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# Minutes no. 1

Monday 28 August 2023

Animal Welfare Committee

Room 1043 and via video conference, Parliament House, Sydney, 4.07pm

## 1. Members present

Ms Hurst (Chair)

Mr Borsak

Mr Fang

Mr Lawrence (via video conference)

Mrs Taylor (substituting for Mrs MacDonald) (via video conference)

Mr Nanva (via video conference)

Mr Primrose

Ms Suvaal

## 2. Tabling of resolution establishing the committee

The committee noted the following resolution of the House establishing the committee, which reads as follows:

That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the standing orders:

### Appointment

1. An Animal Welfare Committee be appointed.

### Functions

2. The committee may inquire into and report on matters relating to the welfare and protection of animals in New South Wales.

### Referral of inquiries

3. The committee:
  - (a) is to inquire into and report on any matter relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House, and
  - (b) may self-refer an inquiry into any matter relevant to the functions of the committee.
4. A committee meeting to consider a self-reference under paragraph (3)(b) must be convened at the request of any three committee members in writing to the Committee Clerk.
5. The Committee Clerk must convene a meeting within seven calendar days of the receipt of the request, providing that members are given at least 24 hours' notice.
6. A majority of committee members is required to adopt the self-reference.
7. Whenever a committee resolves to self-refer a matter, the terms of reference are to be reported to the House on the next sitting day.

### Membership

8. That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee is to consist of eight members, comprising:

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- (a) four government members,
- (b) two opposition members, and
- (c) two crossbench members, with one being Ms Hurst.

### **Chair and Deputy Chair**

9. The Chair of the committee is to be Ms Hurst, and the committee is to elect the Deputy Chair in accordance with the standing orders.

### **Conduct of committee proceedings**

10. Unless the committee decides otherwise:
- (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales,
  - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration,
  - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential,
  - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement,
  - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings is to alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each,
  - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
  - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness,
  - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
  - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

### **3. Election of Chair**

The Chair called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Mr Primrose moved: That Mr Nanva be elected Deputy Chair of the committee.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Nanva elected Deputy Chair.

### **4. Briefing on the resolution establishing the committee and conduct of committee proceedings**

The secretariat briefed committee members on the resolution establishing the committee and conduct of committee proceedings.

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## 5. Conduct of committee proceedings

### 5.1 Media

The committee noted the Broadcast of Proceedings resolution (as amended by the Legislative Council on 19 October 2022), in particular the provisions relating to the filming, broadcasting, rebroadcasting and photography of committee proceedings, including:

- (4) That unless resolved otherwise by a committee, this House authorises:
  - (a) the filming, broadcasting and photography of members and witnesses in committee proceedings:
    - (i) by representatives of media organisations, including from around the committee meeting table,
    - (ii) by any member of the public, from the position of the audience, and
  - (b) the rebroadcasting of committee proceedings on the Legislative Council and Parliament's social media channels.

## 6. Publication of minutes of the first meeting

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the committee publish the minutes of the first meeting on the committee's webpage, subject to the draft minutes being circulated to members.

## 7. Correspondence

The committee noted the following item of correspondence:

### *Received:*

- 28 August 2023 – Letter from Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Hon Emma Hurst MLC and Hon Wes Fang MLC requesting a meeting of the Animal Welfare Committee to consider a proposed self-reference into the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park.

## 8. Consideration of terms of reference – Proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park

The Chair tabled a letter proposing the following terms of reference for the inquiry into the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park:

That the Animal Welfare Committee inquire into and report on the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park and surrounding areas, and in particular:

- (a) the methodology used to survey and estimate the brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park,
- (b) the justification for proposed aerial shooting, giving consideration to urgency and the accuracy of the estimated brumby population in Kosciuszko National Park
- (c) the adequacy of the 'Aerial shooting of feral horses (HOR002) Standard Operating Procedure',
- (d) the animal welfare concerns associated aerial shooting,
- (e) the human safety concerns if Kosciuszko National Park is to remain open during operations
- (f) the impact of previous aerial shooting operations (such as Guy Fawkes National Park) in NSW,

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- (g) the availability of alternatives to aerial shooting, and
- (h) any other related matter.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Nanva: That the terms of reference be amended by:

- inserting a new paragraph after paragraph (b):  
'the status of, and threats to, endangered species in Kosciuszko National Park'
- amending paragraph (c) by inserting 'the history and adequacy of New South Wales laws, policies and programs for the control of wild horse populations, including but not limited to' before 'the adequacy of the "Aerial shooting of feral horses (HOR002) Standard Operating Procedure"'
- amending paragraph (d) by omitting 'associated aerial shooting' and inserting 'associated with aerial shooting'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the committee adopt the terms of reference, as amended.

## **9. Conduct of the inquiry into the proposed aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park**

### **9.1 Closing date for submissions**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That the closing date for submissions be Friday 13 October 2023.

### **9.2 Stakeholder list**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That:

- the secretariat circulate to members the Chair's proposed list of stakeholders to be invited to make a submission
- members have two days from when the Chair's proposed list is circulated to make amendments or nominate additional stakeholders
- the committee agree to the stakeholder list by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement.

### **9.3 Approach to submissions**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Suvaal: That to enable significant efficiencies for members and the secretariat while maintaining the integrity of how submissions are treated, in the event that 50 or more individual submissions are received, the committee may adopt the following approach to processing short submissions:

- All submissions from individuals 250 words or less in length will:
  - have an individual submission number, and be published with the author's name or as name suppressed, or kept confidential, according to the author's request
  - be reviewed by the secretariat for adverse mention and sensitive/identifying information, in accordance with practice
  - be channelled into one single document to be published on the inquiry website
- All other submissions will be processed and published as normal.

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#### **9.4 Hearing dates and site visits**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Fang: That the timeline for hearings and site visits be considered by the committee following the receipt of submissions. Further, that hearing dates and site visits be determined by the Chair after consultation with members regarding their availability.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 4.24pm, *sine die*.

Rhia Victorino  
**Committee Clerk**