



28th of June 2024

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

The Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA (Inc) (PGA) is a non-profit industry organisation established in 1907, which represents primary producers in both the pastoral and agricultural regions of Western Australia.

The PGA welcomes the invitation to help shape the renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS).

The PGA points out that the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002 was extensively reviewed by an independent panel between 2019 and 2021. Generally speaking, the WA Government accepted the findings of the Review and supported its recommendations. This will include setting minimum standards for the humane treatment of animals and giving government the authority to enforce compliance with standards.

These are expected to be made available for public consultation in the latter half of this year.

Consequently, the PGA asks the Department to reduce complication and avoid duplicating this process, noting that the PGA's resources are necessarily limited.

The PGA notes that central to the first iteration of the original Australian Animal Welfare Strategy was its commitment to national standards and guidelines that are based on science and evidence and take into account practicalities and costs to industry.

It is imperative that this renewal take the same position.

The PGA points out that in the phase out of live export of sheep by sea the merits of sheep live export have not been considered within the process. It is an election commitment legitimised by an election victory.

It is imperative that the renewed AAWS does not become hostage to political considerations as has been the case with the export of live sheep by sea.

The writing process of the AAWS must be done by impartial technical experts qualified in the field of livestock.

There must be no influence by the animal advocacy movement that seeks an end to the status of animals as property, and an end to their use in the research, food, clothing, and entertainment industries.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Patmore', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chris Patmore

Chairman, PGA Livestock Committee