

# APDHA REPLY

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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### Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW and the Draft NSW Animal Welfare Bill February 2022

Australian Pig Doggers and Hunters Association

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# GAME ANIMAL/HUNTING WELFARE PANEL

## OBJECTIVE

The Australian Pig Doggers and Hunters Association (APDHA) suggests animal welfare objectives would be best served by the development of a Game Animal/Hunting Welfare Panel. Stock Welfare Panels already exist to deal with specific issues as they arise. However, our concept is to develop a standing committee model to oversee hunting welfare issues in general rather than follow up specific incidents.

The object is not to develop a quasi-enforcement body, rather to provide ongoing and long-term focus on welfare in all forms of hunting. It is also to provide an ongoing direct voice for hunters in the formation of policy recommendations.

## MEMBERSHIP

The APDHA would seek representation on such panel to provide insight into field conditions, hunting objectives and techniques, hunter motivation and cultural issues.

We see value in the involvement of DPI hunting staff for their enforcement and administrative expertise.

The Game and Pest Board constituted under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 would also have a great deal of expertise in issues relating to hunting, private landholder views and veterinary expertise.

Our suggestion then is that the panel could be developed either as an adjunct to the Game and Pest Animal Board with the addition of APDHA and DPI staff representation.

In our view, this could provide the requisite oversight without having to develop another layer of administration that has the potential to significantly increase costs without providing anything much extra in terms of welfare outcomes.

## OPERATION

The model we suggest could operate within the existing Game and Pest Animal Board structure with the addition of a separate welfare agenda and input from the APDHA and DPI. Issues could be developed by board members or submitted by people from within or from outside the hunting community.

The welfare debate could be had under specific guidelines to be developed which include formal recognition that animal welfare is the central focus its consideration is ongoing.

The panel could make recommendations and offer advice based on experienced input and available research and that advice might include educational options, hunting licence conditions, further investigation by law enforcement and research projects.

## WHY?

The APDHA sees this as a potential generational tool to have existing and (importantly) new hunters' focus on animal welfare sharpened. In the same way we see a hunting licence with educational component as part of the future development of legal, ethical hunting in NSW, we see a Game Animal/Hunting Welfare Panel (by whatever name...) as a strengthen of the message and a means to proactively implement practical advancement of the welfare agenda. Unless there is a transparent process in which hunters feel they have input there is the danger we will miss the chance afforded us all to further normalise welfare discussion.

We submit this for your consideration.

Ned Makim  
National Vice President  
APDHA