

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

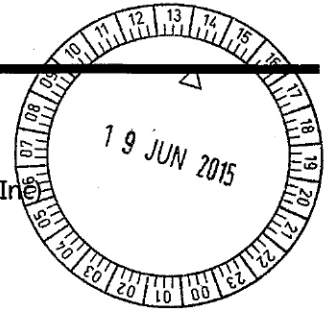
From:

Sent:

Friday, 19 June 2015 1:48 PM

To:

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



The operation of the RSPCA

I do agree that the RSPCA WA is a recognised and respected institution.

The item I would like to have discussed is: The RSPCA WA is the enforcing agency for the WA Animal Welfare Act. The RSPCA has for that purpose 11 Inspectors for the State of WA. And these Inspectors do not have police authority. In my view this makes no sense. No organisation can enforce a State law with 11 inspectors which do not have police authority. To me the State has done a clever move to avoid paying for the enforcement.

I know that the RSPCA receives 500.000 \$ from the State per year. These funds are not directly connected to the enforcement of the WA Animal Welfare Act.

What I think should be done is: place the enforcement of the WA Animal Welfare Act with the Police (that what other countries do), but leave the funding support unchanged.

This would have another positive effect and that is that the RSPCA WA will not need to cooperate any more with the Dep.of Agriculture which constitutes a conflict of interest, as the Dep.of Agriculture supervises farms but much on in a sense that these farms operate efficiently. And that does not necessarily mean a good standard of animal welfare. As an example, how animals are treated on farms is subject to recommended procedures, these have been worked out together with the RSPCA WA but are not part of the WA Animal Welfare Act. They should be.

In light of all of the above I think the WA Animal Welfare Act should be redone, to include that the enforcement of this law rests with the Police, should include the recommended procedures, include marine life (have you ever been on a fishing trawler?) etc.

In the end the RSPCA would be an animal welfare organisation with focus on animal welfare (like to stop the live export of animals) and on the avoidance and prosecution of cruelty against animals. And not to forget the educational efforts the RSPCA WA does to raise the awareness of how to treat animals.

Rainer Repke

Sent from Windows Mail