

Submission to the Productivity Commission – Regulation of Agriculture

I am making this submission as a concerned Australian citizen that recognizes an urgent need to establish a new independent farmed animal welfare body.

In recent years treatment of farm animals has attracted public attention worldwide. In Australia, there has been a shift among consumers in what is acceptable standard for farm animal welfare. The main reason in this shift is that people are making a connection that farm animals are sentient beings with the ability to feel pain and suffering as well as other complex emotions which are not unique only to humans. There have been numerous scientific studies that confirm the intelligence of farmed animals such as those of pigs. (see International Journal of Comparative Psychology, “Thinking Pigs: A comparative Review of Cognition, Emotion, and Personality in *Sus domesticus*.”)

The Australian laws pertaining to animal welfare in farmed animal agriculture have not mirrored scientific studies in animal intelligence. It is essential that a new independent farmed animal welfare body is established which represents the interests of farmed animals. The animal welfare body should recognize the sentience of animals that is supported by science and the main objective of the body should be to end animal agriculture in Australia. This is because the mounting evidence has shown that animals suffer when used in agriculture.

Furthermore there is mounting scientific evidence that meat is linked to numerous cancers in humans (see Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) and the Latest Research– “Red Meat in Childhood Increases Risk for Breast Cancer”; “Red and Processed Meats Increase Risk of Bladder Cancer” on pcrm.org). Humans do not need to consume animal products as shown by nutritional science (eg see PCRM – pcrm.org).

The farmed animal welfare body should plan for the complete phasing out of animal agriculture within ten years. The phasing out of animal agriculture should be done with the view that this is in the best interest of animals, human health and the environment.

The managing board of animal welfare body should only include those who represent the interests of animals and not include representatives of animal agriculture industries. The body’s agenda should include educating the community about animal sentience, animal exploitation in agriculture, and a healthy vegan diet. (eg see PCRM “An Urgent Message to America: Break the Meat Habit” – a call to action by Dr Neal Barnard on pcrm.org).

Given the right information I believe that the public will support the complete phasing out of animal agriculture in Australia.