

**Submission
No 68**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union NSW Branch

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Patricia Fernandez
Secretary

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The Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union NSW Branch (AMIEU NSW Branch) represents workers in the meat industry and kindred industries.

The AMIEU NSW Branch has been the representative of workers in our industry for over 100 years.

The AMIEU NSW Branch considers that the welfare of animals presented for slaughter in the State of NSW must be of the outmost importance as we consider these animals as the absolute backbone of the industry.

Respect of the animal throughout the process must be the number one issue for all who are connected to the process.

As the representative of workers in this industry we uphold such principles and ensure that our members receive the appropriate training throughout their working lives within our industry.

We believe that the meat industry in NSW already has strict animal welfare policies and we further believe that the meat industry prides itself in ensuring that the welfare of the animal is part of the Standard Operating Procedures applied in the workplace.

We are concerned that any Bill introduced into the NSW Parliament that may encroach upon the meat industry may have an adverse effect upon our much maligned industry, which is not very well understood and often the scape goat for many issues which have very little to do with the reality of our industry.

The meat industry is a large employer in NSW and often the only employer in remote regional areas. The meat industry contributes to the economy of NSW as well as the National economy.

We do not want to see a populist attack on the meat industry, but rather a considered and educated understanding of animal welfare in the meat industry in NSW.

We agree that any enforcement agency who investigates and prosecutes any breaches of animal cruelty in the meat industry must not be an agency who is reliant upon charity, donations, membership subscriptions and or fund raising.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Fernandez
Secretary/Treasurer