

**Submission  
No 12**

## **INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mr Stephen Bradshaw

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SUBMISSION TO UOER HOUSE COMMITMENT ON  
ANIMALWELFARE POLICING IN NEW SOUTH WALES BY  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER STEVE BRADFSHAW RTD.

In establishing my credentials to comment on the submit comment on animal welfare in New South Wales I wish to advise the following:

- \* I am a retired Assistant Commissioner of Police for New South Wales having served substantively in rural New South Wales for forty-one years. I was responsible for numerous prosecutions for animal welfare offences..
- \* I performed the role of Police corporate spokesperson for rural issues, which included animal welfare. In this role I worked in close liaison with all animal welfare agencies and applicable Government Ministers and agencies such as the Department of Primary Industries
- In 2016 the Minister for Police tasked me to investigate and report on rural crime issues in New South Wales including then performance of Government agencies.
- \* Former member of NSW Animal Advisory Welfare Committee,

I have carefully read the terms of reference for the inquiry into animal cruelty laws in New South Wales. In my lengthy experience in dealing and prosecuting such laws in concert with the RSPCA, I can attest that the RSPCA, the honourable organisation that it is, carries out its duties in a more than effective manner to achieve all of the objects of the POCTA Act.

The fact that the RSPCA is a charitable organisation does not provide a conflict of interest in my view and I have never witnessed or heard of such alleged conflict.

I am of the firm view that the RSPCA has more capacity to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty matters than any other organisation, government or otherwise. It must be appreciated that the investigation and prosecution of animal welfare issues involves more than just an interview and photographic evidence. The RSPCA has access to veterinarian services that are experienced in such matters. Many veterinarian surgeons are not so qualified. Further, the ability to constantly prepare briefs of evidence and give accurate and professional evidence is only obtained through experience apart from training. The RSPCA has also provided this prosecution capacity through investigators who specialise in such prosecutions.

To give such investigation authority to another organisation would take years to provide the same level of expertise and further to hand over such power entirely to existing authorities such as the Police would reduce prosecution and prevention programmes because although Police already have this power it would only be a secondary responsibility power as it is presently when RSPCA not available.

The only failing I observe the RSPCA currently is their lack of ability to respond in a timely manner too much of rural and remote NSW either because of distance or workload. I feel sure the with more resources the RSPCA would be much more productive in the prevention of cruelty of animals.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Bradshaw, APM. JP.