

2 August 2016

Dear Commissioners,

For the benefit of all Australians, and the heart and soul of our nation, all animals involved in farming and any other environment that we have within our country, need to be treated with compassion and protected from cruel practices.

I wish to lend my support to recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 in the draft report seeking to provide national independent frameworks for animal welfare. I recommend this body is a statutory Independent Office of Animal Welfare (IOAW) which would:

- Have a mandate to achieve excellence in animal welfare across the nation.
- Facilitate balanced consultation between all stakeholders on nationally consistent, evidence based standards to protect animals from cruelty and promote good animal welfare.
- Lead/Guide/ Exceed the expectations of the public and consumers with regard to animal welfare standards.
- Safeguard Australia's reputation, health and investment opportunities, by exceeding international benchmarks for animal welfare. We are a fortunate nation and it is important for us to LEAD the world in ethical, compassionate and cruelty free practices toward all living beings
- Reduce poor animal welfare incidences by taking a proactive, compassionate approach instead of reactive approach to animal welfare.
- Be staffed by policy, law & community consultation experts, and guided by a balanced advisory committee, with strong animal welfare and ethical expertise.

The establishment of a national body for animal welfare has broad community support and my support as a concerned voter. Galaxy polling undertaken by World Animal Protection in early 2016 found:

- 75% of people support the re-establishment of a national body focusing on animal welfare.
- 84% believe the federal government should set goals for animal welfare and have a plan to achieve them.
- A clear majority of Australian believe farm animals must be treated better, both city residents (73%) and rural and regional people (70%) alike.

Horrific footage of animals involved in the live export trade continue to shock the Australians. The mass killings of greyhounds and the way horses are treated for racing and entertainment is simply unacceptable.

All human beings working in such environments must be impacted and suffer additionally from disorders such as PTSD. No human can live a normal and natural life having to work within an environment where they are witnessing daily cruel practices to other gentle and voiceless living beings. So it is critical for both human and animal that we put in place a means to better the welfare of all living beings within our national borders at least as a matter of urgency.

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Cruelty free animal welfare in farming, racing and any other industry would mean better quality food and kinder human beings. It should be an obvious realisation that an animal stressed from a life and death situation will release chemicals that would surely impact the quality of meat resulting.

The draft report discusses the difficulty in assessing community expectations related to animal welfare.

You should not require community support to do THE RIGHT THING by all living beings. In fact, if necessary, our government and its related bodies should help to LEAD/GUIDE people to the standards of life and living that would better our nation as a whole. A better life and conscientious living is not just profit motivated.

I look forward to hearing that a body with a broad mandate to care for the welfare of all living beings within our borders above the needs of profit will be set up as a matter of urgency so that we as a nation can be proud to be a world leader in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Sydnee Sallivan