

Submission
No 279

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

While the proposed bill does include some important and worthwhile changes which will improve the lives of all animals (pets and livestock) the proposed Animal Welfare Bill 2022 falls short of community expectations in a number of areas.

Animals in NSW need laws that will:

Recognise animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animals

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)

Establish well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest through an independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority.

Additionally, protection for livestock from the effects of heat and sun should be included in the bill.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle

(DAFF, 2013) states

S10.4 A person in charge must do a risk assessment each year for the heat load risk at the feedlot and implement appropriate actions to manage ongoing heat load risk.

S10.5 A person in charge must have a documented Excessive Heat Load Action Plan and must implement appropriate actions in the event of a heat load emergency.

While this Animal Welfare Standard is for cattle in feedlots, similar protection should be included in the bill for all livestock in paddocks, sale yards, pens and trucks in the state of NSW. This Standard acknowledges that cattle suffer in the heat and identifies the ratio of shade needed per head to provide sufficient protection.

It doesn't matter where the animals are standing, cattle, sheep and other livestock need protection from the effects of the sun and heat. The science has proved how easily they are heat stressed - this bill can provide the protection they need.