

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

Animal Welfare must be placed at the top of the Government's agenda in NSW.

As founder of Friends of Wild Horses Australia I was involved with trying to stop the Department for Defence slaughtering the innocent Welsh ponies in 2018 at Singleton.

The horses were killed by shooters in helicopters. Mares in foal, foals and stallions all killed when an offer to take all these horses onto large private acreage at no cost and to live out their lives in peace was in writing on the desks of Defence Minister and his Deputy. The horses were slaughtered regardless and the Singleton community devastated. This act and the horses will never be forgotten or those involved ever forgiven.

In Australia surely we can do better than this for innocent animals and communities.

We need an Independent Office for Animal Welfare which is fully funded because the RSPCA which is a charity is unable by their own admission to prosecute breaches of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

A charity simply can not afford to lose a case and have to pay costs so can only take on very winnable cases. This limitation means they can not adhere to their own Charter. This means animals are not being protected. A funded Independent Office for Animal Welfare is vital.

Horses in particular are falling through the welfare cracks in NSW. We see cases of cruelty in the media regularly and most recently the expose about cruelty in Racing Industry highlighted gross breaches at Abattoirs.

Auctions/saleyards have been in the media for accepting injured horses, having no water for horses on very hot days and accepting Horses for sale that were stolen.

We need far greater regulation and policing to protect horse owners and the horses themselves.

Wild horses need far more protection in NSW. These horses known as Brumbies are targeted by extremists who blame them for nearly every problem imaginable in our Parks when it can be proven horses are not to blame. Wild horses are an asset and increase biodiversity and international studies show this is true. The wild horses need to be managed but we do not and will never support aerial shooting. The RSPCA have stated to us that aerial shooting is only regarded as a viable option in certain terrain not where Horses can flee to tree cover and not in mountainous country.

NPWS NSW do passive trapping which we support but only at a time when mares are not in foal or have foals at foot. Recently trapping occurred in spring which puts so many mares at risk of aborting. We would hope that this does not happen again.

We also do not feel it is humane sending wild horses to Abattoirs and hope that a trapping program is developed that allows horses to be homed. This would mean trapping less often which would be doable if the government took notice of the latest studies showing wild Horses assist the environment.

In conclusion I feel we need to be smarter about how we protect animals and look wider for the evidence available especially regarding wild horses. We must set up an Independent Office for Animal Welfare and if/when a National Horse Registration scheme is set up wild horses must be included.

Thankyou for this opportunity.