

Dear Commission,

I am making this submission as a veterinarian concerned about animal welfare, and also as an individual consumer.

- I strongly support recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Draft Report, relating to the Regulation of farm animal welfare. From what I have seen of these industries, they are not regulated well enough due to the lack of resources for independent bodies.
- We urgently need an independent animal welfare body to develop animal welfare standards that are based on current animal welfare science and community expectations. These industries cannot self-regulate as most farmers I believe are already under significant financial stress and have other concerns, making animal welfare a lower priority. In addition, farmers whose animals have high welfare need to be rewarded for the efforts they are putting in to producing a premium product of which the public can be proud.
- The independent body should also be responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of live export regulation and animal welfare enforcement at a state level. There appears to be insufficient scrutiny of the live export process, particularly when animals are at sea.
- Greater resources must be dedicated to animal welfare policy and enforcement at federal and state levels. These sectors are significantly under-resourced.
- These reforms will improve community and consumer confidence in Australian livestock industries and the government's commitment to animal welfare.
- I do not support draft recommendation 6.1 because as a consumer I would like to know if products contain GMO ingredients or not and would like to see GMO crops restricted in Australia. I believe we should be focussing on increasing diversity and therefore resistance amongst crops rather than intensification and increased use of pesticides which eventually GMO lends itself too. The focus needs to be on the very long term rather than short term.
<http://foodsecurity.uchicago.edu/research/preserving-seed-diversity/>
- I support draft recommendation 9.2 because I have a partner with celiac disease who still reacts to foods labelled gluten free. I believe the current level set is too high.

Kind regards,

Dr Anna Sri BVSc (Hons)