live Sheep	\$258.8m	\$121.1m	\$157.3m	\$92.8m	\$85.2m

Table 2: Top five importers of sheep meat from Australia (AUD)²⁸

Country	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
USA	\$749m	\$931m	\$885m	\$913m	\$1.3b
China	\$562m	\$863m	\$1.2b	\$972m	\$1b
UAE	\$219m	\$236m	\$233m	\$184m	\$217m
Malaysia	\$160m	\$172m	\$187m	\$203m	\$278m
Korea	\$127m	\$147m	\$154m	\$177m	\$220m

²⁵ABS, Information Consultancy Services, 2007, cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra.

²⁶ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Trade and Market Access Division, Pers comms, January 2023

²⁷ABS, Information Consultancy Services (2007) cat. no. 9920.0, Canberra

²⁸ ABARES trade dashboard – sheep meat

ANIMAL WELFARE – SELECT INFORMATION AND HISTORY

The Northern Hemisphere Summer Review²⁹

- Regulatory settings introduced following the Awassi Express incident, including an absolute prohibition period during the hottest, most humid part of the Northern Hemisphere summer, have been effective in improving animal welfare outcomes and minimising the risk of heat stress and heat stress mortalities for sheep exported to the Middle East.
- Behavioural and physiological response to heat (including panting) were reported on 60% of voyages in the study (9 out of 15 voyages). Observations from Independent Observers and Australian Accredited Veterinarians included, for example:
 - open mouth breathing was observed in several sheep per deck during the hottest part of the voyage
 - respiration rates rose around the equator and again after entering the Red Sea
 - elevated panting scores were observed on one day only
 - some sheep open mouth panting...after watching them for several minutes their respiratory rate would slow and they brought up a cud and began to chew.
- Voyages travelling through the Red Sea reported fewer behavioural and physiological responses to heat than those travelling to the Persian Gulf.
- Underlying health conditions, including inanition and respiratory disease, were reported to possibly contribute to mortalities during elevated wet bulb temperature on one voyage.
- No mortalities due to heat stress were reported on the 15 voyages.
- The most frequently reported causes of mortality during 2019-2021 were inanition and gastro-enteric diseases.

Mortality rates and animal welfare indicators

- The Northern Hemisphere Summer Review notes that mortality rates alone do not reflect adequate animal welfare outcomes during live export by sea. If they do significantly decline, it is reasonable to deduce that morbidity rates have also declined and other welfare parameters have improved.
- Voyage mortality rates, as a proxy for animal welfare, have improved since 2016, down from around 14,000 sheep or 1% of all sheep exported in 2017 to 722 sheep or 0.16% of sheep exported in 2021-22.³⁰
- On-farm (domestic) annual mortality rates for breeding ewes is estimated at 2.2%, with a minimum estimate of 1.4% (for single birth) and maximum of 5.05% (for triplets).³¹ It should be noted these are estimates only and that parturition is, by its nature, a traumatic event making these figures difficult to compare to live sheep exports.
- The Heat Stress Risk Assessment Technical Reference Panel stated 'panting score is probably the best of the current measures although panting is both a response to increased thermal

²⁹ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2022) [Review of live sheep exports by sea to, or through, the Middle East during the Northern Hemisphere summer](#), accessed February 2023

³⁰ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2022) ['Reports to Parliament'](#), accessed February 2023

³¹ Meat & Livestock Australia (2021) [Unlocking the keys to ewe survival](#), accessed February 2023

exposure, and an indication that the animal continues to require heat loss to maintain homeostasis.³²

- Despite much scientific research over many years about heat stress in livestock, there does not appear to be scientific consensus that clearly identifies the point when an animal changes from responding to increased heat (being heat affected) to being ‘heat stressed’.
- Additionally, when a sheep is observed to have increased respiratory effort in warm conditions it is thought to be the equivalent to sweating in many other mammals and may not necessarily be a sign of poor welfare.
- Through research undertaken in 2021, the export industry proposed a range of indicators to assess the ability of livestock to cope with periods of heat and humidity and to better understand the welfare impact of heat. Indicators included, for example, panting score, feeding behaviour score, posture, resting, drinking, and ruminating.³³

Independent Observer Reports³⁴

- Independent Observers are departmental staff that accompany livestock export voyages by sea. They play an assurance role and monitor, review and/or audit exporter arrangements on board vessels. They do not take an active role in animal management.
- Some minor observations during the loading and export of live sheep by independent observers have included:
 - inconsistent and inadequate reporting of the causes of sheep deaths
 - late removal of sheep unfit to load
 - facilities that affect the ability to individually handle or remove sheep
 - reluctance of some veterinarians to undertake sheep post-mortems once the vessels reach Middle East waters
 - poor compliance with sheep wool length (noting the department is currently examining mechanisms to address this)
 - entrapment of sheep at feed troughs due to design issues.
- Due to COVID lockdowns, the Independent Observer Program has only recently recommenced.

Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS)³⁵

- Australia is the only country, out of over 100 livestock exporting nations, that requires specific animal welfare conditions for exported feeder and slaughter livestock once they arrive in the importing country. This is managed through the Export Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS).
- 190 reports have been received since ESCAS commenced in response to the 2011 trade suspension to Indonesia. The department releases reports on non-compliance investigations.

³² HSRA Technical Reference Panel (2019), [Final report by the Heat Stress Risk Assessment Technical Reference Panel](#), Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra, May. CC BY 4.0.

³³ T Collins, RS Willis, EJ Dunston-Clarke, A Barnes, D Miller, PA Fleming (2021), [Animal Welfare Indicators Pilot for the Livestock Export Industry Supply Chain](#), LiveCorp, accessed February 2023

³⁴ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2023), [Independent observer reports](#), accessed February 2023 / Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Plant and Live Animal Exports Division (2022), Pers comms

³⁵ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2023) [ESCAS investigations](#), accessed February 2023

- Complaints relating to sheep include, for example:
 - poor animal welfare practices, including by introducing liquid into an animal via nasogastric tube to artificially increase an animal's weight
 - Australian sheep having their legs tied in the back of a ute and being lifted into boots of private cars on the side of a busy road
 - non-compliant handling and slaughter of sheep in an ESCAS approved abattoir
 - sheep being slaughtered outside an approved abattoir.
- In all cases, following notification, the department took immediate action to investigate these incidents and, where appropriate, took timely regulatory action in response.

SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST JANUARY 2023

- In recognition of the importance of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in being valued trading partners, I approved Secretary Andrew Metcalfe AO to travel to the Middle East in January 2023.
- Secretary Metcalfe AO, appropriately, met with government officials that were his equivalent, in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as well as commercial parties, responsible for agriculture, biosecurity and food.
 - Australia's Ambassador to Kuwait, Ms Melissa Kelly, and a senior official of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, accompanied Secretary Metcalfe on these engagements.
- This trip was organised in full cooperation with the Australian Embassy.
- Prior to the trip, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provided advance notice of the trip, and its purpose, to several industry bodies, including the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council.
- After the trip, the department subsequently met with the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council, and LiveCorp, to provide a report on the trip's outcomes.
- The purpose of the trip was to explain the Australian Government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea, and advocate for broader food and agriculture interests.
- In engaging with the Kuwaiti Government, Secretary Metcalfe emphasised that the phase out of live sheep exports by sea from Australia is a domestic policy issue that in no way relates to Australia's longstanding trading relationship with Kuwait.
- Mr Metcalfe conveyed to the Kuwaiti Government, and commercial parties, that exports of Australian sheep to Kuwait will still take place while Australia considers the mechanism and timing to phase out the trade.
- Mr Metcalfe registered that the phase out will not commence within the current term of the Australian Parliament.
- Mr Metcalfe advised that an extensive consultation process will likely commence in 2023, and that Kuwait will be a key stakeholder included in this consultation.

- Mr Metcalfe acknowledged Kuwait's demand for a secure food supply and Australia's continued commitment to supporting strong global food supply chains and partnering with Kuwait to ensure food security.
- As part of this, Mr Metcalfe indicated that Australia would like to explore opportunities to grow its sheep meat exports.
- My understanding is that the overwhelming response that the Secretary received in the Middle East was one of appreciation for the engagement.
- To ensure there is no misunderstandings in market, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be following up with written correspondence to key contacts to ensure that there is a precise understanding of the Australian Government's commitment.

Additional information

- During his visit to Kuwait, Secretary Metcalfe met with:
 - The Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources
 - The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN)
 - Al Mawashi (also known as the Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading), a majority state-owned company and live sheep importer
 - Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries.
- The Secretary met with Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources who had previously written to Minister Watt to make representations on behalf of the Kuwaiti government on the policy to phase out live sheep exports.
- In the lead up to the trip, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry engaged with:
 - in-country staff from Meat & Livestock Australia
 - the department's Consul (Agriculture) – Middle East and North Africa
 - the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 - Austrade
 - diplomatic staff in the region, including the Ambassador to Kuwait, Ms Melissa Kelly.

- In accordance with normal diplomatic protocols the Secretary's meetings were organised by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A senior official from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also wrote to the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council's President, Mr David Galvin, on 7 February 2023 to provide an update.
- Following Secretary Metcalfe's visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a senior official from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also travelled to Oman.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why are live sheep exports by sea being phased out?

- The Australian Government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea is an election commitment, voted for and endorsed by the Australian people.
- There remain significant concerns by parts of the Australian public around animal welfare, and the welfare of sheep being exported by sea and on arrival.

What is the science underpinning the government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea?

- The Australian Government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea is an election commitment, voted for and endorsed by the Australian people.
- It relates to the number of tragedies that have occurred since the 1980s.
 - 67,000 sheep died on the *Uniceb* when it caught fire and sunk in the Indian Ocean in 1996.
 - More than 5,500 sheep died on the *MV Cormo Express* when the shipment was rejected from Saudi Arabia in 2003.
 - 4,000 sheep died on the *Bader 3* when travelling to the Middle East in 2014.
 - Around 2,400 sheep died on the *Awassi Express* when travelling from Australia to the Middle East in 2017.

- Sheep bound for export continue to have higher mortality rates compared to other animals for live export.
 - In 2021-22, 0.16% (or 722) of sheep exported died during transit, compared to 0.07% (or 484) of cattle.

Are live cattle exports next in line to be phased out?

- The government continues to support live cattle exports, and we will not ban it.
- During the election, while the government committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea, we also stated that we continue to support live cattle exports. I will honour these commitments to the Australian people.
- I made this position clear at the LIVEXChange Conference in Darwin on 10 November 2022 and I have written to key industry leaders to reiterate the government's support for live cattle exports.

Why won't the government phase out live cattle exports?

- Live cattle exports are an important export earner, job creator and source of food and security for our trading partners, particularly in south-east Asia.
- The trade is worth more than \$1 billion to the Australian economy each year.

- It is vital for the prosperity of our regional and remote communities, such as Alice Springs, the Barkly and Katherine, delivering up to 61% of value added from the agriculture sector.
- It is a significant employer of Indigenous Australians, with 15% of WA's northern pastoral industry workforce identifying as Indigenous.
- Live cattle are also predominantly exported to our trading partners in south-east Asian countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.
- The cattle exported to these markets are generally Bos indicus type breeds that are capable of adapting to destination climates.
- They spend, on average, approximately half the time on board sea voyages as compared to sheep due to shorter distances to Australia's major export markets.
- Cattle exported by sea have lower mortality rates compared to sheep.

Why won't the government end live sheep exports by sea this term of government?

- I am aware that parts of the community are calling for an immediate or relatively quick end to live sheep exports.
- The Prime Minister and I have been clear that the phase out will not take place during this term of government.

- I intend for this to be an orderly process, and one done in consultation with stakeholders.
- We will develop a plan that considers the needs of impacted stakeholders – the farmers, industries and communities that rely on the live sheep export trade.
 - There is a very human element to doing this, and it is vital we do this right.
 - As Minister for Agriculture, I need to ensure our farmers, particularly in Western Australia, are able to adapt and continue to be productive and profitable once they no longer have access to the live sheep exports trade.
- I also need to ensure the implementation plan is appropriate, feasible and accepted by as many stakeholders as possible.

Why hasn't the government started implementing the phase out?

- I will launch an extensive consultation process to inform the government's implementation plan once arrangements are settled.

Is the delay in implementing the phase out affecting ratification of the UK FTA?

- I have met with my counterparts in the UK and I am confident we can reach agreement on the Free Trade Agreement in the coming weeks.

- I have impressed on my UK counterparts that climatic conditions in Australia mean our farmers have different farming practices compared to their British counterparts.
- I will continue to work with the agriculture sector to improve our already strong agricultural sustainability and animal welfare standards.
- This includes implementing the government's commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

Won't the phase out impact relationships with key trading partners?

- Australia is a highly trusted global supplier of agriculture and food products.
 - We send more than 70% of our agricultural produce to 178 countries.
 - We have a strong track record of supplying high quality food and fibre to the world.
- I am conscious some trading partners may be disappointed with the government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea.
- That is why I am keen to work with them to outline why we are phasing out this trade, and also explore other opportunities to export our high-quality sheep meat and other agricultural products to trading partners.

Why is the government ceasing market access protocol negotiations while the trade continues to be legal?

- There is considerable work to be done before the phase out can happen, including consultation and development of a sensible transition plan.
- Industry requests for the development of new government-to-government agreed protocols for live sheep exports will continue to be considered within my department's resourcing capacity.

If industry continues to improve animal welfare outcomes, will the government rescind its commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea?

- The Australian Government's decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea is an election commitment, voted for and endorsed by the Australian people.
- Improvements to animal welfare and transparency by industry are welcome but not within the scope of the government's policy to phase out live sheep exports by sea.

Will the phase out result in job losses in Western Australia? How will the government mitigate this?

- I will be undertaking extensive consultation to inform our commitment to phase out of live sheep exports by sea.

- This will consider the impacts of the phase out, including on farmers, across the supply chain and, importantly, on employment in rural and regional Australia.
- It will also include exploring opportunities to create more regional jobs, such as in the meat processing sector.

Why does the policy only apply to live sheep exports by sea and not air?

- There is no evidence that there are any welfare issues with sheep exported by air.
- In 2021–22, only 1 mortality occurred from the ~22,000 sheep exported by air.

How will the government support farmers, particularly in Western Australia, once live sheep exports by sea are phased out?

- I acknowledge there are many businesses involved in the preparation, transport and export of sheep.
- I'm very open to exploring issues, such what industry support might be required, and what other opportunities might exist in the way of new markets or meat processing.
- I am committed to supporting a profitable Australian sheep industry.

Will you commit to passing legislation to shut down the industry in this term of parliament, even if the end date goes beyond this term?

- We have committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea. The timeline and mechanism for implementing this commitment will be part of our consultation with stakeholders.

Will phasing out live sheep exports by sea affect global food security?

- While I acknowledge many Muslim countries express a preference for live sheep for cultural reasons, the consumption of chilled and frozen sheep meat in the Middle East is strong.
- Two of Australia's largest importers of live sheep – Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – imported more sheep meat from Australia than live sheep (by value) in 2021-22.
- Australia's largest export market for live sheep (Kuwait) imported more sheep meat from Australia in two consecutive years from 2017-18 to 2018-19. In 2021-22 imports were comparable, with Kuwait importing A\$47.5m of live sheep and around A\$44m of sheep meat.

Won't global animal welfare standards decrease if Australia phases out live sheep exports by sea?

- As a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly the OIE), Australia contributes to developing,

maintaining, and promoting internationally agreed animal welfare standards.

- As an active member in this forum, we will continue to work to ensure robust standards are in place for the betterment of animal welfare globally.

Will Australia be able to substitute ‘value-added’ sheep meat products in its existing live sheep export markets?

- I am confident there are opportunities to grow our markets for our world-class sheep meat products.
- ABARES analysis shows there is strong demand for sheep meat from both the United States and China, which are supporting high returns for lamb and mutton in the last 3 years.

What are you going to do to support the industry to find alternative markets?

- I will consult widely on this matter, including with the export industry, farmers, communities, trading partners, supply chain participants, animal welfare organisations, and my colleagues and state government counterparts, to develop a transition plan that is fair and orderly.
- We will work with industry to identify new markets and meat processing opportunities.

- The phase out won't occur in this term of government. I want to ensure farmers and industry have time to prepare for a move away from live exports.

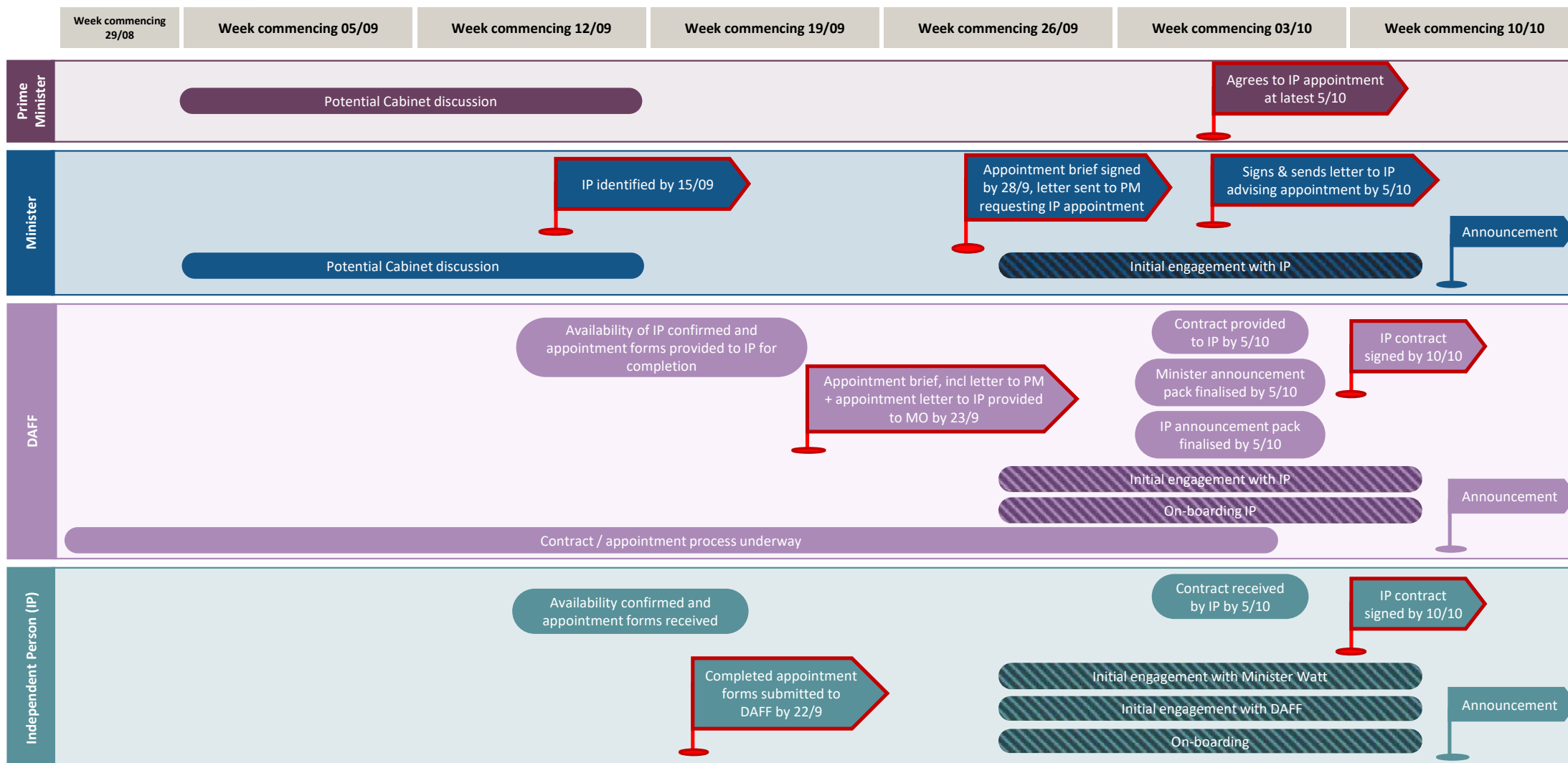
Will the government compensate farmers and supply chain participants once the phase out take place?

- I acknowledge we are dealing with a complex supply chain, with many businesses involved in the preparation, transport, and export of sheep.
- I'm very open to discussing issues like the timeframe for implementation, how it will be done, what kind of industry support might be required, and what other opportunities might exist in the way of new markets or meat processing.
- There is a lot of room for negotiation and discussion in how and when we will implement the phase out, and I'm not in a rush to do so.
- I will consult widely on this matter, including with the export industry, farmers, communities, supply chain participants, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians and my colleagues and state government counterparts, to develop a transition plan that is fair and orderly.

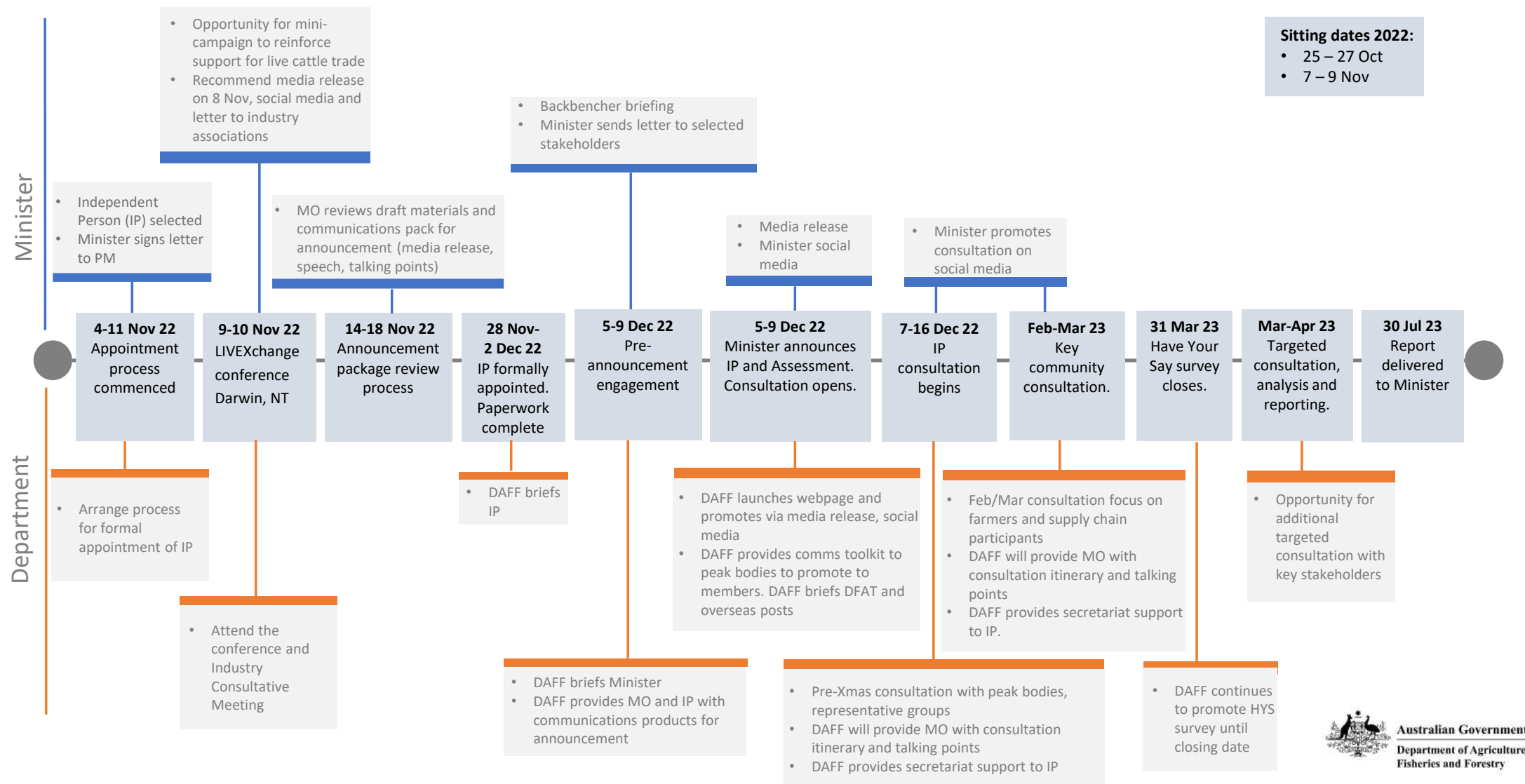


Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS PHASE OUT – INDEPENDENT PERSON (IP) APPOINTMENT



Live Sheep Exports Phase Out: Proposed Communications and Consultation

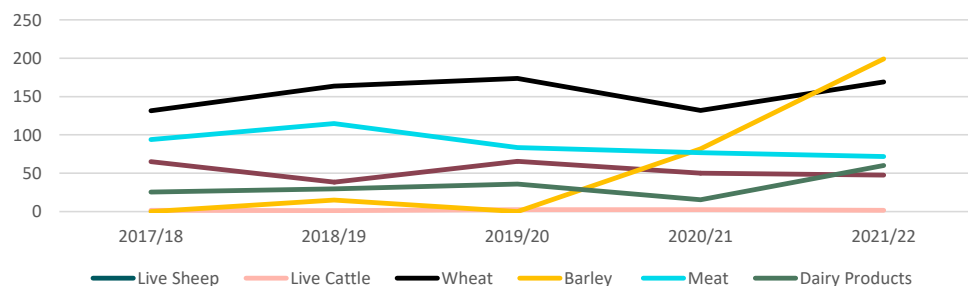


Agricultural trade with Kuwait

TWO WAY TRADE STATISTICS

- Australia – Kuwait two way trade was approx. A\$500m in 2021, with around 93% of products exported to Kuwait.
- Australia's exports to Kuwait 2021-22 (AUD): barley (\$199m), wheat (\$169m), meat (\$72m), dairy (\$60m) and live sheep (\$47.5m).
- Australia imported fertiliser from Kuwait worth A\$27m in 2019 (3% of total fertiliser imports) but has not exported fertiliser to Australia in subsequent years.
- Kuwait invested approx. A\$11.5b in Australian infrastructure and services in 2021 through the Kuwait Investment Authority.
- Australia's sheep meat exports to Kuwait 2021-22: ~ 4089t of sheep meat worth ~ A\$44m.
- Red meat exports to Kuwait have declined by more than A\$45m since peaking in 2018-19. This could be for range of reasons including the currently high Australian sheep prices.
- Australia's live cattle exports to Kuwait 2021-22: 613 head of cattle worth A\$1.4m.

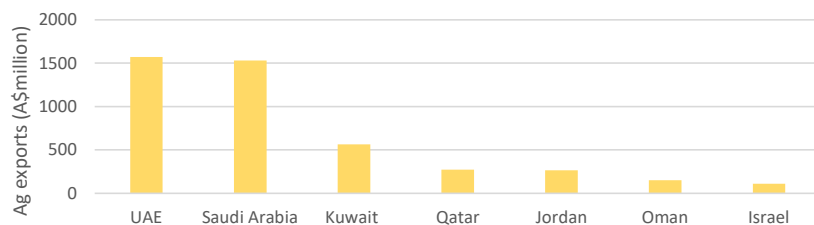
Agricultural Trade to Kuwait (A\$m)



MARKET CONTEXT

- In 2020, Kuwait imported agricultural products from India (US\$477m), Saudi Arabia (US\$441m), UAE (US\$303m), Australia (US\$280m) and USA (US\$212m).
- Kuwait's major export commodities are petroleum products, metals, dairy products and cereals.
- Kuwait is a member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and has made significant investments across the Gulf.
- Almost 98% of Kuwait's food is imported, thus food security is a major concern and a key priority in its National Pathway to Sustainable Food Systems 2030 Strategy.

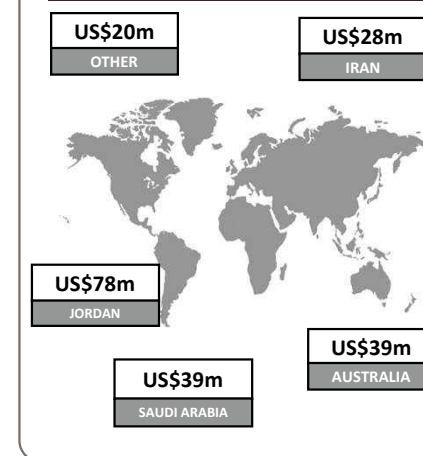
Australia's Middle Eastern agriculture exports 2021-22 (\$m)



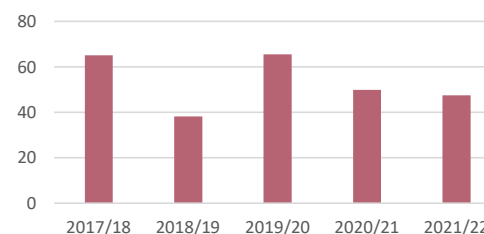
LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS STATISTICS

- ~ 281,000 sheep were exported from Australia to Kuwait in 2021-22 with a market value of A\$47.5m.
- 57.5% of Australia's live sheep were exported to Kuwait in 2021-22.
- Major exporter RETWA, a subsidiary of Kuwaiti company Al Mawashi, exported around 84% (volume) of Australia's live sheep by sea, worth ~ A\$69.2m to the Middle East in 2021-22:
 - Kuwait (A\$47.5m)
 - United Arab Emirates (UAE) (A\$16.7m)
 - Oman (A\$4.9m)
- Australia also exported live sheep to Israel (A\$9.3m) and Jordan (A\$1.1m) in the Middle East in 2021-22.
- Pre Dec 2021 Qatar was a major market due to subsidised live sheep & meat imports. Exports decreased when subsidies were withdrawn in Jan 2021.
- Al Mawashi reports it has invested ~A\$165m in the last three years to meet Australia's regulatory requirements.
- Australia's live sheep exports to Kuwait have declined in volume by ~45% (2017-18 to 2021-22) since stricter regulations, including the prohibition during the Northern Hemisphere Summer, were introduced.

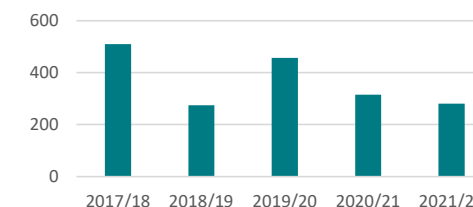
TOP 5 LIVE SHEEP EXPORTERS TO KUWAIT (2020)



Australia-Kuwait live sheep trade value (A\$m)



Australia-Kuwait live sheep trade volume ('000)



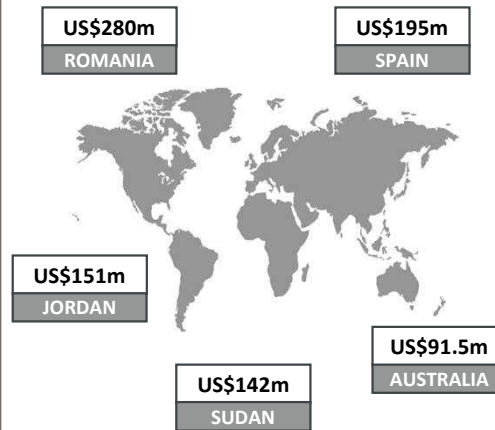
s. 33(a)(iii)

Live sheep exports phase out by sea overview

CURRENT SITUATION

- Live sheep exports accounted for 0.2% of the value of Australia's total ag exports (2020-21) & 6.4% of the world live sheep trade (2020).
- A number of incidents have occurred since the 1980s including the *Awassi Express* where around 2,400 sheep died when travelling from Australia to the Middle East in 2017.
- Stricter regulations introduced since 2018 included a prohibition on sheep exports over the hottest months of the Northern Hemisphere Summer, increased pen space, body condition score limits, automatic watering systems & increased oversight via independent observers.
- As a result, animal welfare has improved and mortality rates have decreased from ~14,500 (0.75%) in 2017-18 to ~1,268 (0.2%) in 2020-21.
- While the industry has made improvements, some parts of Australia's community remain concerned about animal welfare of live sheep exports.

TOP 5 GLOBAL SHEEP EXPORTERS (2020)



SCOPE AND INTENT

- The Australian Government committed to phasing out live sheep exports at the 2022 election due to ongoing domestic concerns about the welfare of sheep during export and on arrival.
 - The phase out will not happen in this term of government (term ends mid-2025).
 - The phase out will only apply to live sheep exports by sea.
 - The phase out will not directly impact other live export industries, including live cattle exports.
- The phase out will involve significant government consultation with stakeholders.
- The government will explore adjustment options such as onshore sheep meat processing with the potential to generate more jobs and income.

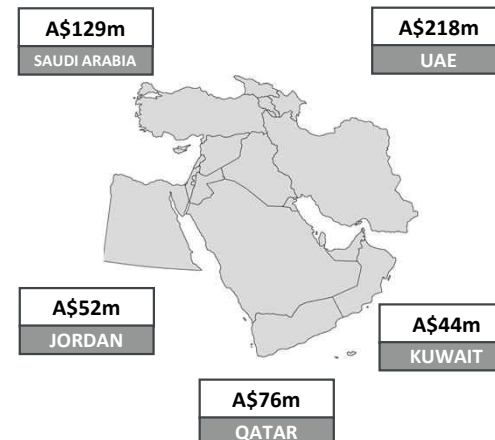
PROPOSED APPROACH

- Extensive consultation will be undertaken, including with exporters, farmers & farming organisations, trading partners, animal welfare organisations & state and territory governments.
- The consultation process will commence early 2023 and seek views on:
 - HOW** to phase out live sheep exports by sea
 - WHEN** the phase out should take place
 - WHAT** support (or whether support) should be provided
 - WHAT** opportunities might exist
- The consultation will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy.

OPPORTUNITIES

- A focus of consultation with trading partners will be exploring opportunities to export more chilled and frozen sheep meat, including to countries in the Middle East that currently import large volumes of live sheep, such as Kuwait and UAE.
 - This will include understanding any barriers to increasing exports such as cold supply chain limitations, cultural needs, & pricing.
- Australia's top 5 sheep meat markets are USA (A\$1.3b), China (A\$1b), Malaysia (A\$278m), Korea (A\$220m) and UAE (A\$217m) (2021-22).
- Australia's sheep meat markets to the Middle East were worth A\$567m which was ~13% (value) of the trade in 2021-22.

TOP 5 AUSTRALIAN SHEEP MEAT EXPORTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST (2021-22)



s. 33(a)(iii)

MISINFORMATION

- We are aware there is misinformation – whether deliberate or out of confusion – relating to the phase out commitment.
- This includes, for example, that:
 - the government is open to changing its mind
 - legislation to support the phase out will be introduced in this term of government
 - live sheep exports will end next year
 - live cattle exports are next to be banned
 - the decision to phase out live sheep exports by sea is an attack on trading partners' food security.
- We will address misinformation, particularly with trading partners – by reiterating that the phase out is due to domestic concerns and not a reflection on the broader relationship – consulting with trading partners and explaining the phase out will not be implemented until at least mid-2025.



Kuwait sensitivities

s. 33(a)(iii)



Middle East live sheep export supply chain

KEY PLAYERS

KUWAIT LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT AND TRADING (AL MAWASHI)

Founded in 1973, Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading (Al Mawashi) is a joint stock holding between the Kuwaiti Government and public shareholders, and the major importer of sheep into the country. The company has a complete supply chain including transportation, feedlots, abattoirs, packaging, and retail of livestock and meat. Its headquarters are based in Kuwait but it has a global footprint with subsidiaries in the UAE, Australia, and South Africa.

Al Mawashi has two main vessels trading from Australia:

- Al Messilah: 75,000 sheep and 800 cattle capacity
- Al Kuwait: 80,000 sheep Or 15,000 cattle capacity.

Al Mawashi owns two feedlots in the Middle East:

- Feedlot in Kuwait covering approx. 4 million square meters with capacity for 200,000 head of cattle.
- MLA recognized feedlot in UAE, covering approx. 285,000 square meters with capacity for 100,000 head of cattle.

Al Mawashi constructed the largest abattoir in the Middle East:

- Kuwait abattoir has capacity to slaughter 18,000 head per day.

TRANS EMIRATES LIVESTOCK TRADING L.L.C. (AL MAWASHI UAE)

Al Mawashi's first subsidiary company was established in the UAE in 1982. It is the operations arm of Al Mawashi, importing and exporting livestock, as well as fresh and chilled meat products to the Middle East.

RURAL EXPORT AND TRADING WESTERN AUSTRALIA (RETWA)

RETWA was granted its Export Licence in 2018 and is a subsidiary of Al Mawashi based in Western Australia. RETWA sought its licence following the then cancellation of Emanuel Exports and EMS Exports' export licences. RETWA's principal business is to provide a link between producers of livestock in Australia and Middle Eastern consumers. RETWA exported nearly 84% (volume) of Australia's live sheep by sea to the Middle East in 2021-22.

Exports to: Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE

Uses Al Mawashi's ships.

Live sheep consignments in 2021-22: 399,673

Peel feedlot in Mardella, Western Australia is owned and operate by RETWA.

EMANUEL EXPORTS

Emanuel Exports is a livestock exporter in Western Australia. It is owned by Daws and Son Pty Ltd & Devoncourt Pty Ltd. The company had its live export licence cancelled on 22 June 2018 in response to findings from an investigation into the *Awassi Express* incident in 2017. The licence was reinstated on 3 December 2021. There is limited public facing information about Emanuel Exports.

Previously exported live sheep to: Kuwait, Oman, UAE

Has not exported live sheep since June 2018.

EMS RURAL EXPORTS

EMS Rural Exports is a South Australian company. Its main business is the export of livestock. EMS' export licence was also cancelled after the investigation into the *Awassi Express* incident because of the degree of association (e.g. common staff in management and control) between the two companies. The licence was reinstated on 3 December 2021.

Has not exported live sheep since May 2018.

LIVESTOCK SHIPPING SERVICES (LSS)

Established in 1998 and based in Western Australia, LSS is an exporter and importer of livestock. LSS' parent company, Hijazi and Ghosheh, is based in Jordan.

Exports to: Israel, Jordan, Kuwait

Ships: LSS owns 11 vessels, with four trading from Australia.

- Bader III: 110,000 Sheep (or 75,000 sheep & 10,000 cattle)
- Maysora: 110,000 sheep (or 70,000 sheep & 12,000 cattle)
- Ghena: 85,000 sheep (or 18,000 cattle & 16,000 sheep)
- Dareen: 8,000 cattle.

Live sheep consignments in 2021-22: 64,317

INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPORT (ILE)

Founded in 1989, ILE is a major player in the Australian livestock export industry, shipping cattle, sheep and goats to South East Asia and the Middle East.

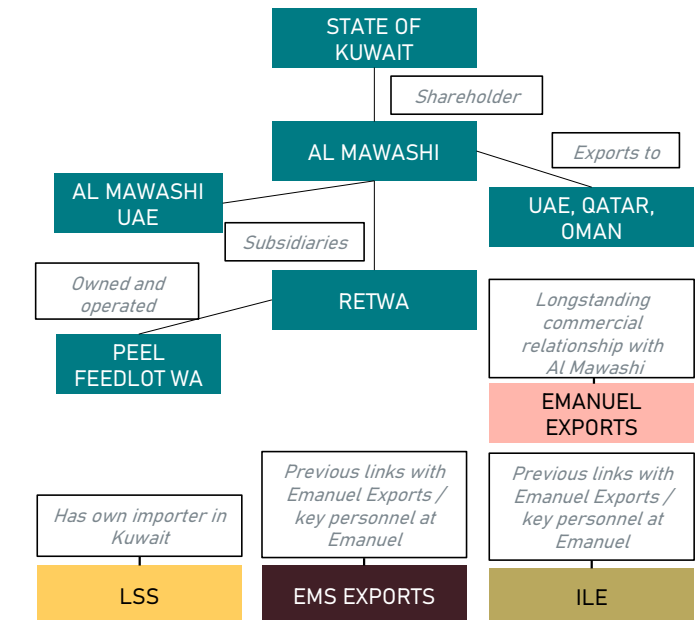
Previously exported live sheep to: Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore

Last live sheep consignment was to Malaysia in May 2021.

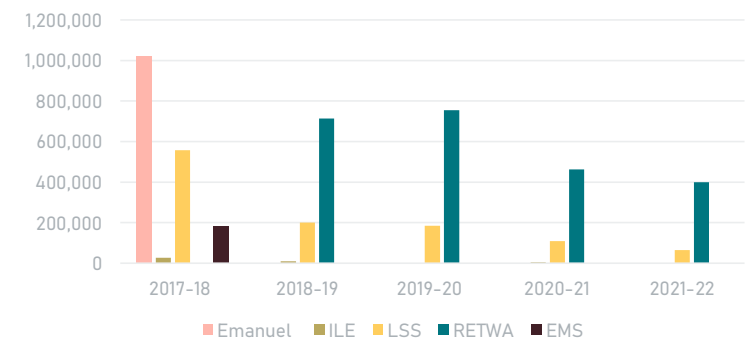
RELATIONSHIPS MATRIX

The live export supply chain to the Middle East is interconnected.

Al Mawashi has an integrated supply chain between Australia and the Middle East. It is also common for staff to work across export companies, for example, Graham Daws, former Emanuel Exports Director, was at one time management and control at ILE, and Dr Holly Ludeman, has played key roles at both Emanuel and LSS.



SHEEP CONSIGNMENTS BY AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK EXPORTER



Stakeholder views

Common issues being raised by stakeholders across the live sheep export industry focus on a desire to maintain the trade, improvements made to animal welfare standards, ensuring a secure and reliable supply of sheep and confirming a return on investments made in Australia and across the Gulf.

Al Mawashi / Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading (KLTT)

Dr Herbert Rebhan, Chief Vet onboard Al Kuwait livestock carrier, *interview on ABC radio* (8/11/22)

- “It’s actually what people don’t understand is good animal welfare or excellent animal welfare is excellent business practices.”
- “Work has gone on to consistently improve the handling of the animals.”
- “Without us in the game, other sources are going to be sought and probably out of most likely North Africa as well as East Africa.”
- “Our federal government ... they should put a pause on their plans to end live animal export and just see what happens to the New Zealand economy.”

Rural Export and Trading WA (RETWA)

Murray Frangs, General Manager, *West Australian* (11/10/22)

- “Our focus is just making sure that politicians and the public can be well educated.”
- “(Farmers have) well grown lambs that they can’t move off because of the limitations with the processors”.

Murray Frangs, comments to Brooke Littlewood, *Farm Weekly* (13/10/22)

- “More than 500 people were dedicated to preparing the first shipment for departure.”

Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council (ALEC)

David Galvin, Chairman, *Letter to Minister Watt* (7/6/22)

- “Our members deliver value and prosperity to regional Australian communities and uphold the highest animal welfare standards while delivering high quality Australian livestock to the world.”
- “A ban on live sheep exports is unwarranted intervention in the industry. The policy that Labor took to the 2019 election to phase out live sheep exports was designed for a different set of circumstances at that time - these do not reflect the industry today.”

Pastoralists and Graziers WA

Tony Seabrook, President, *Countryman* (16/6/22)

- “Any decision about phasing out live exports will have a major impact on the livelihoods of tens of thousands of families in rural and regional WA.”

The Livestock Collective

Holly Ludeman, Managing Director (also on-board vet and Emanuel Exports Corporate Governance Officer), *Letter to Minister Watt* (17/6/22)

- “There is no shortage of demand for live sheep internationally.”
- “The live sheep export industry is an important contributor to Australian agriculture and regional economies”

Steve Bolt, Producer and Livestock Collective Director, *Sheep Central* (10/6/22)

- “Mr Watt’s statements that closing the trade is the right thing to do is not backed by any facts or science.”
- “All of the live sheep are processed (in-market) and go into wet markets. They will not replace it with boxed, chilled or frozen product.”
- “Australia being in the market and being a clear leader in animal welfare has flowed on to standards in other markets throughout the world.”

Sheep Producers Australia

Jamie Heinrich, Director, *Sheep Central* (16/9/22)

- “Australia’s strict animal welfare legislation must be upheld, and producers should comply with the national Fit to Load Guide.”
- “Animal welfare is not negotiable in our industry and we are committed to ensuring that our welfare assurance programs are efficient and effective and meet the expectations of our consumers and the community.”

Bonnie Skinner, CEO, *Sheep Central* (19/9/22)

- “It is paramount that any future regulatory arrangements are based on evidence, data and supported by firmly established science.”
- “Our markets for Australian live sheep in the Middle East remain integral to the success of Western Australian sheep producers.”

WA Farmers Federation

John Hassell, President, *7 West Media* (20/9/22)

- “Nobody wants to see their animal treated badly, ... the protections are in place for the northern summer and I think that’s a good thing.”

John Hassell, President, *7 News (Australia/Perth)* (30/11/22)

- “It’s based on emotion, not based on science, and if you look at the science, the success rate of the live sheep trade at the moment is really, really, really high, very few mortalities, in fact less mortalities on the ships than what naturally occurs on a farm.”

We are currently unaware of any public commentary from some industry participants, including Emanuel Exports, LSS, ILE and EMS Exports.



Livestock exports data and statistics

2021-22 VOLUME Total head for sea and air exports:

488,819	614,731	12,571	2,877	661
Sheep	Cattle	Buffalo	Goats	Alpaca

2021-22 VALUE Total \$AUD for sea and air exports:

\$85m	\$1.19b	\$1.9m	\$1.1m
Sheep	Cattle (incl buffalo)	Goats	Alpaca + camels

LIVE EXPORT INDUSTRY

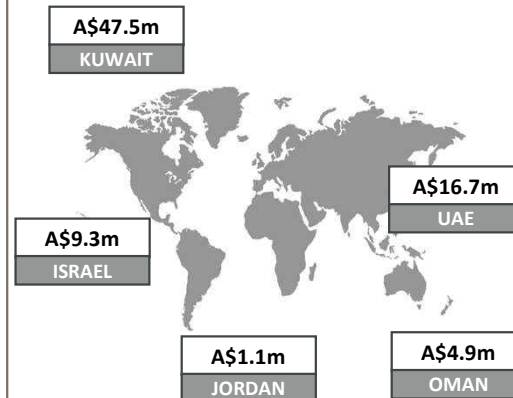
Direct employment (sheep) : 1,037 Indirect employment (sheep): 3,443

Exporters: 38 Registered Establishments: 66 Accredited vets: 163

LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS 2021-22

- 97% of sheep were exported by sea; 3% by air.
- 99% of sheep were exported for the feeder / slaughter market.
- The Middle East is the largest market, with 57.5% sheep exported to Kuwait, 20% to UAE, 12% to Israel, 6% to Oman and 1.5% to Jordan.
- Live sheep exported by sea only departed from the Port of Fremantle but have previously been exported from Adelaide and Portland (VIC).
- Mortality rate for sheep exported by sea in was 0.2%.
- Average time on vessels was 21 days.
- Value & volume of live sheep exports have decreased by 67% and 75% respectively since 2017-18.
- Proportion of Aus ag exports is 0.2%.

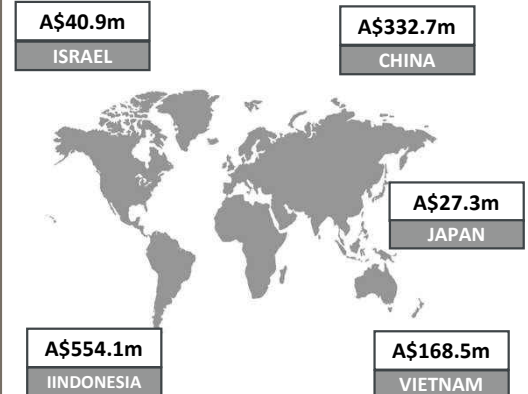
AUS TOP 5 LIVE SHEEP MARKETS – BY SEA



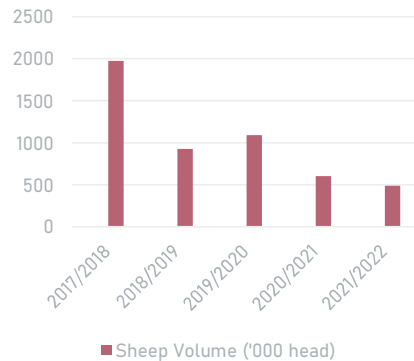
LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS 2021-22

- 99% of cattle were exported by sea; 1% by air.
- 80% of cattle were exported for the feeder / slaughter market.
- 77% cattle were exported to South East Asia.
- Live cattle exported by sea departed from Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane, Broome, Fremantle, Portland and Wyndham.
- The mortality rate for cattle exported by sea was 0.09%.
- Average time on vessel is 11 days (and significantly shorter to South East Asian destinations).
- Value & volume of live cattle exports are forecast to fall 4% in 2022-23.
- Proportion of Aus ag exports is 1.78%.

AUS TOP 5 CATTLE MARKETS – BY SEA



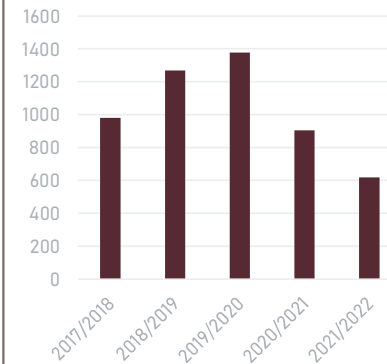
LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS



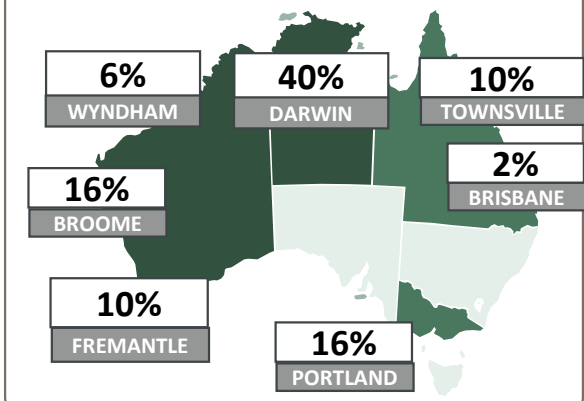
MARITIME LOAD PORTS



LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS



MARITIME LOAD PORTS



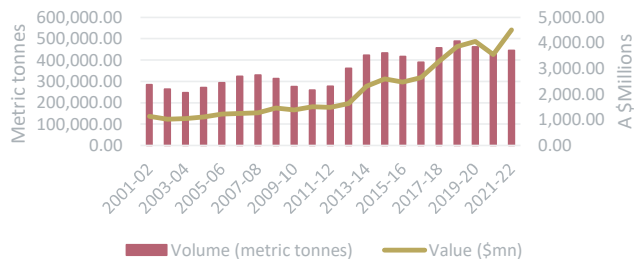


Australia's sheep meat exports

AUSTRALIA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXPORTER OF SHEEP MEAT

- According to MLA, Australian sheep farms have a competitive advantage (due to lower costs for feed, labour, land and capital) that has enabled Australia to become one of two major sheep meat exporters in the world (with the other being New Zealand).

Aus sheep meat exports – value and volume



GLOBAL SHEEP MEAT CONSUMPTION IS GROWING

- Global sheep meat consumption is anticipated to increase by 15%, from 15.9 million tonnes in 2021 to 18.1 million tonnes by 2031.
- The majority of sheep meat consumption growth will likely occur in developing countries, as economic growth allows consumers in those markets to purchase premium proteins such as sheep meat more often.

TOP 5 IMPORTERS OF AUSTRALIAN SHEEPMET BY VALUE 2021-22

A\$1.3b	A\$1b	A\$278m	A\$220m	A\$217m
USA	CHINA	MALAYSIA	KOREA	UAE

TOP 5 IMPORTERS OF AUSTRALIAN SHEEPMET BY VOLUME 2021-22

136.5k t	92.8k t	30.8k t	19.8k t	19.3k t
CHINA	USA	MALAYSIA	UAE	PNG

AUSTRALIA IS CAPABLE OF MEETING INCREASED DEMAND

- MLA predicts the **Australian national sheep flock will reach 76 million in 2022**, with 22 million lambs slaughtered annually.
- Australian sheep meat production is anticipated to grow by 19%** from 692,400t to 806,000t by 2031.
- Analysis by DAFF's Meat Export Program suggests **there is capacity to increase throughput in Australian abattoirs in response to the phase out**, despite ongoing concerns of workforce availability across the ag sector.
- ABARES has also suggested a **small to medium investment could restore many inactive abattoirs** to operation, further boosting production capacity.
- With increasing demand for Australian sheep meat and capacity to increase throughput in Australian abattoirs, **industry is capable of and will benefit from shifting the approx. 500,000 sheep** currently destined for live export into domestic processing.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE SHEEP MEAT EXPORTS

Increased shelf life in Middle-Eastern countries

GCC countries have approved increased shelf-life policies for sheep meat to 90 days. This development is expected to increase exports of chilled, vacuum packed sheep meat to GCC countries.

Australia-UK FTA

Upon commencement, Australia's quota for tariff free sheep meat exports will increase year on year from 13,000t to 88,000t by year 10.

Australia-EU FTA

There is significant scope to improve Australia's sheep meat export quota through the Australia-EU FTA currently under negotiation. Australia's current quota for the EU is just 5,851t. In comparison, New Zealand maintains a 38,000t quota.

China-Australia FTA

Since 2015, tariffs on Australian sheep meat have declined from 23%, and will reach 0% in 2023.

Australia-United Arab Emirates (UAE) CEPA

Australia has commenced discussions with the UAE on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. There are opportunities for improvements to non-tariff barriers (e.g. product labelling, document legislation & quality inspections).

Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

As of 29 December 2022, tariffs on Australian sheep meat exports to India have dropped from 30% to 0%.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO INCREASING SHEEP MEAT EXPORTS

Decreased global economic growth

Demand for sheep meat could be impacted by reduced economic growth, particularly in countries that are large sheep meat consumers, such as the US and China. This could lead to consumers reducing meat consumption or switching to cheaper alternatives such as pork and poultry.

Halal restrictions

PAAF has indicated Middle Eastern markets maintain a preference for local, freshly slaughtered meat due to a higher confidence in the halal slaughter process. However, premium lamb consumption and import demand are forecast to increase in Gulf countries due to increasing disposable incomes, ongoing urbanisation and westernisation, young populations and large groups of wealthy expats.

Moratorium on issuance of new licences permitting ritual slaughter

Since 2007, Australia has had a moratorium in place on the issuance of new licences permitting ritual (e.g. Kosher) slaughter at abattoirs in Australia. This impacts Australia's ability to send sheep meat and other meat products to potentially lucrative kosher markets e.g. United States and Israel.

ATMAC GRANTS SUPPORT INDUSTRY MARKET DIVERSIFICATION

- In April 2022, The Red Meat Advisory Council was awarded a more than A\$0.8m in an Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) grant to support the Australian Red Meat Market Expansion Program into the Middle-East, North Africa and South East Asia. EJ3
- MLA was awarded a A\$1.7m ATMAC grant to expand export opportunities in Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Vietnam in 2021. EJ1
- The Australian Red Meat Industry received a A\$0.55m grant to promote premium Australian food and wine exports to South Korea and South-East Asia. EJ2

- ME0** Additional slide to provide more context to sheep meat opportunities, would appreciate your feedback ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)}.
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} 2022-12-19T06:04:37.152
- EJ1** A\$0.8 million
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-19T06:54:04.609
- EJ2** A\$0.55 million
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-19T06:55:07.563
- EJ3** Change heading because ATMAC terminates end 2022-23 FY. Reframe heading to say "ATMAC grants support industry market diversification"
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-19T06:59:47.611
- EJ4** Extended shelf life for chilled, vacuum packed meat does not refer to frozen shelf life (which is under a voluntary code).
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-19T07:02:20.492
- ME4 0** Thanks ^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , I've updated to reflect.
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-20T00:27:00.679
- EJ5** Australian beef exports to Israel are transited directly to the Palestinian Territories through a special arrangement with Israel. Israel doesn't claim beef imports from Australia and in fact prohibits them as they aren't kosher. UN comtrade recognises imports by PA.
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-19T07:04:15.140
- ME5 0** Have updated to not in the context of Israel but on the moratorium on issue of kosher licences in general
^{s. 22(1)(a)(ii)} , 2022-12-20T00:46:32.814



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Attachment A

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Attachment C

Correspondence from the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF)

Attachment D

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Attachment E

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Attachment G

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DRAFT COMMUNICATION PLAN

Project: Live sheep exports phase out – announcement of Independent Panel and commencement of consultation

Version:

1.0 | 20 Dec 2022

1.1 | 06 Jan 2023

Communications contacts:

s. 47F(1)



Project summary

- The Government has committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea.
- The Minister has stated he intends to take a considered approach to the phase out that will include an assessment of the industry and consultation with farmers, exporters, supply chain participants, animal welfare organisations, communities, Indigenous Australians, trading partners, parliamentarians, state governments and other stakeholders.
- The Minister is appointing a four-person Independent Panel to lead the assessment and consultation and develop options as to how and when the phase out should occur.
- The Panel will report to the Minister by 30 September 2023.
- This plan details the communication activities, products and implementation schedule to support the Minister's announcement of the Independent Panel and the consultation process.



Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made in developing this plan:

- The milestones and deadlines in this plan are based on an assumed announcement date of early Feb 2023.
- The messages and talking points for the Minister and panel members assume the announcement scope will include announcing the independent panel; terms of reference; and consultation with stakeholders. *It is assumed the discussion paper and the Have Your Say consultation platform won't be available at the time of the announcement.*
- It is assumed that a webpage will be launched on the same day as the Minister's announcement. The webpage will provide an overview of the phase out commitment, information on the panel members and their role and the terms of reference.
- This plan assumes one of the panel members (the Chair) will take the role of spokesperson for the panel and this plan includes draft talking points for that spokesperson.
- It is assumed the essential core products for the Minister's announcement of the panel appointment and commencement of consultation include:
 - a media release from the Minister and supporting talking points;
 - a letter from the Minister to key stakeholders to be sent the day prior to the announcement;
 - an information brief for MPs;
 - talking points for the panel members;

- a webpage on the DAFF site providing information on the terms of reference, the panel and consultation;
- talking points for DAFF SES;
- an information sheet for frontline DAFF staff that may need to respond to enquiries; and
- whole of government talking points for other public sector representatives.

Additional products have been developed to support potential supplementary communications including:

- a press statement/speech for the Minister;
- a press statement/speech for the panel spokesperson;
- LinkedIn post for panel members;
- Social media posts for DAFF channels; and
- Secretary's Update for internal DAFF audience.



Milestones and schedule for clearances

Milestone Dates (Assumes 10 Feb as announcement date)	Action/clearance to be completed
Jan 2023	Communications products refined
Thur 26 Jan 2023	Australia Day Public Holiday
Feb 2023	FAS clearance of all draft communication products
Feb 2023	Government agrees to panel; PMO agrees to announcement plan
Fri 10 Feb 2023	Communications products pack delivered to Minister's Office for review
Feb 2023	Webpage for DAFF finalised and ready to go live
Feb 2023	Communications products cleared by MO ready for announcement
Feb 2023	Department and Minister's Office informs key stakeholders on the day or announcement or the evening prior to announcement
Feb 2023	Announcement - possibly in WA. (Minister media release, Minister media statement, Minister social media, DAFF webpage, DAFF social media)
Feb 2023	Post-announcement media interviews with Minister/ Panel spokesperson(s)



Communication objectives

1. Inform stakeholders and the public of next steps in the phase out process – that is, Minister's appointment of a panel to lead the assessment and consultation and develop options for the phase out
2. Clarify purpose of consultation and assessment is to inform how and when phase out should occur (not if it should happen)
3. Establish credibility of Independent Panel
4. Secure stakeholder acceptance/endorsement of approach to consultation and assessment
5. Support Minister, panel members and SES to pre-empt, prepare and manage stakeholder responses and questions



Target audiences

Primary

- Federal Government MPs
- WA State Government – Premier, Agriculture Minister, DPIRD
- SA, Qld, NT State Government MPs – Agriculture Ministers
- Sheep farmers / producers (and their representative bodies)
- Live sheep exporters (and their representative bodies)
- Live sheep exports supply chain participants (and their industry bodies)
- Workers (and their representatives)
- Animal welfare and other relevant community groups
- Indigenous Australian representatives
- Trading partners

Secondary

- Cattle farmers / producers (and their industry bodies)
- Live cattle (and other livestock) exporters (and their industry bodies)
- Live cattle supply chain participants (and their industry bodies)
- Meat processing supply chain participants (and their representative bodies)
- State and Territory governments and MPs not significantly impacted – NSW, Vic, ACT, Tas
- Members of the public not impacted

Influencers

- Minister and Minister's Office
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Independent Panel members



Stakeholders' desired outcomes from the announcement

Stakeholder	Desired outcomes
Minister	<p>Stakeholder acknowledgement of progress on the election commitment to phase out live sheep exports</p> <p>Stakeholder acceptance/endorsement of the assessment and consultation process</p> <p>Stakeholder acceptance/endorsement of the panel members appointed to lead the process</p> <p>Stakeholders affirm their intention to participate in consultation</p> <p>Maintain Cabinet support</p> <p>Minimal media attention</p> <p>Neutral to positive media coverage regarding approach and panel</p>
PM & Cabinet	<p>Minimal media attention.</p> <p>Neutral to positive media coverage</p> <p>Stakeholder acknowledgement of progress on the election commitment to phase out live sheep exports</p>
Those against phase out	<p>Consultation presents opportunity to engage and influence assessment and phase out plan</p> <p>Maximise implementation timeframe; support and compensation for industry</p>
Those for phase out	<p>Opportunity to engage and influence (faster) implementation timeframe</p>
Panel Members	<p>Stakeholder acceptance/endorsement of their position and role</p> <p>Clarity of role, objectives, Minister's expected outcomes</p>
DAFF	<p>Consistent messaging – Minister and panel members</p> <p>Endorsed process and agreed outcomes for assessment and consultation</p>



Key messages

Minister's key messages

- The government committed to phasing out live sheep exports by sea, and we will honour this commitment to the Australian people.
- I understand a phase out will impact farmers, exporters and workers as well as other businesses and communities that rely on this trade.
- That's why the phase out won't occur in this term of government.
- The considered approach we are taking will provide certainty for the industry and ensure participants have time to prepare and move away from live sheep exports.
- I have been clear about the importance of consulting with stakeholders and today I'm announcing the appointment of a four-person Independent Panel to lead this process.
- The panel members are [insert names of panel members and brief bio details]
- [insert names of the panel] bring a wealth of diverse experience to this challenging issue. They are eminently qualified to listen to farmers, exporters, communities, animal welfare organisations and other stakeholders.
- I have asked the panel to examine options for phasing out the trade as well as an appropriate timeframe. They'll also consider the kind of support that will be needed to help the industry transition away from exporting live sheep.
- I'm focused on developing our onshore processing capability and growing Australia's markets for our world-class sheep meat products.
- We have the potential to generate more jobs and income for people living in regional Australia.
- I am aware that parts of the community are calling for a relatively quick end to live sheep exports. It is important those impacted by the phase out – the farmers, transporters, shearers, and communities that rely on the trade – have time to prepare and adjust.
- The panel members will immediately get underway with consultation and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is preparing a discussion paper that will be available in the coming weeks.
- The government continues to support live cattle exports.
- All animal welfare standards continue to be in place while we plan for the phase out of the live sheep trade.
- I have asked the panel to provide their recommendations to me by September 2023.



Independent Panel lead spokesperson key messages (if required)

- The Government has made the commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea.
- Minister Watt has said he intends for the phase out to occur in an orderly way that considers the needs of farmers, the export industry and the communities that rely on this trade.
- I am honoured to be appointed by the Minister, alongside [insert names], to examine options for how the phase out could be implemented and the appropriate timeframe.
- This is a complex and challenging issue and my fellow panel members and I will consult extensively to understand the views of all stakeholders.
- We're getting underway immediately and travelling to Western Australia [insert timeframe] to begin consultation.
- We'll be engaging with farmers and those involved in the export of live sheep as well as animal welfare organisations, communities and Indigenous Australians.
- Our assessment will consider the possible mechanisms for phasing out the trade, the timeframe over which it could happen and how the industry might adjust and take advantage of new opportunities.
- For example, we know Australia is a world class sheep producer and that our exports of sheep meat are growing. We'll be looking at what opportunities there are to expand our domestic processing to support more exports of sheep meat rather than live sheep.
- There will also be the opportunity for people to make written submissions to the assessment. A discussion paper will be available in the coming weeks.
- In the meantime, the terms of reference are available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website. People can also subscribe to updates by visiting the website.
- We'll be making our recommendations in a report to the Minister in September 2023.



Risks & mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
Independence (or experience, capability) of one or more panel members is questioned/criticised by stakeholders, thereby compromising consultation credibility	<p>Bios of panel members are publicly available on DAFF website, clearly demonstrating their respective experience and capabilities that underpin their selection for the panel.</p> <p>Minister's communications (TPs, release, social) reinforce the capability that each panel member brings to the assessment.</p>
Panel members make public statements that are inaccurate or inconsistent with the Minister's statements	<p>Agree with Minister's office on public role of panel members and develop media protocol for panel members.</p> <p>Equip panel members with TPs and media statements as required.</p> <p>Manage panel member media engagement if and when required.</p>
A federal government Labor MP makes a public comment that is inaccurate/inconsistent with Minister's statements	Government MPs are informed and provided with briefing materials prior to announcement
Those against the phase out launch a public media campaign focused on securing a review of the phase out commitment	<p>Reinforce in all communications the phase out is a commitment the government made to the Australian public and it intends to honour that commitment.</p> <p>The purpose of the consultation and assessment is to inform the government on options to implement the phase out, the timeframe and the potential adjustment opportunities for industry.</p>
Those against the phase out publicly refuse to participate in consultation	Reinforce the Minister's objective to consult and opportunity for stakeholders to have input into the planning for the phase out.
Those supporting the phase out launch a public media campaign focused on setting / expediting a timeframe for implementation	Reinforce the Prime Minister and Minister's previous statements that the phase out will not happen in this term of government, so that there is time for consultation and rigorous assessment, and for those impacted to prepare and adjust.
WA Premier and/or WA Agriculture Minister make statements opposing phase out and call for reconsideration of commitment	Minister's office to manage



Communications Pack for Announcement

Communications product	Status and Clearance
Minister's communication products	
Minister's media release	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel. Approval process: CW, Corp Comms (Media), A/g FAS, MO
Minister's TPs for the announcement	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, Corp Comms (for info), A/g FAS, MO
Minister's speech for announcement	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, Corp Comms (Media), A/g FAS, MO
Letter from Minister to key stakeholders (<i>Designed to be given, possibly prior to announcement, to PM, Ministers, backbench MPs, cross bench, state government MPs, unions, industry, animal welfare organisations</i>)	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, Corp Comms (for info), A/g FAS, MO
Information brief for MPs and staff	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS, MO
Independent panel members' communication products	
TPs for Independent Panel members	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS, MO
Media statement / script for independent panel spokesperson <i>A short statement to support the independent panel spokesperson in media interviews</i>	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS, MO
LinkedIn post for Independent Panel members to announce their appointment to the role	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS, MO
Media protocol	Status: in preparation



DAFF communication products	
DAFF SES TPs for pre- and post-announcement briefing <i>Tailored talking points for DAFF SES spokespeople to support the announcement</i>	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
Internal information sheet for DAFF frontline staff	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
Webpage – Live Sheep Exports Phase Out <i>Webpage to go live on DAFF website on day of announcement.</i>	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
DAFF Media release (if required)	Status: Corp comms is drafting Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
Whole of Government Talking Points (for other agencies as required – PM&C, DFAT, Austrade, DISR?)	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
Cable plus Talking Points for Ag Counsellors and DFAT posts	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS
Independent panel public biographies, photo, contacts	Status: Drafted Approval process: CW, A/g FAS, panel members
Secretary's Update for internal DAFF audience <i>To be included in the Secretary's regular Monday Update</i> FAS update for divisional staff	Status: Draft has been updated to reflect change to panel Approval process: CW, A/g FAS Status: To be drafted Approval process: CW, FAS

PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT ACTIVITY AND TASK SCHEDULE

EVENT: Announcement to launch consultation on the phase out of live sheep exports by sea

DATE: 3 March 2023 **TIME:** TBA AWST

LOCATION: Perth **VENUE:** TBA

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT ACTIVITY AND TASK SCHEDULE:

Date	Time	Action/Task	Org	Responsibilities / pre-requisites
Sat 4/3	TBA	Andrew departs Perth	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 22(1)(a) coordinates flight
Fri 3/3	TBA	Andrew meets with WA Gov officials after announcement	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 22(1)(a) coordinates meeting s. 22(1)(a)(ii) provides meeting brief with Fact Sheet (DS)
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	Media event to announce independent panel and consultation. <i>Location TBC</i>	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees: Minister, Panel Chair MO to arrange media event DAFF provides TPs for Minister and Chair on 10/2 (DS) DAFF provides Fact Sheet for media (DS)
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	MO gives department go ahead to distribute media release and fact sheet. MO posts Minister's social media posts	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF provides draft media release, fact sheet and social media plan to MO on 10/2 (DS)
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	MO emails letters and Fact Sheet to international and domestic stakeholders notifying of panel appointment	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF provides emails and Fact Sheet to MO on 10/2 (<i>List of letters at Attachment A</i>)
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	Live sheep exports phase out webpage and HYS survey platform goes live	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 22(1) to coordinate internal clearances and implementation with Corp Comms
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	Pre-announcement: Minister or Adviser meets with Panel Chair to brief on media event.	MO/DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MO proposes time, venue DAFF coordinates with Mr Glyde
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	Andrew meets with Mr Glyde and escorts to meeting with Minister	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 22(1) to coordinate time and venue
Fri 3/3	TBA AWST	Minister Watt calls or meets with and briefs Minister Jarvis prior to announcement	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF provides meeting briefing pack and TPs to MO on 10/2
Thurs 2/3	TBA (PM)	Minister arrives in Perth	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MO coordinates travel and accommodation
Thurs 2/3	TBA	Mr Glyde arrives in Perth	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s. 22(1) to coordinate travel and accommodation

Thurs 2/3	TBA	Andrew conducts pre-briefing meetings via Teams: 1. Industry and unions 2. Animal Welfare 3. WA Government 4. DAFF WA reps (See Attachment C for list of proposed stakeholder invitees)	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates meetings • s. 22(1)(a)(ii) – draft stakeholder list for each briefing; agenda; meeting brief for Andrew
Wed 1/3	20:35 (TBC) AWST	Andrew arrives in Perth	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates travel and accommodation
Tues 28/2	c.o.b	Cable, TPs, Factsheet to overseas ag counsellors	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) leading • See list of recipients at Attachment E
Tues 28/2	c.o.b	Andrew emails DAFF internal stakeholders to brief on Minister's announcement (See Attachment D for list of proposed internal stakeholders)	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) provides cover email, fact sheet and distribution list
TBA	TBA (PM)	Information session for overseas posts – hosted by Andrew	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates with Overseas Posts Director • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates Andrew's diary • s. 22(1)(a)(ii) – fact sheet, TPs
Mon 27/2 (TBC)	TBA	Andrew meets with panel members via Teams	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates meeting • s. 22(1)(a) briefing docs
Mon 27/2	c.o.b	Webpage and HYS platform finalised and loaded (but not live)	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) coordinates with Corp Comms
Thurs 23/2	c.o.b	Send meeting invitations to stakeholders for pre-announcement briefings on 2/3: Industry and unions, animal welfare, WA Gov. DAFF WA reps	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a)(ii) provides stakeholder list to Andrew for clearance and invitation copy • s. 22(1)(a) coordinates meeting times and sends invitations • s. 22(1)(a)
Wed 22/2	c.o.b	Andrew sends panel members Welcome Pack and meeting papers for their meeting on 27/2	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) provides Welcome Pack, Agenda and Meeting Papers to Andrew with cover email
Mon 20/2	c.o.b	Welcome Pack and meeting papers to Andrew for clearance (including panel member TPs)	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1)(a) • s. 22(1)(a) to provide draft TPs
Fri 17/2	c.o.b	Andrew sends Announcement Comms Pack to MO for review	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) responsible (List of Comms products at Attachment A)
Fri 17/2	c.o.b	Andrew clears HYS materials	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) responsible for coordination of HYS web materials
Thurs 16/2	c.o.b	Panel members approve bios and provide photos for external comms (webpage, media release)	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s. 22(1) responsible for bios • s. 22(1) coordinates request for photos and bio approvals

Mon 13/2	c.ob.	Andrew informs panel members following Minister's meeting with colleagues	DAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew
Mon 13/2	TBA	Minister informs colleagues (Panel members paperwork included)	MO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caroline

ATTACHMENT A: List of Announcement Communication Products and letters for Minister's Office

Minister's announcement products	Current Status
Minister's media release	AMcD cleared
Minister's event brief for media announcement (includes Minister's speech)	Draft is updated with AMcD's changes. Ready for Caroline's review (in CW review folder)
Minister's (general) TPs for the announcement (and Q&A)	AMcD cleared
Minister's (specific) TPs to brief WA Minister Jarvis	Draft is updated with AMcD's changes. Ready for Caroline's review (in CW review folder)
Minister's social media plan	Updating draft to align with AMcD's changes
Backbenchers briefing pack	Draft is updated with AMcD's changes. Ready for Caroline's review (in CW review folder)
Letters from Minister to key stakeholders re announcement	
NFF Chair ALEC chair Chair of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee	With CW With CW With CW
State and Territory Ag Ministers – WA, SA, NT, QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS	With CW
State MPs in WA impacted regions – Bunbury, Roe, Warren-Blackwood	With CW
Federal MPs in WA impacted regions – Forrest, O'Connor	With CW
All WA Government MPs and Senators	Underway
Backbenchers letters	Underway
Select overseas counterparts and corresponding Australian ambassadors – Kuwait, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam	Letters to Middle East trading partners have been sent to TMAID/DFAT (Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi, UAE and Bahrain) Draft letter to Indonesia with Caroline for review. Will then send to s. 22(1)(a)(ii)'s team along with draft letter to Malaysia and Brunei.

	Have spoken with s. 22(1)(a)(ii) about letter to Vietnam and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) about letter to Japan. Will draft letters when cattle words are cleared. Drafting letter to Australian Ambassadors.
Minister's Office announcement products	
Minister's Office TPs to brief stakeholders of their choosing	Draft is updated with AMcD's changes. Ready for Caroline's review (in CW review folder)
Minister's office generic email for selected stakeholders	Drafted
Suggested list of stakeholders for Minister's Office to brief – Backbenchers and WA Government MPs and Senators	Drafted
Factsheet for stakeholders, backbenchers, media	Draft is updated with Caroline's changes. Back in CW review folder
Draft consultation itinerary (subject to change)	Drafted
Draft run sheet	Drafted
Independent Panel member products	
Independent Panel member bios (for external communications eg webpage) - Mr Phillip Glyde - The Hon Warren Snowdon - Ms Sue Middleton - Ms Heather Neil	In the CW review folder
Independent Panel members' TPs – tailored for each panel member - Mr Phillip Glyde - The Hon Warren Snowdon - Ms Sue Middleton - Ms Heather Neil	In the CW review folder
Media statement for Independent Panel Chair	In the CW review folder
LinkedIn post for Independent Panel members	Draft with Caroline for review
Welcome letters from the Minister to the panel members	In the CW review folder

ATTACHMENT B: Other (DAFF) Announcement Communication Products requiring clearance

DAFF Web, HYS and external comms announcement products	Current status
Webpage – Live Sheep Exports Phase Out (includes panel bios and consultation itinerary)	
HYS landing page and HYS survey	
Website homepage slider	
Consultation Paper	
Public factsheet for website (downloadable)	
DAFF Media release for HYS (if required)	
DAFF social media for HYS	
Export Advisory Notice	
Communication Toolkit for peak bodies to promote discussion paper/ HYS to members	
Update to World Organisation for Animal Health from Mark Schipp	
Departmental letters/emails to selected stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International stakeholders – Iran, Iraq, Peru, Egypt 	
DAFF TPs for announcement	
DAFF SES TPs for announcement	
TPs for Andrew to brief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WA officials Animal Welfare stakeholders Industry stakeholders Itinerary for briefing meetings	
Internal information sheet for DAFF officers	
Whole of Government Talking Points (for other agencies – PM&C, DFAT)	
Cable plus Talking Points for Ag Counsellors and DFAT posts – see full list at Attachment E	
Secretary external communications	
Emailed letter from Secretary to State and Territory counterparts	
Internal communications	
Secretary's Update for internal DAFF audience. Page on MyLink FAS update for divisional staff FAS email to internal stakeholders and factsheet – see Attachment D for internal stakeholder list	

ATTACHMENT C: Proposed stakeholder list for Andrew's pre-announcement briefings

Sector	Stakeholder	Contact	Additional representatives
Industry	Australian Livestock Exporters' Association	David Galvin	Mark Harvey-Sutton
	National Farmers' Federation	Fiona Simson	Tony Mahar
	Sheep Producers Australia	Bonnie Skinner	
	Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association	Mathew Munro	
	LiveCorp	Troy Setter	Wayne Collier
	Meat and Livestock Australia	Alan Beckett	Jason Strong
	WAFarmers	John Hassell	Trevor Whittington
	Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA	Tony Seabrook	Digby Stretch
	Wool Producers	Jo Hall	Edward Storey
	Cattle Australia	David Foote	
	NT Cattlemens' Association	David Connolly	Will Evans
	AgForce	Georgie Somerset AM	Michael Pratt
	NT Farmers	Simon Smith	Paul Burke
	NSW Farmers	Xavier Martin	
	Primary Producers SA	Simon Maddocks	Joe Keynes
	Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association	Hugh Christie	
Unions	NT Livestock Exporters Association	Tom Dawkins	
	Transport Workers Union National	Michael Kaine	
	Transport Workers Union WA Branch	Tim Dawson	
	Australian Workers' Union - National	Marina Chambers	Daniel Walton
Animal welfare	Australian Workers' Union WA Branch	Andy Hacking	Brad Gandy
	Animals Aust	Glenys Oogjes	
	RSPCA Australia	Richard Russell	Joanne Webb
	Alliance for Animals	Jed Goodfellow	Dr Craig Emerson
	RSPCA WA	Lynne Bradshaw	Suzie Fowler
Govt	Australian Veterinary Association	Dr Warwick Vale	Dr Bronwyn Orr
	WA DPIRD	Cec McConnell	Bruce Mullan
Exporters	Chair of Rural Affairs and Transport SE Cttee	Senator Susan McDonald	
	Emmanuel Exports	John Edwards	Nicholas Dawes, Holly Ludeman
	RETWA	Murray Frangs	Michael Gordon, RETWA, Mr Osama Khaled Boodai, KLTT
	LSS	Ahmad Ghosheh	
	WA Livestock Exporters' Association	John Cunnington	

ATTACHMENT D: Proposed internal stakeholder list to inform prior to announcement

Group	Key Representatives for contact	Engagement and Materials
Agriculture Counsellor(s) – see list in Attachment E	s. 22(1)(i) has list of contacts	Info session, cable, TPs, fact sheet
Inspector-General Live Animal Exports	Ross Carter; Glenn McMellon	Send Consultation Fact sheet Meeting required?
Special Representative Agriculture	Su McCluskey	Provide Consultation Fact sheet (via Su's DAFF contact officer) Meeting required?
Client Contact Group (DAFF call centre)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - Manager	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) to call s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and provide Fact sheet
WA Regional Reps	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Meet with Caroline and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
DAFF Indigenous Liaison	Anne-Marie Roberts - FAS; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - EO for Anne Marie	Meet with Caroline and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
VEMS - Principal and Senior Veterinary Officers	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) (Principal), s. 22(1)(a) (Principal), s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - Senior Veterinary Officer WA	Meet with Caroline and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
TMAID	Laura Timmins, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Already have close engagement with Andrew, Caroline, s. 22(1)(i) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
ABARES	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Already have close engagement with Caroline, s. 22(1)(i) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
APD	Christine Mulhearn, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Meet with Caroline and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Provide Consultation Fact sheet
LAE and Animal Welfare Branch	Joffrid Mackett, Carol Sheridan	Provide Consultation Fact sheet
Animal Biosecurity division (negotiate markets)	Dr Peter Finnin, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Meet with Caroline and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Provide Consultation Fact sheet

Commented [SD1]: Su is also on the Livecorp board and will have had briefings via that forum

ATTACHMENT E: Proposed international engagement list and type of engagement

Importing country	Announcement action
Kuwait	Minister letter about live sheep phase out and welcoming participating in consultation
Israel	Minister letter about live sheep phase out, welcoming participating in consultation and assuring that cattle trade continues
Jordan	Minister letter about live sheep phase out and welcoming participating in consultation
Malaysia	Minister letter advising sheep by sea ending, but assuring cattle by sea and sheep by air continues
Oman	Minister letter about live sheep phase out and welcoming participating in consultation
Qatar	Minister letter about live sheep phase out and welcoming participating in consultation
United Arab Emirates	Minister letter about live sheep phase out and welcoming participating in consultation
Russia	Minister letter advising sheep by sea ending, but assuring cattle by sea and sheep by air continues
Iran	Departmental letter advising of live sheep phase out
Iraq	Departmental letter advising of live sheep phase out
Peru	Departmental letter advising of live sheep phase out
Egypt	Departmental letter advising of live sheep phase out
New Zealand	No letter but include in cable list for information
Brunei Darussalam	Minister letter advising sheep by sea ending, but assuring cattle by sea and sheep by air continues
China	Minister letter advising sheep by sea ending, but assuring cattle by sea and sheep by air continues
Indonesia	Minister letter assuring cattle trade continues
Japan	Minister letter assuring cattle trade continues
Pakistan	No letter but include in cable list for information
Philippines	Minister letter advising sheep by sea ending, but assuring cattle by sea and sheep by air continues
Sabah	No letter but include in cable list for information
Sarawak	No letter but include in cable list for information
Thailand	No letter but include in cable list for information
Vietnam	Minister letter assuring cattle trade continues
Argentina	No letter but include in cable list for information
India	No letter but include in cable list for information
Kyrgyzstan	No letter but include in cable list for information
Taiwan	No letter but include in cable list for information
Uzbekistan	No letter but include in cable list for information
Cambodia	No letter but include in cable list for information
Hong Kong	No letter but include in cable list for information
Sri Lanka	No letter but include in cable list for information
Taiwan	No letter but include in cable list for information

South Korea	No letter but include in cable list for information
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S. 47F(1)



S. 47F(1)



Ms Heather Neil

Current roles

Ms Neil is currently the Executive Director at TrackSAFE Foundation, a charity focused on reducing deaths, injuries and near hits on the Australia rail network.

Background

Heather Neil was Chief Executive Officer of RSPCA Australia for 12 years, taking a leading role in advocating for positive change for the welfare of animals in Australia.



Ms Neil played a key role in advocating for the end of live animal exports; growing the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme; supporting reforms to the greyhound racing industry; improving animal welfare in the horseracing industry, including advocating for the reduced use of whips during races; and advocating for hen welfare, including the end of battery cages.

Other roles have included:

- Principal Consultant, Syntelligence
- Non-Executive Director/Deputy Chair, Community Council for Australia
- Director of Stewardship, CropLife Australia

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science, University of New South Wales (1988)
- Master of Business Administration, University of Central Queensland (2000)

Previous deliverables for government

- Unknown

Contact details

Phone: s. 47F(1)



S. 47F(1)



Mr Philip Glyde

Current roles

Mr Glyde retired in December 2021.

Background

Mr Philip Glyde was Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Darling Basin from 2015-2021. Prior to that, Mr Glyde held senior roles across government, including Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Executive Director of ABARES, and senior positions at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.



Mr Glyde has worked on natural resource management, industry and environmental policies in a number. Appointments overseas included at the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, and the United Kingdom Cabinet Office and Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Natural Resources (Honours), University of New England (1979)
- Bachelor of Economics, Australian National University

Previous deliverables

While CEO of the MDBA, Mr Glyde delivered:

- Northern Basin review
- Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (2017)
- 2020 Basin Plan Evaluation
- Regionalisation of the Murray Darling Basin Authority

Contact details



S. 47F(1)



S. 47F(1)



Ms Sue Middleton

Current roles

- Executive Director, Brennan Rural Group
- Director, Moora Citrus and Northern Valley Packers
- Non-Executive Director, Racing and Wagering WA
- Board Member, National Water Grid
- Chair, National Farmers' Federation Economics and Farm Business Committee
- Board Member, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)



Background

Ms Middleton is a farmer and agribusiness leader and consultant supporting rural communities to better manage change. Ms Middleton is an executive director of the Brennan Rural group, a diversified family farming business, based in Wongan Hills, western Australia, where she grows grains, oaten hay, citrus and pork. She has for over three decades holding successive and extensive board and leadership roles in agriculture and regional development and is a passionate advocate for regional Western Australia.

Previous roles include:

- Chair, WA Regional Development Trust
- Chair, West Midlands Group (grower group)
- National Rural Advisory Council
- COAG Reform Council
- WA Agricultural Produce Commissioner
- National Regional Women's Advisory Council
- Farmbis State Planning Group
- Australian Research Council
- Regional Solutions Board

Ms Middleton was the national winner of the Australian Rural Women's Award in 2010, where she focussed on highlighting the importance of agriculture tackling greenhouse gas emissions, including exploring opportunities to commercialise biogas technology in the pork industry. She won the Centenary Medal for services to regional and rural Australia in 2002. She was inducted into the A Women's Hall of Farm in 2018.

Qualifications

- Unknown

Previous deliverables for government

- 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review

Contact details



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Live sheep phase out commitment

Independent person to lead the consultation process

Minister meeting - 6 December 2022

Andrew McDonald, A/g First Assistant Secretary

Trade Reform Division

INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Independent Person will:

- Undertake an arms length, high-quality assessment to inform the government’s implementation plan to phase out live sheep exports.
- Consult widely with stakeholders to (amongst other issues):
 - Listen to stakeholder concerns about the phase out and understand their respective positions
 - Understand how ending live sheep exports will impact individuals across the supply chain, and what might be required to adjust
 - Provide how and when options for the phase out’s implementation
 - Consider domestic opportunities, e.g., expanding sheep meat exports
- Work with the department to consider and commission analysis and advice.
- Be the face of the phase out and ensure the minister can stay at arms length during the consultation process.

The Independent Person will need to:

- Engage across a polarised group of stakeholders, and understand and manage competing interests.
- Understand (or have ability to) the supply chain, broader ag sector and trade and diplomatic environment.
- Consider viable options to phase out the trade and support impacted parties. Must be conscious of budgetary environment.
- Establish sufficient profile / level of respect
- Be able to travel and commit sufficient time in order to complete the assessment.
- Be compensated appropriately. The method of appointment (e.g. contract, non-ongoing employee, consultancy etc) and salary will need to be agreed with the preferred candidate.

APPOINTMENT + LAUNCH TIMELINE

Week 1

Minister identifies IP

Dept has ‘without prejudice’ discussions with IP

IP agrees to lead process + completes paperwork

Week 2

Minister writes to PM

Dept Legal reviews and approves contract

Christmas shut down

Week 3

PM approves IP and announcement date

IP appointed. Initial briefing from dept + engagement with Minister

Dept provides launch pack to minister

Jan 23

Minister announces IP + launches consultation process

Dept supports IP at launch. Release website + other comms products

OPTIONS



Former Public Servant

Strengths

- Independence
- May have stakeholder connections across supply chain if previously in agriculture or related roles
- Understands government process and budget constraints
- Public policy experience

Considerations

- Industry knowledge could be limited depending on the candidate



Industry Participant

Strengths

- Connection / sound understanding of industry
- Insight into practical adjustment options

Considerations

- Perceived independence/bias against commitment
- May lack policy inexperience
- Lack large-scale consultation experience
- Some stakeholders (e.g. animal welfare groups) may be reluctant to engage



Other candidate

Strengths

- Independence
- Connections with government
- Stakeholder engagement skills

Considerations

- Public perception
- Some stakeholders may be reluctant to engage
- Industry knowledge could be limited

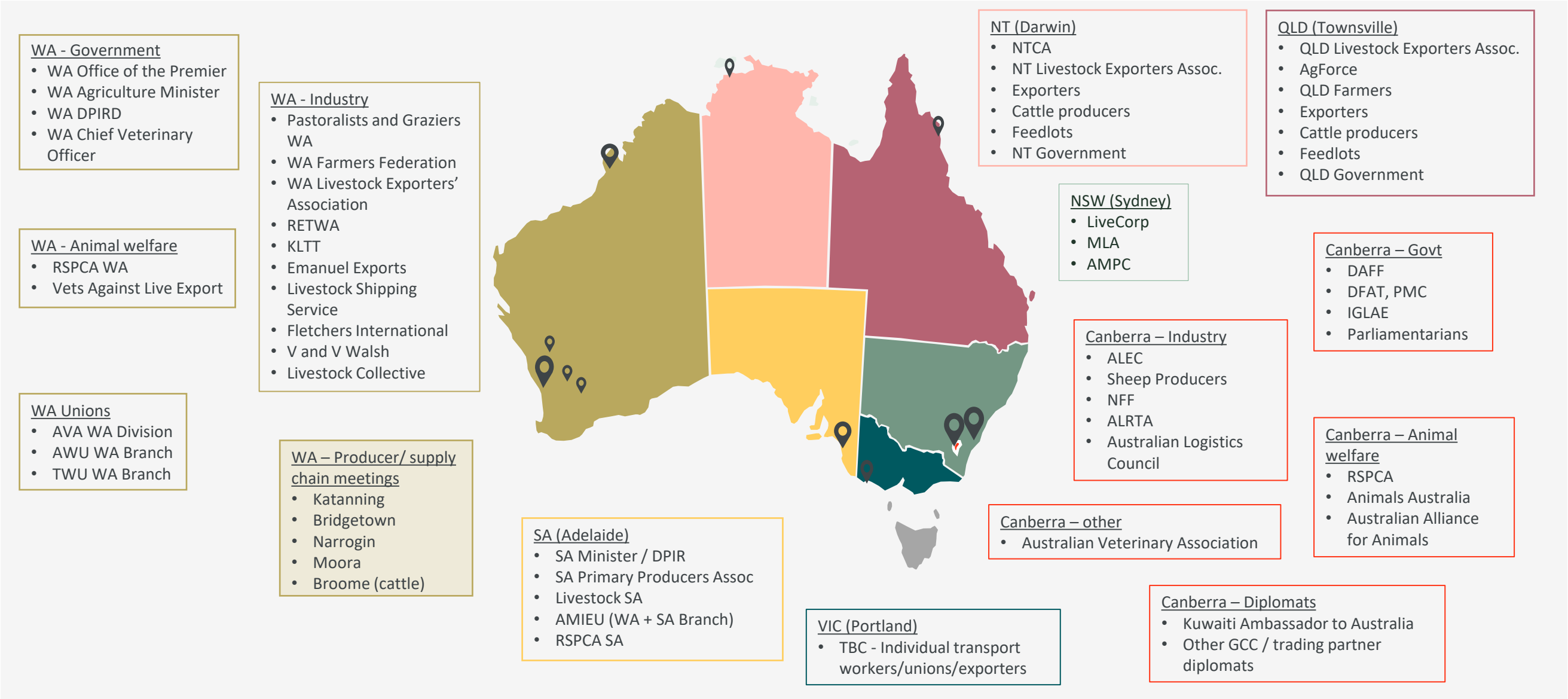
ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Suggested face to face meetings

The Independent Person's consultation process will include significant face-to-face engagement with stakeholders, owing to the sensitive nature of the phase out commitment. This will include opportunities to speak with sheep producers and supply chain participants in a series of regional forums in Western Australia.

Meetings are also proposed with cattle exporters and industry participants in Broome, Darwin and Townsville to ensure the second part of the election commitment – to continue support for live cattle exports – is addressed.

We anticipate additional stakeholders will be identified once the consultation process commences.



The report will provide the underpinning policy analysis that will assist government consider how and when to phase out of live sheep exports by sea. It will deliver a proposed implementation plan and will be used to inform a RIS-like process to support actions.

The report will:

- Analyse the issue and provide recommendations to inform the government’s implementation plan:
 - HOW** to phase out live sheep exports by sea
 - WHEN** the phase out should take place
 - WHAT** support could be provided to impacted parties
 - WHAT** opportunities might exist – e.g. increased sheep meat exports, domestic processing, on-shore value adding

The report will not consider the merits or otherwise of the policy.

The report will consider:

- Findings from stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Analysis, including economic impact
- Legal advice – domestic and international, including WTO implications
- Future forecasting and trade and market analysis
- Diplomatic intelligence and sensitivity analysis
- Scientific research
- International + domestic examples (e.g. NZ, ceasing tobacco production, etc)
- Interaction of the sheep phase out with live cattle exports.

The report will consider or build on existing work:

- Industry analysis, e.g.:
 - Mercado’s Economic analysis of the live sheep export trade (LiveCorp)
 - ACIL Allen’s Economic contribution and benefits of the northern live export cattle industry (LiveCorp)
- Community sentiment surveys – LiveCorp, RSPCA, etc
- Analysis and other work conducted by state and territory governments
- Moss Review
- McCarthy Review
- Northern Hemisphere Summer RIS + Review

Analysis may include (but not limited to):

- The structure, operation, current and historical state of **livestock exports** (sheep, cattle, goats, buffalo)
- How **live sheep exports fits into domestic production systems**, including impact on processing availability, employment (incl First Nations people), farm decision making, on-farm resilience and diversification, business management and income, etc.
- Historical trends, drivers and factors** that impact sheep production and prices, particularly in WA (incl climate change, intl sheep + sheep meat prices, etc)
- How and what farmers and other supply chain participants need to adjust.**
- Trade, market and supply chain analysis**, including potential to increase sheep meat exports.
- Live cattle exports**, and the potential impact of the live sheep phase out policy.

Consultation will be conducted via:

- DAFF’s ‘Have Your Say’ platform
- In-person meetings
- Community drop-ins
- Virtual meetings
- Written submissions and surveys
- Targeted engagement – e.g. with trading partners
- Formal meetings (e.g. IDCs, industry meetings)

A communications strategy has been developed to support this, including media releases, talking points, social media, op eds, etc

Implementation options to explore could include:

- Legislative amendments to provide a fixed date for the phase out **s. 47C(1)**
- A prohibition of new export licences, and a ‘buy back’ scheme for existing licences.
- The imposition of export quotas to be reduced over time
- Amendments to the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock
- A extension to the Northern Hemisphere Summer prohibition
- Assistance grants for domestic meat processors
- Exit grants
- Domestic transport grants to encourage domestic processing

s. 47C(1)

Data and Statistics

2021-22 VOLUME

Total head for sea and air exports:

488,819	614,731	12,571	3,067	661
Sheep	Cattle	Buffalo	Goats	Alpaca

2021-22 VALUE

Total \$ for sea and air exports:

\$85m	\$1.19b	\$2.3	\$1.9m	\$1.1m
Sheep	Cattle	Buffalo	Goats	Alpaca and camels

LIVE EXPORT INDUSTRY

Direct employment (sheep) : 1,037

Indirect employment (sheep): 3,443

Exporters: 38

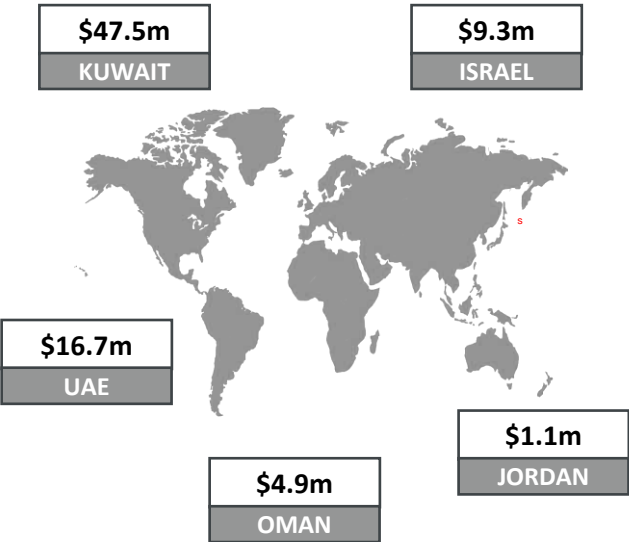
Registered Establishments: 38

Accredited vets:163

LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS 2021-22

- 97% of sheep exported by sea; 3% by air in 2021-22.
- 99% of sheep exported for the feeder / slaughter market.
- The Middle East is the largest market, with 62% sheep exported to Kuwait, 13% to the UAE & 7% to Jordan in 2021 by sea.
- In 2021-22, live sheep exported by sea only departed from the Port of Fremantle.
- The mortality rate for sheep exported by sea in 2021-22 was 0.2%
- Average time on vessels is 21 days
- Value & volume of live sheep exports have decreased by around 70% since 2017.
- Proportion of Aus ag exports – 0.2%

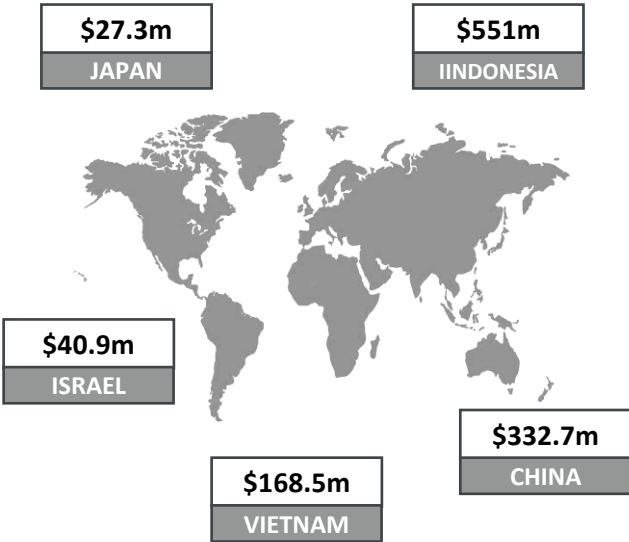
AUS TOP 5 SHEEP MARKETS – BY SEA



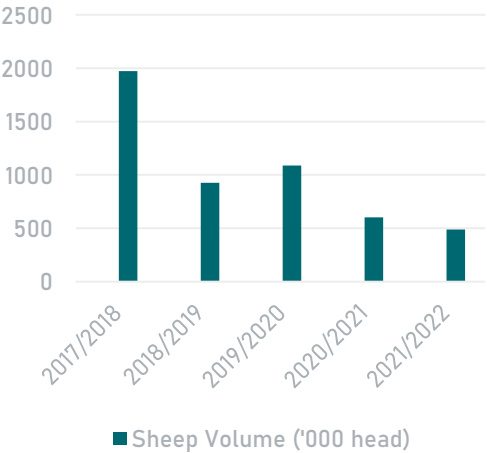
LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS 2021-22

- 99% of cattle exported by sea; 1% by air in 2021-22.
- 85% of cattle exported for the feeder / slaughter market.
- 77% cattle exported to South East Asia
- Live cattle exported by sea departed from Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane, Broome, Fremantle, Portland, Wyndham.
- The mortality rate for cattle exported by sea in 2021-22 was 0.09%
- Average time on vessel is 11 days (and significantly shorter to South East Asian destinations)
- Value & volume of live cattle exports are forecast to fall 4% in 2022-23.
- Proportion of Aus ag exports is 1.78%

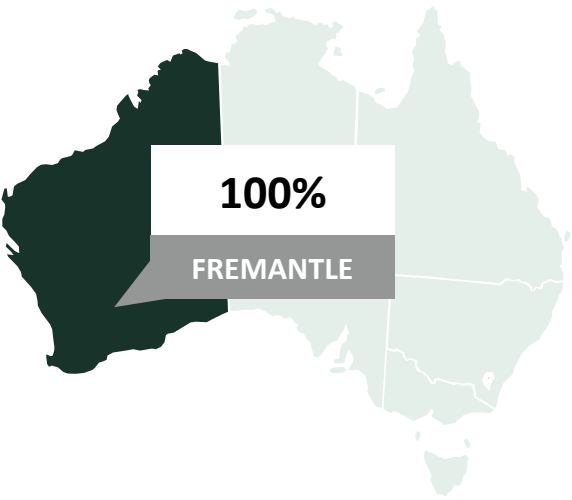
AUS TOP 5 CATTLE MARKETS – BY SEA



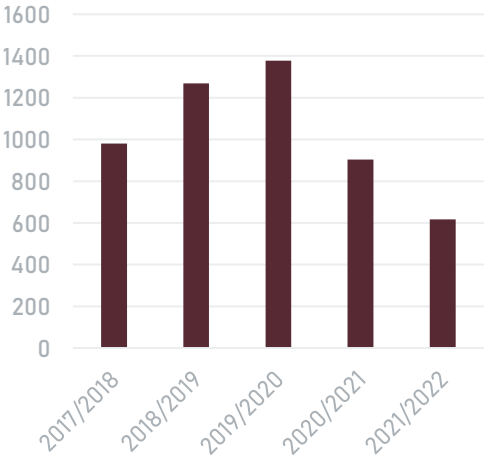
LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS



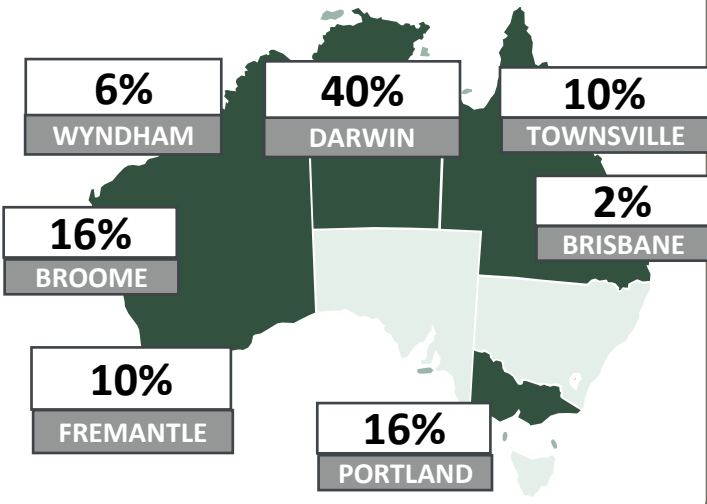
MARITIME LOAD PORTS



LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS



MARITIME LOAD PORTS



INDEPENDENT PERSON – POSSIBLE CANDIDATURE

Potential candidates for consideration are outlined below. We are also able to explore other options as identified.

S. 47F(1)

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT BRIEFING – SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS***CONSULTATION ON THE HOW AND WHEN TO PHASE OUT LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA***

- *Introduction*
- Thank you for joining me.
- I am reaching out to you at short notice as I wish to advise you that I will be announcing tomorrow the commencement of the public consultation process relating to the government's policy the phase out live sheep exports by sea.
- The purpose of the consultation process is to assist the Australian Government to determine how and when to give effect to its election commitment to phase out live sheep exports by sea.
- Information received through this consultation process is intended to help the government better understand the practical considerations that need to be considered in establishing an appropriate timeframe for phasing out live sheep exports by sea.
- Importantly, the consultation process will not consider the merits or otherwise of the government's policy, or consider other livestock exports.
- The Prime Minister and I have already stated the phase out will not take place during this term of the Australian Parliament.
- Neither will the phase out apply to live sheep exports by air.
- I have appointed an independent, 4-person panel, to conduct the consultation.
- The membership of the panel will be part of my announcement.
- The panel possesses skills and experiences in agriculture, public policy, economics, agricultural trade, and animal welfare science.
- Several panel members also have a sound understanding of the challenges that face rural and regional Australia.
- The panel has been asked to engage with all relevant and interested stakeholders.
- The panel will seek written submissions and undertake a variety of meetings across Australia, particularly in Western Australia.

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT BRIEFING – SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS***CONSULTATION ON THE HOW AND WHEN TO PHASE OUT LIVE SHEEP
EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA***

- The panel has been asked to provide its report to me [the Minister] by 30 September 2023.
- The consultation process will help the government develop an informed transition plan.
- I will leave the rest to my announcement.
- Further details about the consultation process will be made available on my department's website.
- Thank you again for your time and I'm happy to take questions.