


## Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 1428  
**Submitted by:**   
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**Submitter Comments:**

31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

State Development & Regional Industries Committee

Dear Parliamentary Committee,

**RE – Submission on proposed amendments to Animal Care & Protection Act 2001**

Please consider my submission, as a member of the general (voting) public and the long time owner of large guard dogs (and regular attendee of a professional dog trainer).

I am bewildered and greatly disappointed that this “Amendment” has been immensely changed (unrecognisable from the original, 12mths ago) and at the “11<sup>th</sup> Hour”. It is straight out of a “Yes Minister” episode. I refer specifically to the Banning of Restraint-Based Tools.

**Point A**

As mentioned above, there has been NO CONSULTATION with the people (and the dogs) this will effect. The professional dog trainers, the people “on the ground” saving dogs from the scrap heap as they cannot be controlled/trained without these Restraint Tools. The Police, Customs, Military all depend on these tools to train these essential dogs confidently and safely.

The fact that these changes have been rushed through ‘overnight while no one was looking’ smacks of typical political hidden agenda/trade off deal with influential animal groups – who are notorious for NOT acting on so many reports of cruelty and puppy farming, to say the least.

**Point B**

Again, as above, the lack of genuine community consultation is extremely disappointing.

The social and environmental impacts of this short-sightedness will quickly become apparent when the animal groups are inundated with aggressive, untrainable dogs that people will surrender if they are not allowed to teach and train them with these Restraint Tools. And where will it all end? Will harness leashes be next? What about flat collars?

There will be a huge negative impact on the community. Dogs will be on streets, they will die, when they could have just had a few months training with professionals and lived a wonderful and productive life. Not to mention the professional working dogs with the Police and Military etc. What will be the effect of not being able to train these large, powerful dogs with restraints? Has anyone seriously thought any of this through? Banning these restraints is not going to make it all ‘rainbows and butterflies’ as the local ‘puppy preschool’ people claim.

**Point C**

The ‘anecdotal’ information surrounding these Restraints (especially Prong & E-Collars) is just that – mainly anecdotal. Any item can be used the wrong way to harm. Shall we ban sticks as well?

I sincerely request a more comprehensive review of tools be done, and with the above PROFESSIONAL industries, as well as large dog owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.