

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Our plan for a world without animal cruelty

More and more people are committing to ending animal cruelty. Yet each day, animals are made to suffer in the name of gambling, entertainment and food.

The Greens believe we must properly care for animals and treat them with respect and compassion.

We will fight to protect animals from cruelty and suffering and end harmful practises that put profit ahead of the welfare of animals.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Enact strong, national laws** to end animal cruelty and protect the welfare of animals
- ▲ **Ban the live export of livestock** for slaughter, consumption or profit
- ▲ **End inhumane, intensive factory farming** with a just transition for workers employed in those industries
- ▲ **Shut down the racing of horses and greyhounds**, and end the export of greyhounds for commercial purposes, including for breeding and racing
- ▲ **Tackle the cruel global shark fin trade** by banning the import and export of shark fins
- ▲ **Establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare**

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE LAWS

Animals are sentient beings, not commodities. Yet every day their welfare is compromised in the name of corporate profit, as they are made to suffer for gambling, entertainment and food.

For too long, governments have ignored animal cruelty. The state-based laws that do exist lack teeth and are poorly enforced. It's time for national animal welfare laws that can hold both corporations and individuals to account. These wide-reaching laws will cover:

- ▲ Corporations, including animal farming, factory farming and puppy farms
- ▲ Kangaroo slaughter for commercial purposes
- ▲ Animals that are traded interstate or internationally, including live export of animals

- ▲ Animals on Commonwealth land, including Commonwealth National Parks and Australian defence force bases
- ▲ Animals covered by international agreements, such as the protection of migratory birds from duck hunting

By introducing credible penalties, enforceable by the AFP in co-operation with animal protection organisations, these laws would help reduce animal cruelty.

The Greens will establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare out of existing federal funding to ensure animal welfare is never ignored again.

BAN LIVE EXPORT

The live export industry is one of cruelty and exploitation. Australia, as one of the world's largest exporters of sheep and cattle, has seen case after case of sheep and cattle

experiencing terrible suffering and horrific deaths aboard live export ships.¹

Live export is not just bad for animals, it affects Australian workers too. We have seen wage theft, poor pay and stressful, unsafe conditions for workers aboard these ships.² The business model is fundamentally cruel and exploitative, and it is beyond time that it was shut down.

The Greens have long been calling for live export to be banned. In the process of doing so, we will:

- ▲ Bring together governments and stakeholders to work with industry, farmers and relevant unions and ensure a best practice, just transition for workers in the industry
- ▲ Introduce a \$5 million Farmer Adjustment Assistance Package for farmers to adjust their flocks towards local processing systems for chilled and frozen meats
- ▲ Boost skills and retrain workers to transition to a domestic chilled and frozen meat processing industry in rural and regional areas, particularly Western Australia, by ensuring better targeted local skills and TAFE funding
- ▲ Agree on new trade deals to remove trade distortions propping up the live export industry.

¹ Find details of live export investigations here: <https://www.animalsaustralia.org/investigations/live-export-investigations.php>

² Animals Australia
<<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/crew-animals-flee-live-export-ship-cruelty.php>>

END INHUMANE, INTENSIVE FACTORY FARMING

Factory farming is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary. Poultry live short miserable lives in tiny cages or crowded buildings where they never see the light of day. Intelligent mother sow pigs are trapped standing in sow stalls where they cannot move or interact with their piglets. Cows are kept continually pregnant and suffer the trauma of their calves being taken away and killed at just a day old. And all this happens just to raise profits.

The Greens will put an end to the cruel practice of factory farming, and will ensure that every worker is supported in a transition to a more humane industry. We will do this by taking actions including:

- ▲ Banning cage egg production, and ending sow stalls and other cruel industrial animal farming practices
- ▲ Enforcing genuine free range standards for all animals
- ▲ Improving food labelling laws to help identify genuine free range and cruelty free products.

SHUT DOWN COMMERCIAL HORSE RACING

One horse dies every three days on Australian race tracks.³ Since 2013, 7 horses have been

³ Horse Racing Kills, Deathwatch
<<https://horseracingkills.com/issues/deathwatch/>>

killed at the Melbourne Cup alone.⁴ Horses are killed in trials, and end up in abattoirs and knackeries as 'wastage' – sentient, intelligent beings discarded because they won't turn a profit on the track. Over 75% of racehorses experience bleeding in the lungs and windpipes because of the immense pressure of racing.

It's beyond clear that the gambling-fuelled horse racing industry is built on suffering and exploitation. Yet the major parties, addicted to gambling revenues and beholden to the gaming and racing lobbies, refuse to lift a finger. The Government is even dragging its heels on funding a national horse register, after the Greens forced them to commit to one in 2019.

The Greens know that the horse racing industry cannot be fixed – it must be shut down and this is why we have a fully costed transition plan to be funded through a betting levy.

As part of the Horse Racing Transition Plan, we will:

- Establish a Horse Racing Transition Taskforce to coordinate and manage the shut down of the horse racing industry
- Introduce a Horse Betting Levy of 1% of betting turnover related to commercial horse racing to finance transition activities

The Horse Racing Transition Taskforce would design and plan all key aspects of the industry shutdown, including the national ban on horse

racing; transitioning racing facilities to open green spaces; planning for workers currently employed; assisting in rehabilitation and rehoming of horses; and implementing the betting levy. The Taskforce would be housed in the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for a period of 4 years, costing \$10.1 million over that period, with the possibility of more funding and extension.

The Horse Betting Levy of 1% of betting turnover is projected to raise \$494 million over its first two years. This money would fund activities decided by the taskforce, including retraining programs for workers, rehoming schemes for animals, and redeveloping racecourses.

END GREYHOUND RACING AND EXPORTS

The gambling-fuelled and cruel greyhound racing industry is responsible for the deaths of between 13,000 and 17,000 healthy dogs each year.⁵ Greyhounds suffer catastrophic on-track injuries and are euthanised once they no longer turn a profit.

Hundreds of greyhounds are exported to be raced and bred in overseas events, where they are subject to terrible cruelty and suffering.⁶

Although millions of Australians want to see greyhound racing and greyhound export banned, we have seen no commitment to any sort of action. The Greens have long opposed

⁴ News.com.au, How many horses have died in the Melbourne Cup? The real numbers
<<https://www.news.com.au/sport/superracing/punters-life/how-many-horses-have-died-in-the-melbourne-cup-the-real-numbers/news-story/5f7e29011a7fbf3da9e0611e902d1ee6>>

⁵ Greyhound Racing NSW
<<https://www.grnsw.com.au/news/clarification-of-wastage-figures>>

⁶ SBS, Australian greyhounds ending up in China
<<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australian-greyhounds-ending-up-in-china>>

the cruel greyhound racing industry in Australia; we must extend our advocacy to oppose the export of greyhounds for similar purposes.

As the Greens work at the state level to ban greyhound racing, at the federal level we will ban the export of greyhounds for commercial purposes, including for breeding and racing.

TACKLING THE GLOBAL SHARK FIN TRADE

Shark finning involves cutting off a shark's fins, often when it is still alive, then throwing it back into the ocean, where it is left to die. Every year up to 100 million sharks are killed, many for their fins and many of them being endangered species.

Shocking to many people, the shark fin trade in this country is alive and well. While shark finning is banned in Commonwealth-managed fisheries and there is a patchwork of state and territory laws, at least 240,000 kg of shark fin was imported to Australia and 30,000 kg exported between 2012 and 2019. This represents millions of slaughtered sharks.

The Greens will ban the import and export of shark fins, amending customs laws to do so. It's beyond time Australia stopped participating in this horrific trade.

HOW THE GREENS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YOU

The Greens know Australians stand against animal cruelty in all its forms. We have been

successfully fighting to make sure animals have a voice in parliament.

In the last parliament, it was the Greens who:

- ▲ Fought to ban the live sheep export trade, passing the Live Export bill through the Senate.⁷
- ▲ Won a commitment to a National Horse Traceability Register to ensure no racehorse ends up in a slaughterhouse.
- ▲ Played a significant role in the banning of cosmetic testing on animals, meaning manufacturers can no longer use data from animal testing to prove their safety.⁸
- ▲ Have been the sole voice in the Senate speaking up about the cruelty of commercial racing of horses and greyhounds.

FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:

greens.org.au/platform

⁷ SBS, Bill to ban live sheep exports trade passes the Senate <<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/bill-to-ban-live-sheep-exports-trade-passes-the-senate>>

⁸ Department of Health, Ban on the use of animal test data for cosmetics <<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ban-cosmetic-testing-animals>>