Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Recently there has been more scientific research regarding humane treatment of animals based on growing acceptance of sentience and ability to feel pain. Community attitudes have also changed regarding humane treatment, so animal welfare is increasingly important. There is growing evidence of secondary poisoning of birds and other native predators who have taken baited "pests", or eaten the poison directly. There is evidence that many native species have eaten 1080 and died in horrific ways. Use of poisons is often indiscriminate and careless, and impacts native wildlife are rarely mentioned, correctly or adequately assessed. Even less likely to be mentioned are traps. Most people know about horrific injuries of jaw traps and have considered soft traps instead, but there has been no research on another widely available horrific trap – glue traps. Glue traps are widely available in Australia and although 3 states have limited their use, they can still be purchased online. There are NO controls at ALL regarding their use, and unfortunately many people put them inside and outside and do not check to see if anything has been caught. Animals caught die slow and horrific deaths from thirst, starvation, suffocation and injuries as they struggle to free themselves, not to mention being thrown in the bin while suffering and still alive. This is completely inhumane and a terrifying end for all/any creature, and specifically our native species. Evidence suggests many native birds, reptiles, native bats, insects and other animals die this way, which is horrific, especially given the increased extinction rate in Australia. Most do NOT SURVIVE even with vet care/assistance. We ask that the committee consider impacts of animal management processes and the unintended consequences on our native wildlife, as well as the humaneness of the process. We ask that traps be included as a threatening process in the Bill. Glue traps and rodent poisons should be banned.