

Submission
No 270

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Dear Perottet Government,

I am writing in regards to the proposed animal welfare bill and inquiry to be held next week.

I would firstly like to express that I am greatly in support of and admire the following important positives posed in the bill as it stands, including:

- > Minimum care requirements for animals, including opportunities to express normal behaviours
- > The expansion of the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods
- > The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals

While I acknowledge the bill does contain many positives, I believe it falls short of our obligation to ensure adequate welfare for our animals in some respects. The areas which I believe should be corrected/ added to the existing bill are as follows:

- > Exemptions should not be established regarding farm animals and enabling the ongoing practice of mulesing lambs, carrying out painful procedures without pain relief, branding cattle and intensive confinement (e.g. sow salls, battery cages)
- > The sentience of animals, which has been proved in a wealth of scientific research, needs to be recognised, as well as the intrinsic value of all animals
- > Well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest via an independent NSW animal welfare authority, should be established

I thank you for the time taken to read the above submission, and greatly hope you consider the abovementioned proposed amendments to more holistically ensure the welfare of NSW animals.

Best wishes and kindest regards,