



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 - INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT TABLED ON THE USE OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES AND THE EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 December 2020

A NSW Upper House committee has tabled its report examining the use of exotic animals in circuses and the exhibition of cetaceans in New South Wales.

The inquiry considered:

- the welfare of exotic animals used in circuses and cetaceans exhibited in New South Wales, in consideration of community expectation;
- whether breeding practices of exotic animals and cetaceans should continue for use in circuses and exhibition;
- if the use of exotic animals in circuses and cetaceans for exhibition should be phased out; and
- if there should be other legislative or regulatory action taken in this area.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, said: 'This inquiry revealed a clear divide between the viewpoints of animal welfare groups and the industry. On the one hand, the industry believes that the animals can have positive welfare in these environments if sound husbandry practices are adhered to and regulatory requirements are met. On the other hand, animal protection groups believe that keeping these animals in human captivity for entertainment or profit is unacceptable and should be phased out as soon as possible'.

Mr Banasiak added: 'Based on the evidence, the committee concluded that a government enacted ban or a phase out is not necessary, given some of the voluntary changes taking place in these sectors already and the current review of the animal welfare regulatory framework that is underway by the NSW Department Primary Industries'.

The committee's report and recommendations can be found on the [website](#).

-ENDS-

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