



The Honourable Bob Kirk
Mayor of Goulburn

26 October 2020

Dear Mr Mayor,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding Goulburn's "Big Merino" statue. The landmark stands as a monument to the wool industry, yet it fails to depict the common and particularly pernicious practice of mulesing, thereby telling only half the story.

In light of this, I'd like to propose an additional statue, a sculpture of a mulesed lamb, to reflect more accurately the "fine wool industry". Please see a photo of a group of lambs being mulesed [here](#) for reference.

As I'm sure you know, **over 70% of Australia's wool comes from sheep who were mulesed** – a barbaric practice in which workers force live sheep onto their backs, restrain their legs between metal bars, and cut chunks of flesh from their backsides or attach vice-like clamps to their flesh until it dies and sloughs off – often without painkillers. This is terrifying for prey animals like sheep, who cry out in fear and pain. It also leaves them with open wounds – which, ironically, are prone to flystrike, which mulesing ostensibly aims to prevent.

We can only assume that the industry would welcome a statue designed to inform visitors about this element of wool production, given how hard it has fought for decades to continue the practice, even in the face of public outcry and worldwide designer boycotts.

Despite promises from the wool industry itself that mulesing would be banned by 2010, it remains prevalent. We urge Goulburn to depict honestly the barbaric nature of this procedure by erecting our proposed sculpture and dedicating it to the millions of sheep who have been and continue to be mutilated and abused for their wool.

I hope to hear from you soon about working together on placing this piece in accordance with your guidelines. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Rice
PETA Australia

PEOPLE FOR
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