

**Submission  
No 21**

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

**Organisation:** Narrabri Shire Council

**Date Received:** 2 May 2024

Our Reference: 2155941 RW:DLA

Your Reference:

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Mr Roy Butler MP  
Chair  
Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry & Regional Development  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

By email: [investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



Thursday, 2 May 2024

**RE: Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry & Regional Development - Inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing Bill) 2024 – Narrabri Shire Council Submission**

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the above inquiry.

It is understood that the following terms of reference (ToRs) are applicable to the current review process:

*That the Committee inquire into and report on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024, with particular reference to:*

- (a) the provisions of the bill,*
- (b) the animal welfare, biosecurity and community safety implications of permitting virtual fencing,*
- (c) any benefits, issues or unintended consequences raised by the bill, and whether any amendments may address those,*
- (d) any other related matter.*

### Local Context

Narrabri Shire is a [local government area](#) in the [North West Slopes](#) region of NSW. The primary settlement of Narrabri is located adjacent to the [Namoi River](#) and at the confluence of the [Newell](#) and [Kamilaroi Highways](#). The local government area (LGA) is strategically positioned halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, and is considered to be resource-rich. Key local industries include mining and agriculture. At the last census (2021) the resident population was 12,721 persons.

Narrabri Shire Council's vision is articulated in the Community Strategic Plan as follows:

*"Narrabri Shire will be a strong and vibrant regional growth centre providing a quality living environment for the entire Shire community."*



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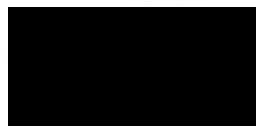
The township of Narrabri is considered to be one of the most flood prone settlements in NSW. The community of Wee Waa, located west of Narrabri, is periodically completely isolated by flood waters for long periods (up to two weeks) and is protected by a ring levee. Narrabri Shire contains a number of vulnerable and at-risk communities that are flood-affected. These communities have a high Aboriginal population, low socio-economic base and are also ageing in nature.

Narrabri Shire Council provides the following feedback to the Legislative Assembly Committee in relation to the Inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing Bill) 2024:

1. It is considered that the bill will promote improved biosecurity outcomes through effective stock management practices.
2. Narrabri Shire Council has an extensive Travelling Stock Route (TSR) network with direct interface with highly trafficked transportation networks including the Kamilaroi and Newell Highways. Subject to uptake of the technology, the proposed amendments are likely to create improved community safety outcomes, particularly in regard to likely reduction of traffic-related incidents and accidents.
3. The Narrabri Local Government Area (LGA) has been subject to a number of natural disasters including bushfires and flooding and the prevalence of extreme weather events is increasing. Accordingly, the use of such technology would assist landholders and livestock owners to effectively manage stock during and post extreme weather events.
4. Any new technology permitted under the legislative amendments should meet applicable animal welfare standards and associated best practice.

Should you require any additional information or clarification in this regard you are invited to contact Council's Director Planning and Sustainability, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] or by emailing [council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@narrabri.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully,



**Rob Williams**  
General Manager