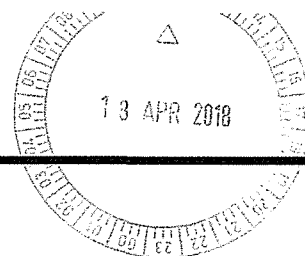


## Legislation Committee



**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 April 2018 11:48 AM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** WA ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017- SUBMISSIONS TO COMMITTEE Mr Mark Warner Committee Clerk Standing Committee on Legislation Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace West Perth WA 6005

Dear Sir,

I thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill. The amendments will dramatically improve the lives of animals and introduce desperately needed transparency and accountability of animal businesses.

This Bill is a big step to improve the legal protections for our stock or companion animals.

### Standards and Guidelines:

Currently, the Industry follows livestock transport Codes of Practice. Codes are voluntary and it is very difficult to use them to prosecute for cruelty whereas the Standards and Guidelines can be used to prosecute for breaches.

By 2012 all States except but Western Australia had adopted the S&G's into legislation. The Amendment Bill will allow the adoption of the Land Transport Standards and Guidelines into law including the more recent Sheep Standards, Cattle Standards and Saleyard Standards.

### Inspections for Compliance:

Unlike Europe, the current WA Animal Welfare legislation does not permit routine, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance at a private business; be that a cat or dog breeding farm, pet bird breeding premise, sheep, cattle, rabbit, pig, poultry farm, feedlot, slaughterhouse, live animal export premise or live animal export vessel. An Inspector may only gain access if they receive a complaint and as a result they believe cruelty may have or is occurring.

The Amendment will allow inspectors to randomly (without notice) and routinely check to ensure that animal welfare legislation is being followed. This is especially significant at this time given the revelations concerning the images of pregnant ewes giving birth on live export vessels to the Middle East.

- The current Animal Welfare Act is very limited in its capacity to regulate matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of animals.

- The amendments to the Act and new regulations;

- \* Are a tangible step towards improving the welfare of livestock in this State.

- \* Will ensure industry and the community clear guidance on minimum standards to be met and will help to strengthen public confidence in the livestock sector.

- \* Will restore community expectations of welfare standards so they will be confident shopping for humane products rather than being asked by Industry to take their word cruelty is not occurring.

The community demands transparent and accountable animal businesses. The public wants to know that breeder companion animals and animals produced for the wool, meat or milk they buy, have had basic legislative protection. It is imperative that WA has strong, enforceable legislation as well as routine checks for compliance.

-There is overwhelming community support of the amendments because there is immense concern by Western Australians for animals' wellbeing, particularly now that inhumane practices in live export are in the spotlight.

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 agricultural Industry.

Thank you

Katherine de jong