



MEDIA RELEASE

WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers), the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia (NCWSBA) and the Australian Council of Wool Exporters and Processors (ACWEP), have united to strongly condemn the Government's announcement to ban live sheep exports on 1 May, 2028.

While the Government claims that the decision to ban live sheep exports was an election commitment that Labor had taken to the last two elections, clearly during that time they have not considered the unintended consequences and potentially devastating impacts of this decision will threaten the viability of both the sheep meat and wool sectors.

WoolProducers CEO Ms Jo Hall said, "The live sheep export trade provides a vital market for many Western Australian sheep producers. The fact that a legitimate trade can be shut down on a whim of a government, particularly by a government who has not taken technical, trade or scientific advice into consideration and who merely chased a populist vote.

The drop in wool production in Western Australia (WA) that will follow from this decision will further compound already falling volumes due to adverse seasonal conditions and will put more pressure on the WA wool industry, which is in jeopardy of becoming a cottage industry.

Rowan Woods, President of the NCWSBA said, "A strong wool industry is underpinned by a healthy sheep population, if farmers are forced to cull their flocks due to the live export ban, it will inevitably impact the size of their wool clip and potentially lead to job losses across the sector."

It should also be noted that a reduction in wool production in WA will have negative impacts on both the Western Wool Selling Centre and Western Australian AWTA facility, with some industry people suggesting that the live sheep ban and subsequent reduction in sheep numbers may see consideration of the viability of the selling centre.

President of ACWEP, Josh Lamb said, "This decision will devastate the WA sheep and wool industry but what Canberra don't understand is the ripple effect is felt nationally across the entire industry"

"The National wool industry will suffer long term damage to international trade, employment and rural communities as a consequence".

The industry is urging the government to properly consider and acknowledge the flow-on effects of the live sheep export ban to the Australian wool industry. The industry is seeking a guarantee from the government on the long-term sustainability of Australia's vital wool industry and the regional communities that rely on it, given they are now both in jeopardy on the back of this decision.

The Australian wool industry will not give up fighting for the long-term viability of the industry and its people.

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