



Legislation Committee

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 18 April 2018 10:47 PM
To: Legislation Committee
Subject: WA ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017

Dear Sir,

The current Animal Welfare Act is very limited in its capacity to regulate matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of animals. The proposed amendments will dramatically improve the lives of animals and introduce desperately needed transparency and accountability of animal businesses.

It is not acceptable that Industry has objections to unannounced visits as an invasion of privacy and too much regulatory power. How can privacy considerations be of more importance than reducing animal suffering?

This Bill is a big step in improving the legal protections for our stock or companion animals. The Amendment will allow inspectors to randomly (without notice) and routinely check to ensure that animal welfare legislation is being followed. Any animal business must be fully accountable to consumers and this will only happen with increased powers for inspectors.

This is especially significant given the recent revelations concerning the images of pregnant ewes giving birth on live export vessels to the Middle East. 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 for 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,
Ray Leemans

Public / Internet

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