INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

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: mulesing 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: mulesing of lambs; hot iron branding of cattle; carrying out painful procedures without mandatory pain relief; and 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.

On the positive side, the proposed Bill recognises:
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); and
3. The inclusion of psychological suffering in the definition of harm to animals.

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