



WA Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2017

Mr Mark Warner

Committee Clerk

Standing Committee on Legislation

Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace

West Perth WA 6005

Submitted via email: lclc@parliament.wa.gov.au

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RE: WA Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2017- Submissions to the Committee

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to comment on the proposed WA Animal Welfare Bill.

I would also like to thank WA Labour for progressing with amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 2002, which are well overdue.

As stated in WA Labour's Discussion Paper 'Strengthening Animal Welfare in Western Australia':

"Volunteer groups are forced to play an increasing role in monitoring animal welfare due to lack of government support and funding."

This is ludicrous and reveals the urgency of the proposed amendments, especially in light of the cruelty exposed in the live animal export trade.

Also especially since Western Australia is the only state to not have incorporated the National Welfare Standards for Land Transport of Livestock. These standards were agreed to in 2012; incredibly six years ago, thereby reiterating the urgency of legislating Standards and Guidelines (rather than using the ineffective Codes of Practice which are almost impossible to use to prosecute any cruelty).

The Amendment Bill will also allow the adoption of Sheep Standards, Cattle Standards and Saleyard Standards.

The WA Animal Welfare Act in its current form does not permit unannounced inspections to ensure compliance at a private business involved with animal agriculture or pets. An Inspector may only gain access if they receive a complaint and as a result they believe cruelty may have or is occurring.

To bring WA in line with progressive international standards such as in Europe, the Amendment to the Act will allow inspectors to randomly (without notice) and routinely check to ensure that animal welfare legislation is being followed. This is especially important in light of revelations concerning images of pregnant ewes giving birth on

live export vessels to the Middle East and other atrocities that have come to light including those in slaughterhouses and intensive farms

To reassure the public that there is transparency and accountability in animal industries, to ensure the safeguarding of animals from cruelty and to guarantee enforceable legislation, I implore this committee to recommend that the Bill is passed in the upper house.

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

Deanne Shiree Vines

Public / Internet

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