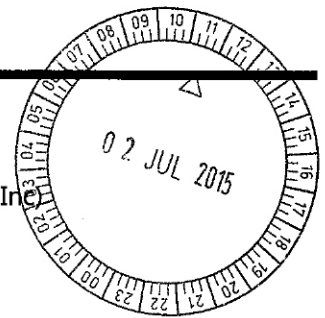


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

From: Tanya Urago
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2015 10:56 AM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: RSPCA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



RSPCA Western Australia must be able to continue their independent, balanced and active approach to animal welfare.

As this organisation is charged with the responsibility of protecting animals from cruelty and ensuring the welfare of animals, the RSPCA should be properly funded by the government, be able to act in the interests of ALL animals across ALL sectors and be afforded greater powers to do their work.

The RSPCA must be able to act independently from the government, for obvious reasons of potential conflict of interest. As political parties and governments can receive support from organisations and businesses that profit from the use and trade of animals, it would be highly unethical for the government to control, restrict or dictate the activities of the RSPCA.

Animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty to animals is an integral part of a decent, progressive society. The incidences of animal cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation occurring in Western Australia and across the nation are unacceptable.

The Western Australian Government has an ethical obligation to support the Western Australian RSPCA's independent and balanced approach to animal welfare, and animal welfare must not be comprised.

For the government to cut funding for animal welfare and protection, in order to offset debt that has resulted from over spending and budget blow outs on other sectors and projects, would be unconscionable.

Animals are amongst the most vulnerable and voiceless in our society, and it is abhorrent that any government should take advantage of this for their own purposes.

To have the leader of the Shooters and Fishers party chairing this 'Select Committee' into the RSPCA's operations is blatantly at odds with the concept of animal protection and welfare. It raises very serious concerns about the government's agenda with respect to this review.

It appears that the current Government, both State and Federal, is systematically working to weaken, silence and control animal welfare and protection organisations. This is not the way of a democracy. The government's obvious willingness to compromise the welfare of animals, in order to further its own agendas and benefits, is abhorrent.

I believe that most decent Australians care about the welfare and protection of animals. Social media enables greater awareness than ever before in history. A government that seeks to further their own agenda and benefits at the expense of those most vulnerable, in this case animals, will not go unnoticed.

It would be unacceptable for the government of Western Australia to attempt to weaken the power or jurisdiction of the RSPCA, or to interfere with the RSPCA's ability to genuinely work for and achieve the best possible protections and welfare of ALL ANIMALS.

Like most Western Australians, I definitely do not want to see animal welfare compromised. It is high time that more support and power is granted to ensure better animal welfare standards in our state and nation.

Sincerely

Tanya Urago