

Submission
No 1

**INQUIRY INTO PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
AMENDMENT (RESTRICTIONS ON STOCK ANIMAL
PROCEDURES) BILL 2019**

Name: Mr Ken Jacobs

Date Received: 6 July 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a veterinarian and sheep farmer who does not Mules.

I think this proposed legislation is counter to animal welfare as Mulesing is often a welfare procedure when performed on sheep that require it. It takes years to breed sheep that do not require mulesing as well as chemical assistance to prevent breech strike. This must be the direction of the sheep industry.

The Australian Veterinary Association position statement (below) accepts that Mulesing is required, but that pain relief is essential. I hope that this is seen as a sensible position. As such it is essential that radical banning of a procedure is rejected.

However, it is essential that Mulesing and infact tailing and castration is accompanied by pain relief. Veterinarians advice on the use of "Numnuts" an anaesthetic agent with lamb marking and in my view if welfare was front and centre this should be mandated. Mulesing if conducted should at least involve application of "Trisolvin", a topical anaesthetic. An appropriate legislative response would be to insist on the use of these.

Industry now is seeing premiums for wool from sheep that have not been Mulesed, so the combination of market pressure, consultant advice to reduce the use of mulesing and legislative requirement to ensure the use of anaesthetics with lamb marking (tailing , castration and Mulesing (if performed) is the appropriate action.

Yours faithfully,

Ken Jacobs

Position statement

Blowfly strike is a serious animal welfare concern. Alternative methods of fly strike management and blowfly control that do not involve surgical removal of skin from the breech region are available and should be used and further developed.

Until mulesing is ceased:

- all lambs being mulesed should be treated with approved analgesics to minimise the pain associated with the procedure
- operators carrying out the mulesing procedure should be accredited

References

- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep - Chapter 7, Mulesing.
Available at: <http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep/>

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Ken Jacobs