

Australia commits \$139.7Mn to support transition from live sheep exports

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The Australian Government has announced a \$139.7 million transition package to support individuals, businesses, and communities as the country prepares to phase out live sheep exports by sea, with a complete ban to come into effect from 1 May 2028.

The funding package is designed to provide certainty and confidence to those impacted by the legislation passed by the Australian Parliament, ensuring a smooth and strategic transition over the coming years.

This significant investment will help the sector collaborate on a long-term strategy backed by targeted investment. It also aims to enhance the profitability and efficiency of the domestic sheep supply chain from farms to feedlots, ensuring consistent quality and supply for local and export meat markets.

Key components of the support package include:

- Strengthening regional business resilience and community sustainability
- Leveraging agtech and data systems to create improved feedback loops across the supply chain
- Positioning producers to better meet shifting market and consumer demands
- Supporting innovation and alternative trade opportunities in sheep meat production

The government's move has been welcomed by some as a proactive step toward animal welfare reform, while ensuring that farmers and regional communities are not left behind.