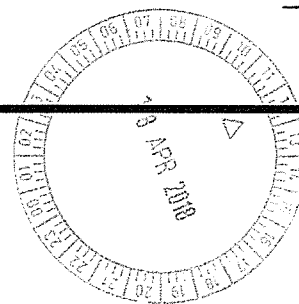


## Legislation Committee



**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 April 2018 12:06 PM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** WA ANIMAL WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL 2017

Mr Mark Warner  
 Committee Clerk  
 Standing Committee on Legislation  
 Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace  
 West Perth WA 6005

18/04/2018

### 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 our stock or companion animals.

#### Standards and Guidelines:

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

By 2012 all States except but Western Australia had adopted the S&G's into legislation. The Amendment Bill will allow the adoption of the Land Transport Standards and Guidelines 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 farm, pet bird breeding premise, 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 they 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.

The community demands transparent and accountable animal businesses. The public wants to know that breeder companion animals and animals produced for the wool, meat or milk they buy, have had basic legislative protection. It is imperative that WA has strong, enforceable legislation as well as routine checks for compliance.

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 agricultural Industry. The current act is very limited in its capacity to regulate matters related to the health, safety and welfare of animals. These amendments would work towards improving animal welfare, and would improve community confidence in this industry. There is huge concern in the community prompted by the distressing vision that has been shared, and the self-interest of exporters should not be prioritized over the safety and welfare of animals.

Thank you

Kathryn Smith

Sent from my iPhone