

**Inquiry into Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock
Animal Procedures) Bill 2019**

Hearing: Tuesday, 11 August 2020

Question Taken on Notice

Question 1 (Page 3 of transcript)

The Hon MICK VEITCH: I have two last questions. You may not have this information, is the department aware of anyone who has been penalised under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [POCTA] Act for not treating their fly-struck sheep?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that in front of me. I will come back to the Committee. All of the compliance agencies will be in here later today.

ANSWER:

RSPCA NSW advise that there has been one charge under POCTA related to a person not treating their fly-struck sheep since 2009. The matter is currently before the courts. Animal Welfare League NSW advise that, since 2006, they have not penalised anyone under POCTA Act for not treating their fly-struck sheep.

Supplementary Questions

1. If the bill were to pass in its existing form, mulesing would be banned by 2022. What are the available operation strategies for woolgrowers to achieve the new requirements?

ANSWER:

Woolgrowers forced to cease mulesing would have to look at significant additional management practices to reduce the risk of flystrike or exiting the industry.

2. Could the outcome of the bill result in large numbers of merino sheep being offloaded to the saleyards? What would be the effect of this on the sheep and wool markets in NSW? Would a possible outcome be large scale slaughter of wool producing sheep?

ANSWER:

Yes, if the Bill was to pass it is expected to result in increased merino sheep farm offtake.

The extent of farm merino sheep offtake as a result will depend on the relative profitability of the wool industry. This could be impacted by a range of complex factors including increased costs of production, further capital outlay in some cases, lower productivity and an erosion of mulesed fleece premiums or an increase in discounts for mulesed wool.

In the event that Merino wool becomes unprofitable and growers choose to switch breeds or exit the industry, this would result in a larger number of Merinos being offloaded to saleyards.

Mulesed Merino wethers would be the most likely to be offloaded to saleyards with the majority likely to head to slaughter as their extrinsic value is primarily linked to wool production.

3. If the bill were to pass in its current form would it trigger or require an Industry Adjustment Package from government? What would be the impact on employment in regional NSW?

ANSWER:

There would be producers who, with additional management costs, will have their profitability impacted.

Should the Bill pass, consideration for industry assistance would be a matter for the Government.