

**Submission  
No 287**

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

**Name:** Mrs Meg Nielsen

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Submission to the inquiry into animal welfare policy in NSW

I thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Animal Welfare Bill 2022 and take part in this legislation to help end the unnecessary suffering of animals and improve their lives.

With my husband, I breed Angus x Limousin cattle on our property for the re-stocking market. We farm our herd of these intelligent, social creatures with animal welfare in mind, ensuring that their lives are as natural and stress-free as we can make them. They live in family groups, don't require mustering with dogs or motorbikes, instead responding to being 'whistled-up' when it's time to move them to another paddock or bring them in to the yards for attention like spraying, drenching etc.

In my opinion, if we choose to eat meat it is incumbent on us to ensure that they are humanely and kindly treated.

Animals in NSW need laws that respect and value animals, recognising their sentience. It is a sign of our humanity and a mark of our level of civilisation.

I would particularly like to commend:

- 1) The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals
- 2) To expand the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods
- 3) Minimum care requirements for animals to include opportunities to express their normal behaviors.

However, I would like to propose some suggestions for inclusion because I believe that the proposed Bill as it stands falls short of community expectations in several important areas, including:

We need the removal of exemptions for intensively "farmed" animals currently condemned to be confined for life in cages and sow stalls.

Stop hot iron branding of cattle and manual de-horning of cattle

Stop the mulesing of lambs

Stop painful procedures carried out on farm without pain relief (including manual de-horning of cattle)

There is a real need for a well funded, completely independent 'NSW Animal Welfare Authority' to carry out compliance and enforcement of regulations.

I am hopeful that this legislation will impact the welfare of millions of animals across NSW and I am grateful to be part of this rare opportunity to create change for these gentle creatures.

Yours Sincerely,

Meg K Nielsen