

**Submission
No 63**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Louise Johnson

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We need an independent office for animal welfare. The RSPCA is self regulated and has a vested interest due to their business deal with some farm companies to create the RSPCA label. The RSPCA is also not held accountable to anyone. They also do not receive good funding from the government. The farming industry and animal experiments are also both self regulated, both have a vested interest to make money at the expense of animal suffering. This is why we need an independent body that has the funding to prosecute. There is a long history of self regulation not working, this must be changed asap.

Laws also need to be updated. There is virtually no laws protecting animals from cruelty in the farming industry. Laws for companion animals, animals that are experimented on and laws protecting wildlife are all very lax. Animal cruelty is rife in our community. We need better laws protecting them but also an independent body who does not have a vested interest so they will actually investigate and prosecute. This independent body needs good funding in order to do their job.

I am concerned that some members on the Legislative Council Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales, have a vested interest. How can these decisions not be biased. Are any of these members paid by corporate lobby groups or do any of them practice in animal cruelty themselves? such as hunting, commercial dog breeding, farming of animals, have shares in companies that exploit animals? Some of the members on this committee are in political parties that get funding from corporations. How do we know if they don't have a vested interest because they get funding from the meat and livestock industry? This is a concern and it needs to be addressed.

Please create a funded independent office of animal welfare that can prosecute, please also update laws as they are way too lax. Animals can suffer just like humans. Humans are also animals. This is scientifically proven. There is no excuse for our society to continually ignore the mass suffering we cause to non human animals. Please let's fix this severe problem and become a truly humane society.