

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT — REVIEW

705. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 920 asked by me on 9 November 2021 regarding the review of the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

- (1) In the minister's response, she stated that it was her intention to have a draft bill ready by the end of the 2021–22 financial year. Can the minister confirm the current status of the proposed bill?
- (2) The minister also stated that once drafting had been completed, there would be another opportunity for stakeholder engagement. Can the minister please outline —
 - (a) the time frame of the consultation process;
 - (b) the consultation methodology; and
 - (c) the key stakeholders who will be consulted as part of this process?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Drafting of the animal welfare amendment bill has commenced. Subject to parliamentary counsel drafting priorities, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is scheduled to have a consultation draft available by the end of this year, with public consultation to commence sometime in the first quarter of next year.
- (2) Consultation on the bill is anticipated to be undertaken as follows —
 - (a) an eight-week public consultation period;
 - (b) consultation methodology to consist of —
 - (i) release of the draft bill for public comment;
 - (ii) engagement with key stakeholders;
 - (iii) review of submissions received;
 - (iv) publication of a consultation summary report; and
 - (v) amendment of the bill as required before finalising and presenting to Parliament.
 - (c) consultation with other regulators of the Animal Welfare Act, industry representatives, veterinary associations and animal welfare organisations.