



Mr R. Hansen

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

29 February 2015

Dear Mr Hansen

Inquiry into barrier fences in Queensland

Thank you for your letter dated 16th November, 2015 inviting RSPCA Australia to make a submission to the inquiry.

RSPCA Australia supports the comments and recommendations included in the submission provided by RSPCA Queensland.

In addition, our general view is that wildlife management programs must be justified, supported by scientific evidence and have clearly stated aims. Such programs should be subject to public consultation, ethical approval and review prior to implementation. Once implemented, the results of such programs should be regularly monitored, evaluated, publicly reviewed and used to inform future activities.

It is pleasing that the inquiry will consider animal welfare aspects, as barrier fences pose many risks. These include the direct impact of starvation and dehydration of animals, both target and non-target, including native fauna. Creating a physical barrier which results in an inhumane death of any animal is unacceptable and would contravene animal welfare legislation.

In recent times, animals considered as pests are being afforded greater consideration in terms of minimising the adverse effects of control methods, particularly lethal methods. If exclusion fencing encourages pest animals to relocate without incident, this is a commendable goal. However, it is not acceptable for those who erect such fencing to disregard or shirk responsibility for the potential suffering of any animal affected by the barrier.

RSPCA Australia also encourages an evaluation of the barrier fence system using [the model for assessing the relative humaneness of pest control methods](#).to help understand the relative and specific risks posed by this approach. In some instances, a barrier fence may not be considered the most humane or appropriate method.

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Thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you wish to discuss any of these matters further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Neil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Neil
Chief Executive Officer
RSPCA Australia