

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 1295
Submitted by: Christine Voltz
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Submitter Comments:

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The Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 has been tabled in Queensland Parliament by Hon Mark Furner (Minister for Agriculture) on 12 May 2022. This is part of a previously announced commitment to perform a full review of the Act for the first time in 20 years. Unfortunately, the Bill falls far short of a 'full review' and we call on the government to do much more to strengthen the state's animal welfare laws - particularly for farmed animals. You can read some of our initial comments on the draft Bill in the Courier Mail article from 13 May 2022: [Animal rights groups claim few worthwhile changes to animal laws made in Animal Care Act review](#). We encourage supporters to make a submission to the Bill before the deadline 12noon 1 June 2022. Please read on below for tips on making a submission. The draft Bill, explanatory notes, and details on how to make a submission can be found on the Parliamentary Committee web page [here](#). What will the Animal Care & Protection Amendment Bill 2022 do? - Create a new offence for aggravated breaches of duty of care with a max penalty of \$275,000 or 3 years imprisonment (this appears to be in part due to cases like this one [ALQ highlighted in 2020](#) where a large number of horses starved to death at a property near Toowoomba). - Prohibition of the use and possession of pronged dog collars - Prohibition on the use of yellow phosphorous pig poison - Requirement for dogs to be restrained on vehicles (eg. ute trays - with exemptions for 'working dogs') - Minor changes to some inspector powers in relation to entry in certain circumstances, as well as animal welfare directions - CCTV at slaughterhouses that kill horses - but no framework for monitoring the footage - Allows laypersons to perform pregnancy tests on cattle and an 'accredited person' (other than a vet) to perform spaying surgery on cattle - A bunch of other changes including scientific use registration, Racing Integrity Act changes, and changes to oversight, governance and training of inspectors What does it NOT address? - They failed to properly consider an Independent Office of Animal Protection - This Bill does not ban calf roping - instead it clarifies that rodeos events (under the Code of practice) are allowed - It does not introduce mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty - It does not ban 1080 poison - It does not acknowledge the sentience of non-human animals - It does not extend the statute of limitation for animal cruelty offences (currently 12-18 months) - It does not make any meaningful changes to factory farming and other farmed animal welfare, including transport or slaughter (other than CCTV for horses at slaughterhouses) - It does not make any major changes to monitoring and enforcement of animal welfare, particularly for farmed animals

How to make a submission

1. Read the information on this page including the suggested points below. We also encourage you to also review the Parliamentary Committee web page that includes the draft Bill and explanatory notes.
2. Go the Parliamentary Committee website submission page [here](#).
3. Review details about making a submission and click Next at the bottom.
4. Complete your details in the web form.
5. You can either upload a file for your submission or choose 'Free text submission' and include some of the suggested points below. We encourage you to put your submission into your own words and add your own views and experiences. Please remember to always keep submissions polite, respectful and professional for greatest impact.
6. Confirm the privacy statement and reCAPTCHA at the bottom of the page and click SUBMIT. Thank you!

ACPA BILL - MAKE A SUBMISSION

Suggested points to include

You can copy and paste the points below to include in your submission. We recommend putting this into your own words and adding any additional recommendations you wish to raise. Overall, this Bill offers some important improvements for animal welfare in Queensland. However, it does not represent contemporary animal welfare

legislation or the rapidly changing community expectations around animal welfare. I welcome the following amendments to the Bill:- (5) New breach of duty of care offence.- (6) New unreasonable abandonment offence.- (9) Ban of tail docking.- (14) Ban of prong collars (possession & use). Although, I would recommend the Bill go further and ban other cruel devices including tethering while unattended, electric collars, and other cruel training devices.- (14) Ban on firing or blistering.- (15) Allow for euthanasia of animals by vets where owner can't be located.- (16) Ban of CSSP pig poison. However, I question why this is limited to CSSP pig poison and recommend that this be extended to include other cruel poisons including 1080. - (32) Recognition of interstate prohibition orders.- (44) Expanding QRIC's powers to include retired racehorses in possession of a racing participant. I urge the committee to consider changes to the following amendments:- (3) I welcome the inclusion of all Cephalopoda in the Act under the definition of animals. However, I would like to see inclusion of some Malacostraca such as crabs, crayfish, lobsters, and prawns, in line with modern animal welfare science.- (7) Calf roping should be banned. Rather than changing the Act to specifically allow what would be acts of animal cruelty at rodeos, the Bill should instead seek to ban calf roping as a prohibited event. A new study 'The legality of calf roping in Australia' (Stonebridge, UQ Law Journal, 2022) confirms that "beneficial contributions of calf roping do not justify the harm caused to the calves and that calf roping would therefore likely not be legal if the standard of unnecessary harm applied". This follows several recent Australian scientific studies (Sinclair et al, 2016 and Rizzuto et al, 2020) that confirm that this