

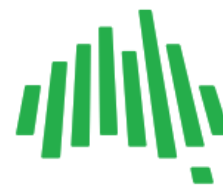
**Submission  
No 139**

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

**Organisation:** National Farmers' Federation

**Date Received:** 11 December 2019

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11 December 2019

The Hon. Mark Pearson MLC  
Chair  
Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in New South Wales  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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

Dear Mr Pearson,

**RE: Inquiry into animal cruelty laws in New South Wales**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Inquiry into animal cruelty laws in New South Wales*.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and the agriculture sector more broadly, across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain, including live export. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The NFF and its members are committed to continuous improvement in animal welfare, and to working in partnership with governments to ensure best practice animal welfare outcomes that meet the expectations of the community. Animal welfare is a fundamental part of farming, and all livestock farmers understand the responsibility they have for the animals in their care. Good animal welfare also makes business sense.

At a national level, science-based standards and guidelines for livestock welfare are developed through a collaborative and consultative process, and these standards are adopted in state and territory legislation. The NFF strongly supports the standards and guidelines process as the mechanism for setting animal welfare standards in Australian agriculture, and as the source for state and territory co-regulation of minimum welfare standards.

In NSW the welfare standards are prescribed through the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act 1979 (the Act). The NFF believes this provides an effective framework for regulation

and enforcement and that positive welfare outcomes are achieved. It is also important to note that in addition to compliance with regulated standards, livestock industries incorporate often higher standards of welfare into quality assurance programs. This helps to build consumer and community trust in our practices and stewardship, and demonstrates a willingness to understand and respond to consumer expectations around livestock welfare. This is part of a process of continuous improvement.

NFF member, NSW Farmers has provided a detailed submission in response to the terms of reference. The NFF supports the NSW Farmers submission in full, including their four specific recommendations:

1. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) must remain the administrator of animal welfare legislation in NSW.
2. At its core, the animal welfare enforcement framework must focus on achieving improved animal welfare outcomes.
3. Enforcement bodies must not engage in political advocacy or activism nor conduct campaigns, to ensure that impartiality is maintained.
4. That an Independent Office of Animal Welfare in NSW should not be established.

For further detail in support of these recommendations please refer to the NSW Farmers submission.

The NFF would like to commend the NSW DPI for its success as the administrator of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 and the Animal Research Act 1985. NSW DPI does a creditable job at working alongside industry and other organisations to provide sound regulations and enforcement. As an organisation, they have a technical knowledge on not only policy but also on the relationships needed to ensure that improved welfare outcomes are delivered within industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this inquiry. Should you require any further information, please contact Adrienne Ryan, General Manager Rural Affairs, on

Yours sincerely,

**TONY MAHAR**  
**Chief Executive Officer**