



PHASE OUT OF LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Australian Government has committed to phasing out live sheep exports from Australia by sea.

The government intends to implement the phase out of live sheep exports by sea in such a way as to provide certainty to industry, minimise disruption and maximise opportunities.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Murray Watt has appointed an independent panel to consult with stakeholders and provide advice on how and when the government will phase out live sheep exports by sea.

In conducting the consultation, the panel will consider:

- potential mechanisms to phase out live sheep exports by sea
- a suggested timeframe and options for implementation
- potential ways to support the transition, including but not limited to consideration of markets, processing facilities and other opportunities
- other matters as appropriate.

The panel will examine matters including but not limited to the economic impact of the phase out; agricultural production systems and on-farm management; supply chain arrangements; trade and market access; and lessons learned from other countries that have phased out live sheep exports by sea and states and territories that no longer export live sheep by sea.

The panel will engage with all relevant stakeholders, including exporters, farmers, supply chain participants, communities, trading partners, animal welfare organisations, Indigenous Australians, state and territory governments, academics, and other relevant parties. Engagement will be delivered face-to-face, via online forums, and via written submissions.

The panel will provide its report to Minister Watt by 30 September 2023 for the government's consideration.

The phase out will not apply to other livestock export industries, such as live cattle exports. It will not apply to live sheep exports by air.

The phase out will not take place during this term of the Australian Parliament.

The panel will be supported by a Secretariat in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

More information about the consultation process can be found at haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/live-sheep-phase-out.

To request a meeting with the panel, please email livesheep.phaseout@agriculture.gov.au