

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 579
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Publication: Make my submission and my name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

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. In addition to the points raised above, I urge the government to commit to further reviews and amendments to the Act and to properly consider:- An Independent Office of Animal Protection, separate from the Department of Agriculture.- Banning calf roping and other cruel events in the name of entertainment. - Give further consideration to mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty cases.- Specifically 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.