

**Submission
No 280**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The 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 of many animals.

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

I hope to see animals protected under the NSW law by:

- Recognising 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.

The bill does see some improvements which is a great step forward:

- 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