

**Submission
No 273**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Gabrielle Smalley

Date Received: 25 February 2022

Dear Committee Members

The proposed Animal Welfare Bill 2022 falls short of community expectations in a number of areas.

Animals in NSW need laws that will:

Recognise animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animals

Stop carving out exemptions for farm animals which allow continuation of cruel practices such as:

mulesing of lambs

hot iron branding of cattle

carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief

intensive confinement (such as battery cages and sow stalls)

Establish well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest through an independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority.

I support the important positives in the bill. They include:

Minimum care requirements for animals, including opportunities to express normal behaviours

The expansion of the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods (e.g. octopus, squid, lobsters and crabs)

The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals

This legislation will impact the welfare of millions of animals across the whole state and represents a rare opportunity to create change, helping to bring an end to unnecessary suffering and improve their lives.

You have a magnificent opportunity to make a difference. There is no difference in the pain your beloved family pet will feel as of those of all animals.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leven