

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill. We understand that the Bill aims to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and present day community attitudes. Recent scientific research regarding humane treatment of animals based on growing acceptance of sentience and ability to feel pain. Animal welfare and the need to preserve our native fauna is increasingly important amongst the community particularly as it regards humane treatment. In order to improve the lot of animals both domesticated and native we must review the impacts of animal management practices. 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 is 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 of 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 on 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 impacts of animal management processes, the carry-on effects 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 glue traps banned.