

## Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 491  
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**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Overall, this Bill offers some important improvements for animal welfare in Queensland and I thank the committee for this. However, I urge the committee to consider changes to the following amendments in line with the rapidly changing community expectations around animal welfare. I feel that calf roping should be banned. Several recent Australian scientific studies (Sinclair et al, 2016 and Rizzuto et al, 2020) confirm that this practice causes significant stress to vulnerable calves. There is no justification to inflict that sort of fear and stress on an animal in any circumstance but particularly not in the name of entertainment. I have strong concerns that allowing spaying surgery on cattle to be performed by non-vets and allowing pregnancy tests by laypersons is a backward step for animal welfare. Surely it is reasonable to expect surgery and the necessary administration of pain relief be carried out by qualified veterinarians. CCTV required at 'livestock slaughter facilities' - The definition of livestock slaughter facilities should be expanded to include all facilities that slaughter livestock and not just horses. All animals are capable of suffering and are just as at risk of cruel and unethical treatment as horses. I also urge for an independent monitoring regime to be put in place to monitor the CCTV footage. If the CCTV recordings are only accessed on the basis of a complaint, then they are largely meaningless and will result in minimal animal welfare improvements if any. Powers for inspectors to enter a slaughterhouse without a warrant or permission from the owner should not be restricted to only when horses are at the facility. It is vital that inspectors have the power to enter slaughterhouses (as well as factory farms) without notice. I note the ban of CSSP pig poison. I recommend that this be extended to include other cruel poisons including 1080. I would like to see some Malacostraca such as crabs, crayfish, lobsters, and prawns included in Act under the definition of animals in line with modern animal welfare science. I question the rationale for changes to s178. This appears to be a backward step for animal welfare and removes any possibility of private prosecution or even the ability of RSPCA Qld to independently decide to prosecute without permission from the Department (chief executive). This is a backward step for animals and concentrates all power to prosecute in one person. Notably, the person who authorises prosecution also has responsibility for the viability and growth of animal agriculture industries, which may at times represent a conflict of interest. Instead, s178 (3) should be amended to explicitly allow private prosecution of animal cruelty offences, as well as by Queensland Police and RSPCA Qld. s178 (b) should also be amended to increase the statute of limitation of animal cruelty offences (currently 12 months, or 2 years in some circumstances). I note that some animal cruelty investigations currently take close to 12 months, so the current statute of limitation is completely unworkable. Currently, if someone commits a horrendous act of cruelty, but it is not discovered until 2 years later, they cannot be prosecuted under the Act. - I would like to see reporting of suspected animal cruelty cases made mandatory.- It is important that as a society we acknowledge the sentience of non-human animals in the Act.- Make meaningful changes to factory farming and other farmed animal welfare, including transport or slaughter, and ensure codes of practice do not provide excuses for committing acts of cruelty.- Major changes to monitoring and enforcement of animal welfare, particularly for farmed animals. This should also include increased transparency around enforcement action taken by the Department of Agriculture.