

**Submission
No 4**

**PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AMENDMENT (VIRTUAL STOCK
FENCING) BILL 2024**

Name: Mr Thomas Winter

Date Received: 8 April 2024

Subject: Support for the 'Prevention of Cruelty to Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024'

Dear Members of the Parliament of New South Wales,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 'Prevention of Cruelty to Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024'. As an early enthusiast for virtual fencing technology, I firmly believe that its integration into agricultural practices will not only revolutionize livestock management but also significantly enhance animal welfare standards in our state.

Virtual fencing represents a ground-breaking innovation that has the potential to transform how livestock farmers operate. By leveraging advanced technology, such as the solution developed by Gallagher, we have the opportunity to mitigate various challenges faced by traditional fencing methods while simultaneously promoting the well-being of animals under our care.

One of the most compelling arguments in favour of virtual fencing is its ability to minimize stress among livestock. Traditional methods of herding and containment often involve loud noises, physical barriers, and abrupt movements, all of which can induce anxiety and distress in animals. In contrast, virtual fencing enables slower and more controlled stock movements, allowing animals to graze and roam in a manner that closely mimics their natural behaviour. This reduction in stress levels not only improves the overall welfare of the animals but also has positive implications for their health and productivity.

This technology is also a cost-effective solution for farmers looking to adopt more sustainable practices such as cell grazing which has the positive outcomes of increased stocking rates, more consistent stock rates as the rested paddocks recover more effectively offering a drought proofing solution, as well as aids in pasture and soil health which is a significant contributing factor when considering carbon sequestration in a pasture grazing enterprise. If not for this scalable technology farmers looking to adopt these practices would need significant capital investment into fencing, laneways, waterpoints, as well as install costs and the ongoing labour costs of maintaining the infrastructure.

Furthermore, virtual fencing promotes safer practices on farms by reducing the need for manual intervention in livestock management. Agriculture remains one of the most hazardous industries, with fatalities and injuries occurring frequently during tasks such as herding and fencing. By adopting virtual fencing technology, we can significantly diminish the risks associated with these activities, thereby safeguarding the well-being of farmers and workers.

It is also noteworthy that virtual fencing aligns with the principles of animal welfare advocated by organizations such as the RSPCA. Gallagher's collaboration with animal behaviour specialists underscores their commitment to ensuring positive outcomes for animals across the five domains of welfare. This emphasis on ethical and responsible

practices further underscores the merits of integrating virtual fencing into our agricultural landscape.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the 'Prevention of Cruelty to Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024' and embrace the opportunities it presents for enhancing both animal welfare and farm safety in New South Wales. By enabling the use of virtual fencing technology, we can foster a more sustainable and humane approach to livestock management while simultaneously advancing the interests of our farming community.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Winter

