

Submission  
No 238

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 28 February 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

28 February 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: DRAFT ANIMAL WELFARE BILL 2022**

I am a purebred dog owner / breeder / exhibitor and dog lover and I am writing to you, after having reviewed the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 being brought before the NSW Parliament and feel compelled to express my concerns.

I've reviewed the document with which I will be obliged to comply, and I am confused and concerned at some of the proposals included in the Bill. This is a government that expects to put the powers in place and then, after the fact, tell us what that will mean.

An example:

*Division 2 Standards 20 Requirement to comply with standards  
(3) In this section – prescribed standard means a standard prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section*

How do we know what “Prescribed standard” will mean? There are no regulations presented with this Bill and these are yet to be developed by the same policy makers that gave us this Bill. On many pages we are confronted with some confusion and vagueness.

As a Dogs NSW member, we were asked to comment in consultation on the Bill and after the consultation, things were added that had never been seen before, ie (*surgical insemination*), definitions were included that confuse, regulatory powers that are seen nowhere else in our lives, are proposed including:

*9. Page 29, Part 7 Enforcement and compliance, Division 3 Power to enter premises, Section 66 Powers of authorised officers to enter non-residential premises (1) An authorised officer may enter premises, not used for residential purposes – (f)*

This Bill is far from supporting the welfare of animals, and if made law, this Bill will drive decent and caring people out of the animal sector paving a way for truly commercial companion animal breeding factories to thrive.

It makes difficult for any ordinary person, such as myself, to be expected to understand or comply with definitions and interpretations that this Bill presents. The definitions and construction of this Bill are so loose that no ordinary person (including myself) would be able to afford the necessary legal representation to defend

themselves as a dog owner/breeder. There are no safeguards in this proposal to protect ordinary hobbyists, like myself.

How can the NSW Government expect to develop trust? How will this Bill bring about positive change for animals when, if you own an animal, you will have to live with constant threat?

I love and care about animals. I support efforts to protect them, however this Bill is so overreaching by a lack of providing clear, concise and limited definitions as well as the open-ended potential for regularity interpretation. I am very worried that regulations will be developed after this Bill has been passed without the opportunity to consult. I ask you to have a very good look at this Bill before you vote. It is confusing, unworkable and creates anxiousness in our normal everyday life

Yours faithfully