



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

# FIRST REPORT INTO GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**15 JUNE 2022**

A NSW Upper House committee has published its first report into animal welfare policy in New South Wales. The first of two reports that the committee will produce focuses on the provisions of the proposed Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2021.

The first report details a number of the key issues that stakeholders raised with the draft bill, including the absence of regulations to review in conjunction with the bill. The committee also considered the arguments for and against acknowledging animal sentience in the bill and establishing an independent office of animal welfare.

Chair of the State Development Committee, the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, stated, 'Animal welfare legislation is a highly contested regulatory challenge, where the expertise, values and reputations of invested stakeholders in industry are often challenged by animal welfare activists. It is therefore important that good regulation matches informed community expectations and is able to adapt as community expectations evolve in response to emerging science and research.'

The Chair continued, 'The proposed reform presents an important opportunity to improve the quality of animal welfare regulation, noting that best practice regulation should align closely with national and international standards. This was highlighted by evidence provided, particularly in the area of medical research.'

The committee made two recommendations – that the Upper House not consider the bill until the draft regulations have been published and stakeholder feedback received, and to retain the *Animal Research Act 1985* as a separate Act.

The Chair stated, 'The committee acknowledges that the first recommendation may delay this long-awaited legislation, however we believe it is required based on the unanimity of evidence presented by stakeholders.'

The committee will continue to inquire into animal welfare policy and produce a second report once the draft regulations associated with the bill are published.

### **Read the report**

A copy of the report and its recommendations can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

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