

**Submission
No 46**

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

Organisation: Australian Organic Limited

Date Received: 17 May 2024



Legislative Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024 Inquiry
investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

17 May 2024

Dear Committee Members,

Australian Organic Limited (AOL) is a peak industry body for the organic industry in Australia. AOL is committed to progressing the interests of the organic sector and delivering a world where organics is recognised for its environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Currently, the use of electrical stimulation to coerce animals is prohibited under the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce (the National Standard) . This is directly in reference to the processing and handling phase and has not been updated to include specific reference to the advancements of virtual stock fencing.

However, at a recent roundtable of organic livestock producers held to coincide with Beef Week 2024, producers expressed interest in learning more about how virtual stock fencing was interpreted within organic regulations and how it can assist with improved grazing practices and minimising reliance on internal fencing for livestock management.

Current estimates suggest that approximately 12.4 per cent of agricultural land across Australia is now organic. As organic land increases, identifying grazing practices and land management methods that can be used to maintain herds will be key consideration.

While AOL is not able to provide a detailed submission to the inquiry into this Bill, the organic industry has an interest in how the Bill will be implemented and whether the methods used to maintain livestock will have the potential to be incorporated into the management of organic livestock following government and further industry consultation.

How the NSW government and Department of Primary Industries enforce the Bill may serve as a guide for future policy development within the organic industry. Therefore, AOL is interested in any opportunities to discuss this Bill with relevant departmental or government stakeholders to gain a clearer understanding of how virtual stock fencing will be implemented.

Yours sincerely,



Niki Ford
CEO, Australian Organic Limited