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MEDIA RELEASE

VETS SUPPORT LIVE EX PHASE OUT

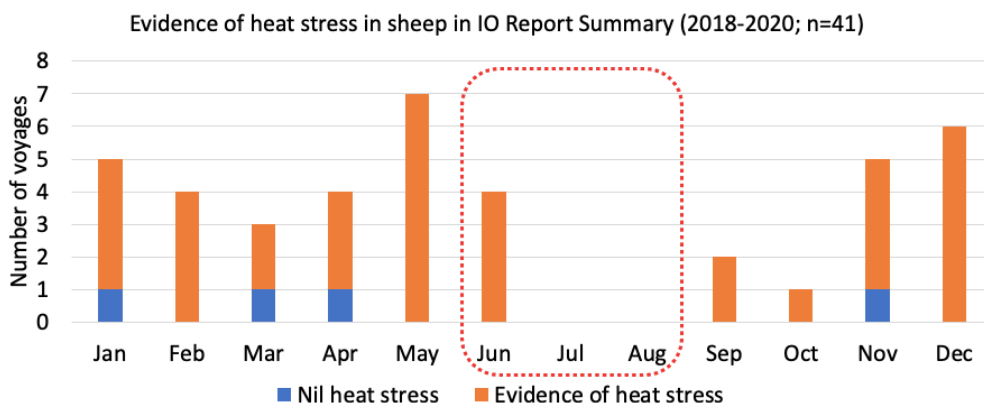
Today, Minister Murray Watt announced the implementation of Labor’s commitment to phase out the export of live sheep. Live sheep exports fell to below 500000 in 2022 with all sheep exported from WA. This declining trade is now less than 1% of WA’s agricultural trade and 0.1% of all ag trade.

The live export industry is expected to dig in to oppose this citing best world standards, low mortalities and excellent animal welfare.

Dr Foster, VALE Spokesperson said “It is true that Australia does have the world’s best standards but they are regularly breached by this industry. Independent observers reported breaches on 75% of the accompanied Middle East sheep voyages.”

“It is also true that there is low mortality on these voyages but this only came about when the standards were changed after a media exposé in 2018 revealed shocking shipboard conditions at a time when industry also claimed they were world leaders in animal welfare with world’s best standards and low mortality.”

Foster continued “What never changes is the inherent conditions on these ships: ship movement, 24h lighting and 90dB noise for 20+ days, faecal “bedding” and heat stress. Even with the changes implemented since 2018, 38/41 voyages accompanied by independent observers have reported heat stress. The ships are not air-conditioned and no amount of ventilation helps when the ambient conditions exceed a sheep’s heat stress threshold.”



VALE welcomes the announcement but recommends phase out as soon as feasibly possible. While this trade persists, animals will continue to suffer.

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