

**Submission
No 26**

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

Organisation: Wollondilly Shire Council

Date Received: 8 May 2024

Parliament of NSW
Committees Enquiry

8 May 2024

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

Wollondilly Council is writing in response to the recent offer to lodge a submission regarding proposed amendments to the Protection of Cruelty to Animals Legislation to permit Virtual Stock Fencing.

Whilst Council is not Authorised under the POCTA legislation, it is appreciated that Council has been asked to make comment.

The following submission is made:

- It is not clear whether virtual fencing is proposed for perimeter fencing or whether virtual fencing is restricted to internal fences.
- If it is proposed that the virtual fencing would be permissible for all fencing, including perimeter fencing, the following could be applicable:
 - Dogs, seeing cattle not restrained by fences could attempt to enter a property – dogs in a heightened state could ignore an electric shock;
 - Bulls could disregard shocks leading to unwanted breeding and fighting;
 - Public perception – cattle are not contained, which could lead to the public unnecessarily contacting authorities;
 - Experience with electric fences and dog collars to contain dogs on properties from time to time results in the electric fence failing and dogs wandering – how would this be prevented with cattle;
 - If cattle penetrate the perimeter fence, they would be less likely to try to re-enter the property, which often happens now when cattle escape;

GENERALLY:

- Possible increase in bio-security issues, eg., feral pests;
- Potential for collar to irritate cattle noting that the collar appears to be quite rigid and is significant in size - could also catch on branches etc.
- Solar charged batteries – what is the potential that batteries could explode/inflame?
- How is solar power maintained in periods of overcast conditions – eg., winter and during extended wet weather periods?;

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- Possibility to compromise Council's fencing orders under the Local Government Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this Bill.

Yours faithfully,



Robyn Cooper
Manager Health & Regulatory Services
Shire Futures