



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS TO BE EXAMINED

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2 DECEMBER 2021**

A NSW Upper House committee has commenced an inquiry into the Government's proposed animal welfare policy, and associated legislation and regulations.

The inquiry was referred to the Standing Committee on State Development by the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, with the committee adopting the suggested terms of reference. A copy of the letter from the Minister is included below.

The inquiry will consider the proposed animal welfare policy and what measures, if any, are required to:

- streamline animal welfare laws in NSW,
- reduce and remove unnecessary regulation, and
- ensure existing policy and regulatory arrangements remain appropriately balanced.

The inquiry will also review the proposed Exposure Draft *Animal Welfare Bill 2021* which is to be released in December 2021.

The Chair of the Committee, Ms Catherine Cusack MLC said: "The welfare of our animals is a serious issue. It is important that the government provide a strong regulatory framework that promotes responsible animal ownership and care in New South Wales. Following extensive consultation over three years to streamline and strengthen animal welfare laws in New South Wales, the committee is keen to review the government's proposals with the expectation that the legislative and regulatory framework fulfils the commitments undertaken by the government."

Submissions are open until 13 February 2022 and can be lodged online. For information about the inquiry please visit the [inquiry webpage](#).

The committee is due to hold hearings in March and early April 2022 and release an interim report by 30 May 2022.

Members of the committee include: the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, *Chair*; the Hon Mick Veitch MLC, *Deputy Chair*; the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC; the Hon Wes Fang MLC; the Hon Sam Farraway MLC; the Hon John Graham MLC; the Hon Emma Hurst MLC; and the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, on 9230 2915.