



ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

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:
 - (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.