

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

From:
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2015 1:39 PM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: Submission to Select Committee

Dear Legislative Council,

I would like to submit the following to the Select Committee into the operations of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc).

The majority of human society has a strong moral sense of compassion and duty of care towards animals. To this end, all western societies have for many decades maintained strong animal welfare and advocacy organisations, with legal powers to enforce humane treatment of animals and to prosecute transgressions of the societally-established moral codes of conduct. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc) (RSPCAWA) is our local organisation fulfilling this role and is strongly supported, morally and financially, by the West Australian community. A select committee of elected representatives of this community need to remain acutely aware throughout their deliberations that the RSPCAWA, in its present form and function, has the full support of the majority of the community.

Regarding government funding, the government contributes about 6% of the annual operating costs of the RSPCAWA, the rest coming from the community. Of all the contributors, the government is the only one to directly benefit financially. I refer to the fact that successful prosecutions result in fines being paid to the government. I understand that this and other income streams as a result of RSPCAWA operations far exceeds the government funding level, so from a purely business point of view this is a good investment.

Regarding its objectives, these are available for all to view and strongly supported by the majority of the community. Regarding the use of its powers, I believe it is entirely appropriate for the RSPCAWA to take a strong stand in all matters which have an animal welfare component. This would include the live animal export trade which is an important animal welfare issue to the community at large.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Golding