

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitter Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill. As a research student and environmental advocate, I am requesting that these inhuman traps be abolished. If a mechanism is not appropriate for use on people then it is also not appropriate for other species. These trap devices enable disrespect and unforgivable cruelty to wildlife by people.

There are clear statements that the Bill aims to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and community attitudes. Recently there has been more scientific research regarding the humane treatment of animals based on growing acceptance of sentience and the ability to feel pain. Community attitudes have also changed regarding humane treatment, so animal welfare is increasingly important. However, although there is this very welcome mention of the humaneness of treatment there is an absence of looking at the impacts of animal management practices on our native wildlife. 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. The use of poisons has often been indiscriminate and careless, and possible impacts on native wildlife are rarely mentioned, or where it has been, not adequately or correctly assessed. However, even less likely to be mentioned is the use of traps. Most people know about horrific injuries from jaw traps and have considered soft traps instead, but there has been no research on another widely available trap – the 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 can die slow and horrific deaths from thirst, starvation, suffocation and injuries as they struggle to free themselves. Many people, when questioned if they found an animal trapped, would simply throw the trap in the bin. This is inhumane. But even worse is the number of native animals caught in these traps. Australia is facing a wildlife extinction crisis and we need to stop unnecessary deaths of wildlife. Carers and vets have rescued (and tried to save) reptiles, small native mammals (including bandicoots, antechinus, native rats), birds, raptors, pet kittens, and most often, our insectivorous bats. Most do not survive. We ask that the committee consider the impacts of animal management processes consider 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. We would like to see the glue traps banned. In closing, my daughter is studying marine science and my research is on threatened species. It is a slap in the face that we dedicate personal time and resources to protect species, whilst corporate entities make money out of inhuman trap devices that cause unimaginable suffering and death to our wildlife. Have you ever witnessed the trauma of a bird unable to assist its trapped and dying mate? It's an image that your mind and memory can never undo but with legislation reform, you can ensure no one else endures this horrific and distressing scene, including the innocent wildlife caught and inhumanely discarded. Set the standard for Australian and please to have glue traps banned.