

**Submission
No 288**

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

Name: Mr Peter Nielsen

Date Received: 26 February 2022

Submission to the inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Animal Welfare Bill 2022

I have been a farmer all my life. From dairy, orchards, bananas and cattle. We currently breed cattle on our property for re-stocking other farms. We manage our herd with their welfare in mind, allowing them to graze over the land, living as natural and stress-free lives as possible. In my view it is our responsibility as farmers, as stewards of the land, to ensure that all animals in our care are humanely treated and with kindness. I believe it says a lot about our humanity and is a mark of our level of civilisation.

I would like to make some suggestions for inclusion in the Bill because I believe that the proposed Bill falls some way short of the community's expectations in several areas, including:

Animals in NSW need laws that recognise their sentience, laws that respect and value animals.

We need to remove the current exemptions for the inhumane "factory farming" of animals. Animals which are currently condemned to be confined for their whole lives, crammed into cages and sow stalls. I have heard all the reasons to excuse these practices, from convenience to treat disease, to cost to the consumer, but none excuse the ongoing torture of these poor creatures.

We need to stop hot iron branding of cattle.

We need to stop the mulesing of lambs.

We need to stop painful procedures carried out on farm without pain relief.

We need to ensure that all stock has access to water and shade, especially in summer months.

We need a well funded and completely independent NSW Animal Welfare Authority to carry out compliance and enforcement of regulations. This organisation needs to be free from industry interference.

I particularly like some of the important elements in the Bill such as:

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

I am very hopeful for this legislation being a great benefit for the welfare of millions of animals across NSW and I thank you for this opportunity to make a difference to their lives.

Yours faithfully

Peter C Nielsen