

**Submission  
No 86**

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

**Organisation:** WoolProducers Australia

**Date Received:** 2 December 2019

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## Inquiry into Animal Cruelty laws in New South Wales

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WOOLPRODUCERS  
AUSTRALIA

Select Committee  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email only: [animalcrueltylaws@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:animalcrueltylaws@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

29 November, 2019

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Inquiry into Animal Cruelty laws in New South Wales**

WoolProducers Australia (WoolProducers) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission regarding the Inquiry into Animal Cruelty laws in New South Wales.

WoolProducers is the peak industry representative body for the wool industry. Our membership is comprised of the industry's commercial, superfine and stud breeding sectors. WoolProducers is nationally representative through our State Farming Organisation members and three democratically elected Independent Directors. WoolProducers' policy areas include animal health and welfare, biosecurity, pest management control, natural resource management, drought policy, emergency animal disease outbreak preparedness, and industry development including research and trade.

Animal welfare is a key priority for both WoolProducers and Australian woolgrowers who are aware the legal and social responsibilities of livestock production.

As a nationally representative body WoolProducers supports our members views on issues which fall under the remit of state and territory jurisdictions and are consistent with our own organisational policies.

WoolProducers, therefore strongly supports our member, NSW Farmers Association's submission into this Inquiry.

WoolProducers supports unbiased scientific, evidence-based approaches to determine clearly defined and measurable welfare states for animals, which must be underpinned by an appropriate legislative framework and enforcement activities. Animal welfare legislation and enforcement requires understanding of commercial livestock production, including the management of externalities such as climatic conditions and emergencies.

WoolProducers believes that the Department of Primary Industries should remain as the responsible agency for the administration of animal welfare legislation in NSW as they are best placed to understand the practicalities of commercial livestock raising. This type of expertise must be at the forefront of any restructuring of animal cruelty laws.

WoolProducers is strongly opposed to the establishment of another body or mechanism akin to the 'Independent Office of Animal Welfare' that has previously been touted at a federal level, or for any other agency to administer animal welfare regulation.

It is also imperative that enforcement bodies are considered impartial and the framework in which they operate is scientifically and technically based, which given the emotive nature of animal welfare issues is a difficult balance. Therefore, it is inappropriate that any agencies that politically advocate or participate in activism or public campaigns have a role in enforcement of animal welfare.

Further, any reformation of the legislative and enforcement framework regarding animal welfare must be driven by improvements to the welfare of animals and not purely by enforcement of criminal law.

WoolProducers reiterates our support of the submission and views of our member, New South Wales Farmers Association make into this process.

Should you wish to discuss our submission further, please do not hesitate to contact me on  
or via email

Yours Sincerely,

Jo Hall  
Chief Executive Officer

