

Submission
No 240

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Dear Parliament of NSW

I am writing to make a submission about the new proposed Animal Welfare Bill 2022.

I have reviewed the draft bill and in particular I have a strong concern about Exemption 1(g) on page 44, which relates to 'for the purpose of using a live fish, decapod crustacean or cephalopod as bait or as a lure to take, or attempt to take, fish'. I am concerned about this exemption because live baiting is a cruel and unnecessary activity that causes immense suffering to the fish/crustacean/cephalopod involved. The science is clear that fish, decapod crustaceans and cephalopods feel pain and possess a similar pain reception system to birds and mammals (see list of references at the end of this submission), therefore using these animals as live bait is by definition, cruel and inhumane. There is a specific prohibition on page 13 against live baiting, acknowledging that it is inhumane and causes unnecessary suffering, so why does this not include fish, decapod crustaceans and cephalopods, which are equally capable of suffering pain as other animals? Live baiting for fishing is specifically prohibited in other countries (e.g. Ireland, Scotland and many other European countries), so I believe NSW should follow suit and also prohibit it, on animal welfare grounds that reflect the most up to date science on fish/crustacean/cephalopod pain. There are so many alternative bait and lures that fishers now have access to, so there is no need to continue to allow live baiting when it is proven to be cruel and inhumane. I therefore implore you to remove this exemption from the draft bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Kind regards

References:

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