

Submission
No 128

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I do not believe it is appropriate for the Government to authorise charitable organisations to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty. I have read the Minister responsible saying he is unable to compel information from the RSPCA as it falls outside his jurisdiction, despite it being responsible to conduct animal cruelty investigations and prosecute.

Animals deserve better. They deserve the protections of a system that is accountable and transparent.

They also deserve a system that is properly equipped to investigate cruelty cases. And not wait for numerous cruel, slow and painful deaths before having enough evidence to act. I am thinking of the Lakesland hens and recent reports on NSW Police - Rural crime website of a farmer who had 800 cattle starve to death before the rest of his animals were removed. He then received the proceeds of their sale.

What information sharing requirements are imposed upon the RSPCA where it has found individuals have committed animal cruelty offences with the working with children check for instance? As we know animal abusers pose a risk to others too including children.

I believe animals need an Independent office of animal welfare. Or at the least that police have a role in investigating animal cruelty.