



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

28 March 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry announcement and call for submissions

Should virtual stock fencing be legal in NSW?

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development is inquiring into the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024* (the Bill).

The Bill aims to change the law to permit the use of virtual stock fencing devices for the purposes of confining, tracking and monitoring stock animals.

The Committee Chair and Member for Barwon, Mr Roy Butler, said the inquiry will look into the provisions of the Bill as well as key issues of permitting virtual fencing.

"Virtual stock fencing technology has already helped farmers in Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand and the United States of America where it has been incorporated into legislation. With farmers in New South Wales facing increasing challenges from natural disasters and fluctuating markets, it is important to examine whether this technology can help farmers and the broader environment."

"The Committee would like to hear from the public about what virtual fencing would look like in NSW and what impact it would have on animal welfare, biosecurity and community safety," Mr Butler said. "We will also look into benefits, risks and any unintended consequences raised by the Bill, and whether any amendments may address these issues."

The Committee is inviting submissions from farmers, businesses, industries, organisations, community groups and the public. More information including terms of reference and information on how to make a submission is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

The closing date for submissions is 17 May 2024.

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