



# ANIMAL WELFARE AND RIGHTS

Protection and compassion for all species

End live exports, no cruel cosmetics, free range eggs

---

We have a duty of care to promote animal welfare and animal rights and where possible end their suffering. There is growing public support for animal welfare to be part of our approach to all animals – companion, domestic and wild.

---

There is overwhelming public demand for humane and accountable treatment of animals. Yet governments continue to sanction cruelty by refusing to change woefully inadequate minimum animal welfare standards and make industry transparent and accountable.

The Greens are the only federal parliamentary party to have a specific portfolio responsibility for animal welfare. We are deeply committed to improving the welfare and wellbeing of animals, and will continue working with Australia's animal welfare and rights organisations to achieve this.

## > GREENS INITIATIVES

Animal welfare in Australia relies on a patchwork of state/territory legislation and industry Codes of Practice and Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines that institutionalise cruel industry practices.

Under the constitution, state governments have primary responsibility to prepare and enforce animal welfare laws, policies and programs. Local government oversees the responsible ownership of domestic animals.

Federal oversight of animal welfare occurs when animals are imported or exported, such as the live animal export trade or the kangaroo meat and skin trade.

### Independent Office of Animal Welfare (IOAW)

With continuing cruelty endured by animals in factory farms and within the live export chain, and the suffering of animals across Australia under practices that confirm and excuse animal cruelty, the need for a national independent office of animal welfare is clear.

The Greens' *Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill*<sup>1</sup> was reintroduced into the parliament to establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare (IOAW) to promote and oversee animal welfare.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://lee-rhiannon.greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/greens-introduce-bill-independent-office-animal-welfare>

The office will be independent of government and the Department of Agriculture to ensure conflicts of interest that compromise animal welfare over profit-making are removed. It will be guided by the advice of an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee including experts in animal welfare, consumer groups, scientists and ethicists. The IOAW will also work to harmonise and improve animal welfare laws across the country.

### Ending live exports

The Greens are committed to ending the horrific live export trade which continues unabated. We must end this shocking cruelty. It is time to increase processing in Australia to support local producers and create local jobs. In fact Australia's chilled meat trade is consistently worth around seven times more to the Australian economy than the live export trade.

The Greens' *Live Animal Export (Slaughter) Prohibition Bill*<sup>2</sup> was introduced into the parliament and would end live exports from Australia.

The Greens also have a plan<sup>3</sup> that identifies five key issues governments should undertake to transition away from this cruel trade and to support our domestic meat processing sector by growing our more economically sustainable chilled meat trade.

### Ending Cruel Cosmetics

No animal should suffer cruelty in the pursuit of a new lipstick formula. In 2014 the Greens' introduced our *End Cruel Cosmetics Bill* into the parliament. The bill prohibits in Australia the manufacture, importation, advertising or sale of animal-tested cosmetics or cosmetic ingredients. It is endorsed by the Be Cruelty-Free Australia campaign run by Humane Research Australia and Humane Society International, and is supported by Australia's animal welfare organisations and the Animal Justice Party. 81% of Australians oppose the sale of animal-tested

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://lee-rhiannon.greensmps.org.au/live-animal-exports>

<sup>3</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/liveexportstransition>

---

cosmetics in Australia,<sup>4</sup> and the Greens believe it is time Australia joined the 31 other countries who have banned cruel cosmetics.

### **Intensive farmed animals – truth in labelling**

Across Australia factory farmed animals are suffering horrific neglect and cruelty. The Greens are deeply committed to recognised principles of animal welfare: freedom from hunger and thirst; from discomfort, pain, injury or disease; from fear and distress, and freedom to express normal behaviour with sufficient space and the company of the animal's own kind.

The Greens are working hard with Australia's animal welfare organisations to bring an end to inhumane farming practices and phase out intensive farming for meat, dairy, egg and poultry production that causes animal suffering. We are working to end intensive livestock feedlots and caged hens; debeaking of poultry and removal of newborn calves from their mothers; sow stalls, farrowing crates and the tethering of sows; and to have clear accountability and transparency in Australia's animal-use industries.

The Greens call for Australian Standards for free-range farming practices for all agricultural animals which reflect commonly understood definitions of free-range and other ethical treatment of animals.

The Greens also call for Australia to establish an accurate national labelling system of products that identifies cruelty-free, free-range, organic, and free from content derived from habitat destruction, such as palm oil.

### **Free range eggs standards**

In March state and federal Labor and Coalition consumer affairs ministers agreed to a free-range standard that would allow stocking densities of up to 10,000 hens per hectare. Hens may never go outside under this definition, and may still be subject to the cruel practice of debeaking.

The decision was a major betrayal of consumers, genuine free-range farmers and animals. But the fight for the future of free-range isn't over yet. With policy makers having deserted the field, it is time for consumers to take matters into their own hands.

The Greens have put together a toolkit to help people avoid dodgy producers and find the eggs that meet consumer expectations of free-range: <http://lee-rhiannon.greensmps.org.au/campaigns/free-range-eggs-truth-labelling-toolkit>

### **Kangaroos**

There is a huge level of support overseas for our unique and iconic kangaroo species. Millions of people, especially in Europe and North America, have petitioned against the killing of these animals. Across Australia however

perceptions of abundance and pest still often apply to kangaroos, especially when they are seen on farmland or in built up areas.

While kangaroos still persist in remnant woodland habitats, particularly in non-shooting reserves and national parks, there are large areas of their natural habitat where they are no longer found.

The Greens are calling for a more independent and robust examination of the evidence informing the shooting of kangaroos. We are also working to improve habitat conservation to ensure the protection and survival of all native wildlife, from endangered species to our remaining macropod species.

### **> BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

In 2014 the Coalition Government disbanded the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and cut \$5.6 million from animal welfare programs and strategies.

The new Independent Office of Animal Welfare will cost \$0.5 million to set up. Ongoing costs are \$2.5 million pa. \$1 million of that cost will be diverted from the Department of Agriculture with its existing animal welfare programs absorbed by the new IOAW.

### **> OTHER PARTIES' POSITIONS**

#### **Labor**

Labor has consistently ignored Greens bills ensuring greater animal welfare protections, and has not provided support for the Greens' bill for an Independent Office of Animal Welfare to ensure independent and informed oversight for animal welfare in Australia.

Labor did not express support for the Greens' 2014 *End Cruel Cosmetics Bill* introduced in the Senate. However with an election around the corner Labor recently introduced its own cosmetics bill in the lower house.

Labor does not support an end to the live export trade.

#### **Liberal & National parties**

The Liberal-National coalition does not support any of the Greens' animal welfare bills.

In the 2014/15 federal budget the Coalition dismantled its own independent Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, and cut \$5.6 million from its animal welfare programs and strategies that were designed to improve important animal welfare standards for live export.

In 2015 Liberal Senator Back introduced a federal ag-gag bill that would criminalise independent animal welfare investigations while protecting the perpetrators of animal cruelty and neglect.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/HRAcosmetics>