

**Submission
No 291**

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

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The proposed Animal Welfare Bill 2022 introduces some welcome positive standards for animal welfare, but it still falls short of community expectations in a number of areas.

On the positive side, the specification of minimum care requirements for animals including opportunities to express normal behaviours, the expansion of the definition of animals to include cephalopods and decapods (e.g., octopus, squid, lobsters, and crabs) and the inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals are all very welcome moves and will make significant improvements for some animals.

However, there are still some more changes needed to NSW laws.

The 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:

- o mulesing of lambs

- o hot iron branding of cattle

- o carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief

- o 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.

With these additions this legislation will improve the welfare of millions of animals across the state of New South Wales. You have a rare opportunity to create change which bring an end to unnecessary suffering and improve their lives.

This issue is particularly important to me and will definitely affect how I vote.

Thank you for your attention.