

**INQUIRY INTO LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE  
DAIRY INDUSTRY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

Please note that this is a new and different submission to my previous submission.

The RSPCA NSW submission on to Legislative Council Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW states that only 2 regular dairy audits were undertaken in 2018-19 (1). Given that there are 700 dairy farms in NSW (2). This is 0.3% of all dairy farms meaning it would 350 years to audit all farms once !! Does this committee believe that this is acceptable and sustainable enforcement rate (of the Animal Cruelty act) given that dairy cows may be abused or injured during their daily herding and milking.

How are these animals milked if they injured or in pain (mastitis) or in a bad mood (they are sentient beings after all which means they have feelings and emotions)? What methods of persuasion do farmers use to make the cows adhere to their timetables and milking machines.

Cows are also impregnated yearly which involves the restraint of cows, insertion of human arms and medical equipment into the body of the animals and then intricate medical procedures affecting/moving their internal organs. This is undertaken all the while they are conscious and standing up. This is an area that is ripe for abuse and mis-treatment. Without the transparency of quarterly audits (at least) of all dairy farms how can we trust the dairy industry to enforce its standards of animal care. This industry is running blind and without animal protection standards and accountability the dairy needs to go away.

The RSPCA reported (1) 0 cruelty complaints toward dairy farms. Why would this be? It this because there is no dairy cruelty occurring or is this because there are very few people involved and they operate on private property away from the public eye. Also the Agricultural Gag laws (and Biosecurity laws) prevent the filming or visitation of these premises. Compare this to Kennel Breeders who had 303 complaints or Pet Stores that had 156 complaints of cruelty. The difference is visibility to the public.

This industry has no visibility nor transparency regarding animal abuse and injury. For this industry to survive it needs be accountable and open about the activities that it undertakes.

The RSPCA has also admitted (1) that the government payments provide only 20% (up to \$1 million from a total of \$5million) of the cost of animal prosecutions. This means that the RSPCA pays for additional animal welfare from its own budget at it own discretion. So if donations are down what programs does the RSPCA cut to manage their cost, as it is a charity after all? This committee needs a better solution for the protection of animals that uses government bodies and funding rather than outsourcing it to a charity.

(1) Submission 136 Inquiry into Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW, RSPCA (Dec 2019) page 36

(2) [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/681681/NSW-dairy-industry-strat](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/681681/NSW-dairy-industry-strat)