



**Title:** "Traffic jam"

**Description:** A mob of sheep being driven down the highway during a flood.

**Photographer:** Tansy Hutton

**Where, when:** Southland, May 2021.

**Sustainability?** You know you are in the country when you come across a classic kiwi-style traffic jam - a giant mob of sheep on the move. This photo was taken in late May. There had been a lot of rain which meant the creek that runs through the farm was very high and wide. This left the road as the safest way to move this mob of 2500 pregnant ewes to fresh grass. Continual rotation of the stock around the farm to match grass growth, control weeds and parasites, and to help condition the soil, is a crucial part of the farming routines.

The dogs are used to push the sheep out onto the road and then the dogs and farmers work together to keep them all calm and orderly. Often cars with hazard lights flashing are used in combination with

'stock' signs to alert drivers to a traffic jam up ahead. It can still be an incredibly daunting sight for the uninitiated though to come across though. It's important to minimise stress on the sheep so farmers will often utilise well trained dogs. They are trained to be able to move the sheep using eye contact and body movements which helps the sheep to move in a calm but efficient way. Areas where sheep need to move through will be set up to allow for an easy flow, flustered or stressed sheep can easily cause their own kind of traffic jam. .

I find most farmers are first and foremost animal lovers. They get just as angry as town folk when someone in the farming community lets the farming community and all of New Zealand down by mistreating animals. There are just under 50,000 farms in Aotearoa, so please don't let the occasional bad apple spoil your perception of the entire barrel.

If you come across a mob on the road like this we ask that you take it slow, don't use your horn, and stop if someone signals you to do so. Enjoy the sight of all those wonderful sheep.

**Photo notes:** *Camera:* Samsung SM-G980F *Settings:* f/1.8, 1/281 sec, ISO 50, 5 mm.

**Digital specs:** 1,771 x 1,771 pixels (3.1 MP).

**Key words:** Sheep, stock management, animal husbandry, farming, Tansy Hutton, Ecosystems Photography, Aotearoa, New Zealand, sustainability

**Price:** \$160 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

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**Donation:** The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for *Will To Live* <https://www.willtolivenz.com/>. They promote mental health awareness, provide one on one support, free education and wellbeing tools to small rural communities that are often isolated from mental health resources.

**Image Ref:** THu#002 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

**Tansy Hutton**  
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