

Parliament of Western Australia

Hon. Rob Johnson, JP, MLA

Member for Hillarys

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ATTENTION:

SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

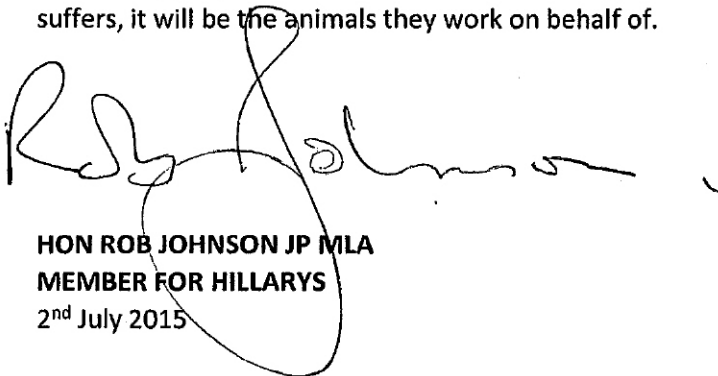
As a life member of the RSPCA WA I greatly value the work this organisation does in promoting the welfare and safety of animals in our society. This long established organisation has what I believe is a well-deserved reputation of excellence in preventing and investigating abuse or cruelty to animals, for providing practical care for animals needing medical help and for promoting safer environments in which animals can thrive.

From 1893 which was the second year of operation, to the present day, RSPCA WA's patrons have been people holding high office in Western Australia. RSPCA WA has a very high profile and level of support in the general community as is evidenced by the thousands of dollars that are raised which cover a large proportion of RSPCA WA's annual operating costs. In addition there are numerous volunteers who contribute in many areas including practical animal caring tasks, office administration, public speaking to community groups to raise awareness of animal related issues and fund raising through Op Shops and organised activities.

I believe this inquiry is mainly to support the live animal export trade. Whereas I do understand the importance to many of our farmers, it will always be the State Government that will have to ensure live animal exports be done in such a way as to ensure these animals do not suffer cruelty prior to them being slaughtered.

The RSPCA WA may not always get things right in the eyes of some West Australians, or in this case specifically some Legislative Council members, just as some could argue that many Members of Parliament frequently get things wrong. But as the organisation exists to prevent cruelty, it is their role to alert the public to issues that impact on animal welfare and advocate change.

Without appropriate State Government funding it will not necessarily be RSPCA WA that suffers, it will be the animals they work on behalf of.



HON ROB JOHNSON JP MLA
MEMBER FOR HILLARYS
2nd July 2015