



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 - INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT TABLED ON MULESING BILL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 September 2020

A NSW Upper House committee has tabled its report examining the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill 2019, a Bill put forward by the Hon Mark Pearson MLC, a member of the Animal Justice Party.

The bill seeks to amend the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* to prohibit the performance of the Mules procedure on sheep from 1 January 2022, and to require the administration of pain relief in certain procedures involving stock animals.

The report recommends that the bill not proceed in its current form.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said: 'This bill raised fundamental questions about what is in the best interests of sheep and other animals involved in stock procedures. On the one hand, the industry believes that mulesing, as the most effective prevention against flystrike, must be allowed to continue if sheep flocks in New South Wales are going to be protected. On the other hand, animal welfare groups believe the practice is barbaric and believe it should be phased out as soon as possible'.

'Based on the evidence, the committee concluded that banning mulesing from 1 January 2022 and making the use pain relief mandatory in certain stock procedures, as the bill proposes, is not the right way forward', said Mr Banasiak.

Mr Banasiak concluded: 'I would like to thank all who participated in the inquiry, and who provided submissions and attended the public hearing'.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on 9230 3511