

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Fruit on household trees and plants is a food source for wild animals and netting is commonly used to protect fruit. Inappropriate netting can kill or injure animals such as birds, possums or flying foxes. Large mesh netting is more likely to entangle small animals and their struggling can cause deep cuts and strangulation often leading to death. I believe it is important that the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill address the use of tree netting, and that any introduced requirements apply to backyard fruit growers as well as industry (fruit/wine). It is regularly reported that horrific injuries occur due to netting that is dangerous to wildlife. This is especially true for the bat species. Many animals die due to strangulation, broken bones, broken wings, shock and other injuries they sustain when trying to escape netting. Unintended netting victims include native reptiles that become entangled in large-mesh netting, resulting in a slow and painful death. Some people purchase large-mesh netting to place around fences to deliberately trap reptiles so that they can be killed. I would also like to see a requirement that any installed netting is checked on a regular basis, preferably daily.