

## Legislation Committee

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 10:59 AM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** Support of Changes to Animal Welfare Act



### WA ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017

Mr Mark Warner  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Legislation  
Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace  
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill. You will agree that transparency and accountability have been shamefully absent in all matters concerning farmed and companion animals in Western Australia. Voluntary '*Codes of Practice*' were never going to be respected, and prosecution for breaches nigh impossible. **Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock** will provide necessary clarity and teeth; we are a shameful six years behind other states. The more recent **Sheep Standards, Cattle Standards and Saleyard Standards** also need to be included. ESCAS, ASEL and the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002 are obscene in their inadequacy. Nothing about them promotes "welfare", only minimal direction about avoiding the worst abuses.

With even the most conservative politicians now understanding the necessity of whistle-blower protection (in the wake of horrific live export footage), it is clear that Australians do not accept the "invasion of privacy" rhetoric. Suffering, and proof of suffering, and someone able and willing to report it AND an inspector being confident of a breach, are current hurdles to prosecution of breaches. NOTHING must be allowed to stand in the way of **frequent, routine, unannounced inspections** of animal-related businesses.

Public outrage at exposes of kitten and puppy farms, greyhound baiting, egg/wool/meat/milk practices, and of course the live export shame, are a clear message that we expect our political representatives to demand transparent and accountable animal businesses, with **enforceable legislation** being supported by **hefty consequences** (prison).

I urge this committee to recommend that the Bill is passed in the Upper House, to satisfy community expectation and trust in the pet and animal agriculture industry.

Thank you,  
Katherine McCann

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