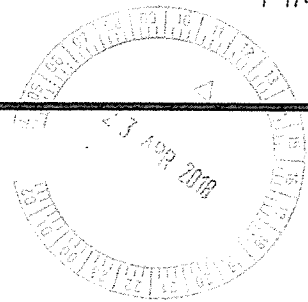


## Legislation Committee

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, 21 April 2018 11:39 PM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** Support of Changes to Animal Welfare Act



20 April 2018

### WA ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017 - SUBMISSIONS TO COMMITTEE

Dear Sir

I thank the committee for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill. The amendments will dramatically improve the lives of animals and introduce desperately needed transparency and accountability of animal businesses.

This Bill is a big step to improve the legal protections for farmed and companion animals.

#### **Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock**

Currently, the industry follows livestock transport Codes of Practice. Codes are voluntary and it is very difficult to utilise them to prosecute for cruelty, whereas the Standards and Guidelines can be used to prosecute for breaches.

By 2012 all states except Western Australia had adopted the Standards and Guidelines into legislation. The Amendment Bill will allow the adoption of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock* into law, including the more recent *Sheep Standards*, *Cattle Standards* and *Saleyard Standards*.

#### **Inspections for Compliance**

Unlike Europe, the current WA animal welfare legislation does not permit routine, unannounced inspections to ensure compliance at a private business; be that a cat or dog breeding facility, pet bird breeding premises, sheep, cattle, rabbit, pig, poultry farm, feedlot, slaughterhouse, live animal export premise or live animal export vessel. An Inspector may only gain access if they receive a complaint and as a result, believe cruelty may have or is occurring.

The Amendment will allow Inspectors to randomly (without notice) and routinely check to ensure that animal welfare legislation is being followed. This is especially significant at this time given the revelations concerning the images of pregnant ewes giving birth on live export vessels to the Middle East and the conditions and suffering all sheep were exposed to due to non-compliance with both Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) and the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002

The community demands transparent and accountable animal businesses. The public want to know the animals (cats and dogs), wool, meat or milk they buy has come from animals who have been housed and reared in conditions most reasonable people would find acceptable. It is imperative that WA has strong, enforceable legislation as well as routine checks for compliance.

#### **My View**

I have been a strong supporter of banning this trade for many years, and the industry continues to shock and appal me.

The recent footage from the over 2,300 sheep being cooked alive and drowning in their own faeces on the ship bound for the Middle East is just disgraceful. The image of Australia is being tarnished all around the

world and I am ashamed and embarrassed that the bulk of these animals leave our very own state via Fremantle Port.

I will not sit here and listen to another year of "let's give the exporters an opportunity to clean up their act". We all know this is a load of rubbish and they have had opportunities over and over again to comply and improve conditions. Enough is enough.

I urge this committee to recommend that the Bill is passed in the Upper House, to satisfy community expectation and trust in the pet and animal agriculture industry.

Thank you

Renee Cusworth

Renee Cusworth

**Public / Internet**

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