



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.

-ENDS-

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



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

OM21/6553

The Hon. Catherine Cusack MLC
Temporary Chair of Committees
Chair, Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Catherine.cusack@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Cusack, *Catherine,*

I write to ask that the Standing Committee on State Development undertake an inquiry into the State's Animal Welfare policy, regulatory and legislative framework.

As you know, the welfare of our animals is an issue that the NSW Government takes very seriously.

By way of background, in 2018, the NSW Government released the NSW Animal Welfare Action Plan (Action Plan). The Action Plan outlines the NSW Government's commitment to safeguarding animal welfare and providing a strong regulatory framework that promotes responsible animal ownership and care in NSW.

As part of the Action Plan, the NSW Government committed to modernising the policy and legislative framework for animal welfare in NSW. This includes streamlining and strengthening animal welfare laws, and removing unnecessary complexity in the regulatory system.

In February 2020, the NSW Government released the NSW Animal Welfare Reform – Issues Paper to seek public feedback on the key issues around NSW's current animal welfare laws. We received over 1,100 submissions and survey responses during the consultation period from a wide range of community members and stakeholders.

Using the community feedback received through this consultation, the Government developed and released the NSW Animal Welfare Reform – Discussion Paper between August and September 2021, reflecting the next step in the Government's animal welfare reform process. This feedback is now being considered by Government and will inform the drafting of the *Animal Welfare Bill 2021*.

Having received almost 5,000 public submissions, and noting the diverse views of such an important matter, the State Development Committee is well placed to consider both the community's feedback and the draft legislation, ahead of its introduction to the NSW Parliament.

For this reason, I ask the committee consider the following terms of reference for the inquiry;

1. That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the State's animal welfare policy, regulatory and legislative framework, including any measures required to:
 - a. streamline animal welfare laws in NSW,
 - b. reduce and remove unnecessary regulation, and
 - c. ensure existing policy and regulatory arrangements remain appropriately balanced.

2. That upon its publication next month, the Committee review the proposed Exposure Draft *Animal Welfare Bill 2021*, developed following the NSW Animal Welfare Reform – Discussion Paper.
3. The Committee provide an interim report by 30 May 2022.
4. That upon their publication, the Committee inquire into and report on the draft regulations associated with the proposed *Animal Welfare Bill 2021*.
5. The Committee table its final report as soon as practicable after the release of the draft regulations.

This Government remains committed to safeguarding animal welfare in NSW, as well as providing certainty for lawful and legitimate activities such as hunting and fishing.

If you require any additional information or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact my office on (02) 8574 5450.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Marshall
MINISTER