

11 June 2024

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture
PO Box 6021
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: Agriculture.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Members of the Standing Committee

RE: Inquiry into Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) welcomes this opportunity to provide the Standing Committee on Agriculture with its position on the above-mentioned Bill.

The ADF is the national industry representative body (IRB) for dairy farmers across Australia. The Australian dairy industry is the third largest rural industry in Australia and a key sector of the agricultural and Australian economy, generating close to A\$6.1 billion in farmgate value in the 2022/23 financial year.

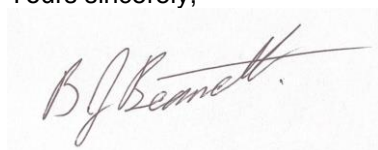
As the recognised national industry representative body for dairy farmers across the six dairy producing States, ADF's mission is to improve the productivity and sustainability of dairy farmers in Australia.

ADF oppose the Australian Government's policy to phase out live sheep exports and the bill that seeks to legislate the policy. ADF is concerned that there are a host of issues not adequately taken into consideration, including, but not limited to:

- Process – the process that was undertaken in reviewing the trade since 2018 and subsequent investment and developments that have occurred since.
- Political/Sovereign risk – this decision by Government exposes a number of Australian sectors and international trading partners to significant trade risk. This applies not only to the live-sheep export industry but extends to the potential precedent for other agricultural export sectors, and in addition the risk of retaliatory action by trade partners in yet other Australian sectors.
- Economic Risk – the trade and economic risk to Australian industry sectors represents a very real risk to Australia's regional communities, industry, and the broader Australian economy as a whole.
- Cultural Imposition – the risk that a small segment of Australian community views and beliefs is empowered through Government policy and imposed on international cultures and trading partners. Depending on the sector impacted, these may extend to the Middle East, Indonesia, and China as examples of countries that accept live animal exports.

ADF consider the issue of live animal export is a complex issue with the very real potential to adversely impact a number of sectors, countries, and cultures. As a result, the policy warrants careful re-consideration and in addition ADF seek an assurance from the Government that this policy will not extend to other agricultural sectors.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Bennett
President
Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd