

# **Animal Justice Party Victoria**

## **Submission for the Productivity Commission Review into Agriculture Australia**



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Animal Justice Party Victoria

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# Draft Recommendations

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## Regulation of farm animal welfare

### DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 5.1

The Australian Government should take responsibility for ensuring that scientific principles guide the development of farm animal welfare standards. To do this, an independent body tasked with developing national standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare should be established.

The body should be responsible for determining if new standards are required and, if so, for managing the regulatory impact assessment process for the proposed standards. It should include an animal science and community ethics advisory committee to provide independent evidence on animal welfare science and research on community values.

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### INFORMATION REQUEST 5.1

*The Commission is seeking feedback on:*

*the most effective governance structure for an independent body tasked with assessing and developing standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare*

*what the body's responsibilities should include (and whether it should make decisions or recommendations and if the latter, to whom)*

*what processes the body should use to inform and gauge community values on farm animal welfare*

*how such a body should be funded.*

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### DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 5.2

State and territory governments should review their monitoring and enforcement functions for farm animal welfare and make necessary changes so that:

- there is separation between agriculture policy matters and farm animal welfare monitoring and enforcement functions
- a transparent process is in place for publicly reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities
- adequate resourcing is available to support an effective discharge of monitoring and enforcement activities.

State and territory governments should also consider recognising industry quality assurance schemes as a means of achieving compliance with farm animal welfare standards where the scheme seeks to ensure compliance (at a minimum) with standards in law, and involves independent and transparent auditing arrangements.

# Introduction

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As the Independent Office of Animal Welfare campaign manager for the Animal Justice Party Victoria, I thank the Productivity Commission for allowing me to make this submission. This inquiry will receive numerous submissions and the majority will naturally be from farming and commercial interests in the use of animals for profit, others will seek to measure animal welfare in terms of financial value only, consequently, I feel it is important to make this submission to provide an alternative view where the welfare of the animal involved is the priority consideration of the decisions made relating to that animal.

This submission will focus on the Draft Recommendation 5.1, the need for the establishment of an independent body and attempt to provide sufficient answers to the areas in 5.1 the Commission is seeking feedback on:

- *the most effective governance structure for an independent body tasked with assessing and developing standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare:*
- *what the body's responsibilities should include (and whether it should make decisions or recommendations and if the latter, to whom):*
- *what processes the body should use to inform and gauge community values on farm animal welfare:*
- *how such a body should be funded.*

This submission will include the position of the Animal Justice Party Victoria for an Independent Office of Animal Welfare (Australia) as well as the evidence and positions of other leading animal advocacy organisations supporting the call for an Independent Office of Animal Welfare.

Regards,

**Justine Curatolo**

Animal Justice Party Victoria

## Information Request 5.1 *The most effective governance structure for an independent body tasked with assessing and developing standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare*

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The establishment of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare (the Office).

The Office could act similar to the current Child Welfare model used by government which oversees the rescue and rehabilitation of young people through the welfare system and simultaneously working with the police department for law enforcement.

The AJP Victoria proposes the Office to report to the Federal Attorney-General's department.

The Office would have two branches, Branch One rescue, rehabilitation and community education, this branch would essentially be the RSPCA except it would be free from any law enforcement duties. As a result this Branch would be able to form strong, long lasting relationships with the community and rescue groups and really create a ground swell at the front line for genuine prevention of cruelty towards animals.

Branch Two Law enforcement: would concentrate solely on charging offenders and prosecution through the POCTAA. This branch would be within the police force and reporting to the IOAW, thereby giving inspectors equal powers to police.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MOVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR **ANIMAL CRUELTY** AWAY FROM A CHARITY AND TO THE POLICE?

*"Triple digit increases in both animal cruelty arrests and animal victims treated since the program started"*



Victoria **NEEDS** an Independent Office of Animal Welfare

IT would be modelled on the successful partnership in New York between the ASPCA and the NYPD where ***"The NYPD takes the lead role in responding to all NYC animal cruelty complaints, the ASPCA provides direct care and support for the victims as well as police training and forensic analysis. This partnership continues to produce record-breaking numbers of both animal cruelty arrests and rescued animals. In the first 6 months of 2015, there has been a 28% increase in arrests and 115% increase in animals treated over the same period in 2014."***

## The current animal welfare system FAILS animals in Australia

(Credit: World Animal Protection)

In Victoria, section 9 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 creates a cruelty offence for causing unreasonable pain or suffering or for acts likely to cause such pain or suffering, including by failure to act. This applies to all vertebrates (including reptiles, birds and mammals after the mid-point of gestation) and to all adult decapod crustaceans. There is an exemption however for anything done in accordance with a legislated Code of Practice (section 6) or a livestock management standard

(Credit: Lawyers for Animals)

Section 6(1) of Victoria's *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* states that the Act does not apply to: "Any act or practice with respect to the farming, transport, sale or killing of any farm animal which is carried out in accordance with a Code of Practice." Nor does the Act apply to: "... the keeping, treatment, handling, transportation, sale, killing, hunting, shooting, catching, trapping, netting, marking, care, use, husbandry or management of any animal or class of animals ... which is carried out in accordance with a Code of Practice"... This means that millions of farm animals daily endure housing conditions and acts of cruelty that would be illegal for a cat or dog. The codes of practice are policy documents endorsed by a Minister, and are not subject to a democratic vote within Parliament, unless a motion is put for their disallowance..

Nor are the animals who are subjected to cruel and inhumane medical experiments on them included in the RSPCA statistics on animal cruelty. The thousands of animals kept in cages, tested on, have cruel medical experiments conducted on them, living in pain, fear and suffering, all of which would be illegal if done to a domestic cat or dog.

### The Animal Welfare System in Victoria...

In 2015  prosecuted **less than 1%** of all animal cruelty complaints received



Victoria **NEEDS** an Independent Office of Animal Welfare

## **ANIMALS AUSTRALIA**

(Credit: Animals Australia, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

Animals Australia strongly recommends that the following amendments be made to the Bill in order to ensure its intended purposes are achieved:- That the IOAW does not sit within the Department of Agriculture. A number of alternative departments would be appropriate for the IOAW to sit within, such as the Attorney General's Department or Department of Environment. This would significantly reduce the conflict of interest that exists under the present framework and limit industry's disproportionate influence.

## **VOICELESS**

(Credit: Voiceless, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

The CEO to report to Environment Minister or Attorney-General: In order to be separated from the Department of Agriculture and to avoid any further conflict of interest, Voiceless recommends that it would be more appropriate for the IOAW and the CEO to report to either the Attorney-General's Department or the Department of the Environment. Under the current drafting of the Bill, the IOAW still reports to and take direction from the Minister for Agriculture.

## **LAWYERS FOR ANIMALS**

(Credit: Lawyers for Animals, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

We submit that the creation of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare – if kept truly independent of industry, as various Ombudsmen have demonstrated is possible – should allow community expectations concerning animal treatment to be expressed and debated publicly. It should enable Government to break free from the conflict of interest inherent in the Department of Agriculture ostensibly representing both the welfare of animals and the interests of the industry that profits from them, by giving an independent voice to Government and publishing reports which the whole of Cabinet (and the Opposition) may consider.

An Independent Office of Animal Welfare should provide rational and considered counsel to Government, helping to overcome the deliberate inertia of industry-dominated institutions like the Live Export Standards Advisory Group

To ensure the independence of the Office, LFA would prefer that its CEO be appointed by the former members of the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, rather than by the Minister or his delegates.

## ***Information Request 5.1 what the body's responsibilities should include (and whether it should make decisions or recommendations and if the latter, to whom)***

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The AJP Victoria proposes the management of the Office would be responsible for the coordination and development of the animal protection standards, including facilitating the conversion process of the Model Codes of Practice to Standards and Guidelines for farm animal welfare among others.

The requirement of the Minister to table reports in Parliament would provide much needed political representation for animals and facilitate political debate on animal protection issues.

The Office would be protected in statute, including its funding and independence.

### **Problems with the current animal welfare system**

(Credit: Voiceless)

Currently, the RSPCA sits within the Department of Agriculture which is responsible for the farming sector AND animal welfare. This arrangement is problematic and disadvantageous for animal welfare for a number of reasons:

- **Conflict of Interest:** The Department of Agriculture is incapable of legitimately acting in the best interests of animals when it simultaneously represents the interests of farmers (who unlike animals are able to vote).
- **Industry influence:** Industry representatives have disproportionate influence over the animal welfare standardsetting process, resulting in welfare standards being established that fail to adequately protect animals and function to reinforce existing industry husbandry practices..

### **ANIMALS AUSTRALIA**

(Credit: Animals Australia, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

That any committee or animal welfare strategy body that sits under the IOAW be expertise-based and carefully chosen to ensure that it is independent and unbiased. - That the IOAW have authorised officers that have statutory powers to conduct investigations and inspections in relation to Commonwealth animal welfare matters, including for example, the power to inspect and investigate matters relating to live animal export. Further, it should be the IOAW (through its authorised officers) that prepares the compliance reports following alleged or selfreported breaches throughout live export. These reports would be similar to those that are currently prepared by the Department of Agriculture.



## VOICELESS

(Credit: Voiceless, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

**Standard-setting functions:** The Bill should be amended to make clear that the IOAW and the Advisory Committee is responsible for the coordination and development of the animal protection standards, including facilitating the conversion process of the Model Codes of Practice to Standards and Guidelines. This will resolve the concerns around AHA continuing to control this process, and ensure appropriate minimum

**animal protection standards are set that accurately reflect community expectations. Commissioning scientific research:** As part of the Reporting Functions and Standardsetting functions (suggested above), the Bill should be amended to make clear that the IOAW and Advisory Committee also have responsibility for commissioning independent scientific research into specific animal protection areas. This will assist in remedying the lack of independent science and research in animal protection, and allow for independent science to be utilised in the standard-setting process.

**Facilitating State / Territory IOAW:** The Bill should be amended to give the IOAW powers to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of similar independent offices at the state and territory level. Without similar such offices being established, the underlying regulatory and governance issues will continue.

**Enforcement Functions:** Voiceless recommends that the IOAW should also have monitoring and enforcement functions with respect to Commonwealth animal protection laws (particularly in relation to live animal exports). In our view, it is insufficient to invest IOAW with responsibility for monitoring compliance of Commonwealth animal welfare





## LAWYERS FOR ANIMALS

(Credit: Lawyers for Animals, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

We note that the Bill also provides for the Independent Office of Animal Welfare to undertake inquiries and prepare reports about the activities and effectiveness of both the LESAG and the Office of Animal Welfare Advisory Committee ('AWAC'). LFA submits that it is critically important that such review functions be performed by a body that is independent from animal-industry, as the Department of Agriculture cannot be, since it represents the interests of animal-industry to Government.

Unlike LESAG, which appears to be hopelessly compromised by its industry-dominated membership who expect to have the ear of the Minister for Agriculture; in the past the AWAC has proven itself useful in allowing welfare groups to engage with government and vice-versa. Resurrecting the AWAC should also allow the Independent Office of Animal Welfare to distance itself, structurally, from animal welfare groups, some of whom will have an opportunity to liaise with governments through their role in AWAC.

LFA similarly supports the proposal that the Independent Office of Animal Welfare create a repository for the collection and dissemination of information about animal welfare issues that impact the Commonwealth, to be known as a Centre of Excellence. To achieve the level of sophistication Australians want and expect of Government, information of this nature should be readily accessible. Dissemination of this information may also help to dispel myths and counter some of the misinformation commonly presented by a less than impartial media. If the Bill is to be amended, we would seek that it empower the Independent Office of Animal Welfare to gather prosecution summaries and outcomes from all agencies involved in prosecuting offences relating to animal cruelty or other animal offences (for example, dog offences), to make available for research within the proposed Centre of Excellence. With most cases never proceeding past Magistrates' Court level, it is exceedingly difficult to ascertain the rates and outcomes of animal-related prosecutions, including sentencing outcomes. This information is essential to judge the effectiveness of enforcement of animal laws in Australia and to allow lawyers to prepare submissions in relation to sentencing outcomes in comparable cases, to generate greater uniformity and fairness.

The Bill also proposes to resurrect the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy ('AAWS') under the co-ordination of the Independent Office of Animal Welfare. We submit that this will not only allow what good work the AAWS has accomplished to be preserved and utilised, but should also enable the industry bias and inertia afflicting the former AAWS to be overcome, by positive and rational leadership. We trust that the costs of resurrecting the AAWS may be kept to a minimum by avoiding grand and expensive conferences and resorting, instead, to simple teleconferencing utilising current technologies. We also expect more balanced representation of stakeholders may result from new and independent oversight LFA supports the 'Departmental Review Functions' proposed to reside in the Independent Office of Animal Welfare, especially relating to assessing compliance with and achievement of a Commonwealth Animal Welfare Policy. To date, LFA is unaware of the existence of any overarching or comprehensive 'Australian Animal Welfare Policy', with the exception of brief statements recorded on the website of the AAWS and in an AAWS document which appears to mistakenly conflate 'National Animal Welfare Policy' with a policy plan to generate 'Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines'.

#### Animal Justice Party Victoria

Similarly, LFA welcomes the requirement that the Independent Office of Animal Welfare review the level of compliance with, and enforcement and effectiveness of the Commonwealth's animal welfare laws. Such a review by an independent body should encourage the achievement of practical outcomes for animals and allow problems to be addressed in a way not previously possible.

Finally, LFA commends the Bill for tasking the Independent Office of Animal Welfare with undertaking inquiries, commissioning research and preparing reports on each of the following issues:

- 1) protecting and promoting animal welfare in the export of live animals;
- 2) the effectiveness of Commonwealth laws that apply to the export of live animals;
- 3) sustainability and animal welfare issues that arise in respect of killing kangaroos for commercial purposes the Commonwealth's animal welfare policy;
- 4) scientific and legal issues that arise in respect of the Commonwealth's animal welfare policy;
- 5) potential animal welfare issues that arise in respect of the Commonwealth's animal welfare policy;
- 6) the importation of animals and animal products into Australia
- 7) the management of animal species introduced into Australia;
- 8) the possible harmonisation of animal welfare laws of the Commonwealth, States and Territories;
- 9) animal welfare issues that arise in respect of Model Codes of Practice for the welfare of animals

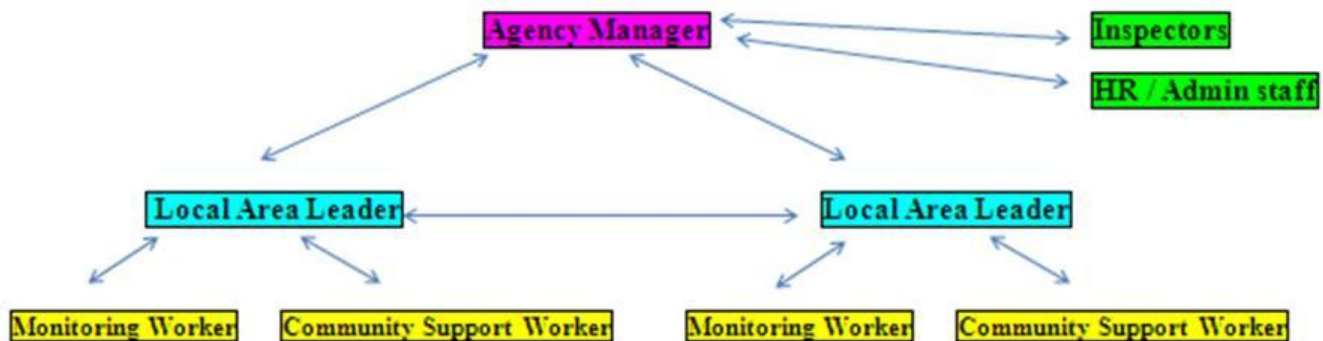


## Information Request 5.1 *what processes the body should use to inform and gauge community values on farm animal welfare*

The AJP Victoria proposes an additional model incorporated into the RSPCA in terms of community engagement with respect to identifying and then responding to low level animal cruelty concerns.

We also defer to the models for stakeholder consultation used in the United Kingdom and Austria which are world leaders in this area.

### IOAW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AGENCY



### Benefits of the COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AGENCY

- Pro-active positive engagement with the community on animal welfare /education strategies;
- Supporting the community in the prevention of animal cruelty (both conscious and unconscious acts);
- Improve access to basic animal welfare education and information for the community;
- Ease the workload of inspectors by removing low level animal cruelty follow up and monitoring tasks;
- All workers are unpaid employees of IOAW, therefore all organizational policies and procedures apply;
- Train all workers to a basic level of competence with regards to duty of care, legal requirements and animal cruelty standards;
- Workers support the IOAW inspectors and their model, there are NO Inspector powers or duties.

## LAWYERS FOR ANIMALS

(Credit: Lawyers for Animals, Voice for Animals Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 Submission)

In order to achieve the sophisticated level of governance Australians want and expect, it will be necessary to establish a policy against which the achievements of successive Governments can be assessed - perhaps on an annual basis (as with some human rights assessments) – and by which each Government may communicate its unique approach and intentions to its constituents. Given the interest that Australians express in animal issues of all kinds, the guidance that could be offered by a Commonwealth Animal Welfare Policy seems to be well overdue. Such a policy may be expected to increase public engagement, thus strengthening our democracy and helping to restore some of the faith that has been lost in our institutions of government during the last two decades.

### THE EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (RATING OF A FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)

(Credit: World Animal Protection)

There are requirements set out in legislation for consultation of various stakeholders. These include requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for the government to consult “*such persons appearing to the authority to represent any interests concerned as the authority considers appropriate*” before making secondary regulations on various issues (for example, on exemptions to the prohibition on mutilations, section 5), and for the Secretary of State to consult the same persons about the draft of new codes of practice (section 15). Similar provisions exist in the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. It could be beneficial if this were to be explicitly stated to include animal welfare representatives.

The UK government has established advisory bodies that include a wide range of stakeholders interested in promoting the health and welfare of animals.

### THE EXPERIENCE IN AUSTRIA (RATING OF A FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)

(Credit: World Animal Protection)

Two NGOs are represented in the Animal Protection Council, established under the Animal Welfare Act 2004. Several universities and research centres are also represented, as are business and agricultural associations. Animal Welfare Ombudsmen and representatives of each state also sit on the council.

Membership of the Animal Experimentation Commission is required to include representatives from government, academia, industry and animal protection organisations (Article 34 Animal Experimentation Act 2012). The inclusion of relevant stakeholders in the policy development process is mandated under legislation, including all members of the Animal Protection Council articulated in Article 42 of the Animal Welfare Act 2004. This includes NGOs and government officials, and enables consultation with scientific experts.



## Information Request 5.1 *how such a body should be funded*

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An amount of Government funding which is protected in statute is necessary for the establishment and ongoing functions of the Office, it will also need to provide indemnity as it does with other government agencies (and which the RSPCA does not currently have and makes it extremely vulnerable to court losses).

However, due to the proposed functions of the Office, a reasonable proportion of it could be self funded through fines, court wins, partnerships with animal rescues and rehabilitation agencies, charge for fees and services as well as any fundraising or membership fees raised for the rescue, rehabilitation and education section of the Office.

The current animal welfare system in Australia is that the RSPCA is responsible for all breaches in animal welfare law, through fines, penalties, court costs awarded etc, law enforcement (Branch two of the Office) would be able to significantly financially contribute to its operation. However, more needs to be done, for example the RSPCA Victoria prosecuted LESS than 1% of all animal cruelty complaints received. (Credit: RSPCA) Of the 19,461 animal rescues and cruelty offences reported, RSPCA finalized only 69 prosecutions (excluding those that were withdrawn before their appearance at court).

RSPCA conducts and funds its own prosecutions. Occasionally, a court will order people found guilty of animal cruelty to make a donation to RSPCA Victoria, or order them to pay part of RSPCA Victoria's costs of conducting the case. However, all court-ordered fines (as opposed to donations or court costs) are paid to the Government, not to RSPCA Victoria.



## **THE EXPERIENCE IN AUSTRIA (RATING OF A FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)**

(Credit: World Animal Protection)

In Austria, the Federal Ministry of Health is responsible for animal welfare issues. The government has confirmed that the Federal Ministry of Health works with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to reach agreement as far as animals kept for farming purposes are concerned.

The administrative framework is comprehensive. Responsibilities for enforcement are clearly delineated in the regulations. Human and financial resources allocated to this administrative framework are sufficient for improving animal welfare.

## **THE EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (RATING OF A FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)**

(Credit: World Animal Protection)

In England, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has responsibility for animal welfare, other than in scientific research. The Secretary of State is identified as responsible under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Animal welfare is one of the top priorities highlighted on the department's website and is one of the issues highlighted in the UK Coalition Government's Agreement. The department funds research into animal welfare and protection and has established an Animal Health and Welfare Board for England comprising a range of stakeholders to assist it in making policy and strategy recommendations. Animal welfare is assigned to an Animal Welfare Minister.

The Coalition Government has a good regulation agenda and is adopting a "one in, two out" approach to policy and legislation development. In the context of animal health and animal welfare there is a commitment to reducing the burden of legislation and regulation on industry and sharing costs and responsibility with industry. It is not yet known whether this approach will have a positive or negative effect on animal welfare in the UK, as it could result in removing some degree of protection and/or detail in the current Codes of Practice.

However, currently there are not considered to be any significant barriers to improving animal welfare given the importance assigned to it by the government.

There is also clear budgetary allowance for work in this area. In 2011 the animal welfare budget was devolved; for 2011/12 Scotland and Wales each had £21 million and England £105 million to spend on animal health and welfare work.



# Animal Justice Party Victoria MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **What does the Animal Justice Party's Independent Office of Animal Welfare (IOAW) look like?**

The idea of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare has been discussed and proposed at a federal level for a number of years, with the Greens introducing bills in the federal parliament in 2013 and 2015. In stark contrast, the Abbott Government took animal welfare off the Commonwealth agenda in 2013. Instead, it left individual departments of agriculture to be primarily responsible for implementing animal welfare standards.

The conflict of interest is clear. Departments of agriculture are charged with protecting and promoting profits for the agriculture industry while at the same time ensuring animal welfare. Revenue raising and animal welfare do not make happy bed-fellows.

According to Bruce Poon, lead senate candidate for the Animal Justice Party in Victoria, "Considering the growth of the vote for the Animal Justice Party since the first election it contested in 2013, the shift in community expectations and attitudes towards animal welfare in Australia has never been greater".

"The establishment of an IOAW provides an opportunity to meet community expectations and deliver a new national framework for animal welfare and protection."

"The Animal Justice Party's proposed IOAW model is one of an independent, central and active voice for animals at a federal level."

"To preserve its independence and avoid the current conflicts of interest that plague animal welfare regulation at a state and territory level, an IOAW must be established as an independent statutory authority, with its functions, powers and administration enshrined in legislation."

"The IOAW should be responsible for:

- coordinating, developing and implementing animal welfare and protection standards at a Commonwealth level;
- investigating a new national approach to protecting animals under the law, including the enforceability of animal cruelty-related court orders in all jurisdictions, and the status of animals in law as sentient beings;
- engaging with a wide range of stakeholders (including animal welfare, protection and rights groups, industry bodies, and experts) on animal welfare standards in Australia, and improving Australia's international reputation for the treatment of animals;

- monitoring, developing and enforcing Commonwealth animal welfare and protections laws, with a specific focus on the live animal export trade;
- working with the federal, state and territory police forces to develop specialised teams of officers who are charged with enforcing animal welfare and animal cruelty law;
- creating a centralised database for animal welfare and protection information (including legal, scientific and regulatory information) for the purpose of educating and informing law and policy makers, law enforcement authorities, the legal system, and importantly, the public, on current animal welfare and protection related topics;

and

- facilitating the establishment of state and territory-based independent offices of animal welfare, in order to effectively coordinate, develop and implement the objectives of an IOAW and further the rights of animals to live their lives protected from human harm.”

“The IOAW must also have the opportunity to encourage, support and commission animal science and research into any topics related to its delegated responsibilities, with a view to better informing its and the Commonwealth’s decision-making, and to give all animals a voice at a national level.”

END

Contacts for comment:

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Editors’ Notes:

- The Animal Justice Party (AJP) was formed in 2009 to help ensure principles of kindness, compassion and capability are applied to all animals in all parliaments of this country.
- The AJP contested the 2013 Federal election nationwide in the Senate in six jurisdictions as well as several lower house seats, receiving nearly 100,000 votes altogether. It is registered in both Victoria and New South Wales, more than doubling its vote in the 2014 Victorian state election, tripling its vote in the 2015 NSW state election and installing our first MP, Mark Pearson. The party will be running in more than 50 seats in the 2016 Federal Election.
- The party is introduced in this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV1pDePPD38>
- Read our policies, charter, constitution and meet our candidates here: [www.animaljusticeparty.org](http://www.animaljusticeparty.org)

End of Submission.