

**Submission  
No 268**

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

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Firstly, I must acknowledge positive aspects of the proposed legislative changes i.e.  
Minimum care requirements for animals, including opportunities to express normal behaviours

The expansion of the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods (e.g. octopus, squid, lobsters and crabs)

The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals

However the Bill does not go far enough in protecting animals from cruelty.

The Bill MUST include Recognition of animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animals . This recognition is becoming the norm for civilised countries globally

Stop carving out exemptions for farm animals which allow continuation of cruel practices such as:

"mulesing" of lambs

hot iron branding of cattle

carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief

intensive confinement (such as battery cages and sow stalls)

Just because we are farming animals for profit should not mean their pain and suffering should be tolerated or ignored

In all walks of life and notably in government legislation.

there has been an increasing tendency to be lax in the application of measures to ensure freedom from conflicts of interest. Thus, this must be part of the Bill

The Bill should establish well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest through an independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority

Throughout there must be recognition of animals sentience and dignity and right to live in comfortable circumstances.