

**Submission
No 281**

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

Name: Ms Corinne Sellers

Date Received: 25 February 2022

The proposed Animal Welfare Bill 2022 falls short of community expectations in a number of areas.

Animals in NSW need laws that will:

1. Recognise animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animals
2. Stop carving out exemptions for farm animals which allow continuation of cruel practices such as:
 - a) mulesing of lambs
 - b) hot iron branding of cattle
 - c) carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief
 - d) intensive confinement (such as battery cages and sow stalls)
3. Establish well-funded and independent compliance and enforcement regimes, free from conflicts of interest through an independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority.

I support the important positives in the bill which include:

1. Minimum care requirements for animals, including opportunities to express normal behaviours
2. The expansion of the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods (e.g. octopus, squid, lobsters and crabs)
3. The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals

This legislation will impact the welfare of millions of animals across the whole state and represents a rare opportunity to create change, helping to bring an end to unnecessary suffering and improve their lives.