

DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Bureau of Animal Welfare



Biosecurity Victoria Division
Policy and Regulation

Bureau role – animal welfare & management

- Minister advising/correspondence
- Government Department advising/liaison
- **Policy & legislation development**
- Licensing role - research, rodeos
- Committees – HAC, AWAC, DAMIC, VHC, LICC, PISC AWWG, AAWS (groups), (ANZCAWG), IWG (pigs), WT&PC, Chairs AEC Committee, Writing Groups, NCCAW....
- **Consultation/advising”** with community, animal welfare organisations, interstate government, national government, activist groups.....stakeholders – letters, media, emails, phone calls
- **Monitor** International/interstate policy, OIE standards, EU, USA, Canada, internet (research, welfare organisations, gov'ts) & **AWSCentre!**

Bureau – policy development

- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994
- [Livestock Management Act?]
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
 - :prevent cruelty
 - :encourage considerate treatment of animals
 - :improve the level of community awareness about prevention of cruelty

BAW - POCTAA

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986

- : empowers inspectors (Police, DPI, RSPCA, Councils)
- : cruelty offences/powers for inspectors/court powers
- : licensing of use of animals in research and teaching
- : rodeo licensing
- : creates codes of practice (31 defence/guides, 5 regulated)
- : can create regulations for most animal practices (e.g. POCTA (Domestic Fowl) Reg's, prohibited procedures, LTS?)

Effectiveness of legislation-

- Department/government enforcement policy
- Codes not enforceable (unless regulated)/provide defence for cruelties without deadlines for alternatives
- Exemptions – Wildlife Act, CALP, Meat Industry Act, code compliance
- No reliable education or research funding mechanism/is about to change/AWSC efforts.

Policy example – pig code : stalls

- Welfarists
 - ban sow stalls now!/ethical view
 - not meat eaters/don't keep pigs
 - don't pay for changes they lobby for
- Producers
 - need stalls, care for pigs, make profit
 - pay for the changes/no \$\$reward
- Consumers
 - believe RSPCA, PETA, AA, TV
 - pig husbandry knowledge = 0
 - want cheap meat/imports ok
 - concern does not translate to buy
- Government
 - does not want to pay for cost
 - permits & enforces changes
 - permits imports/no discrimination

= Lack of policy holistic approach to achieve/protect welfare of animals

Combative/abusive/defensive relationship generally?

Future AW policy needs

1. Consumer attitudes/behaviour research
2. Producer education/training/community funded
3. Public education policy/develop AUS ethics
4. Apply domestic standards to imports
5. Community funding/grants for move to desirable alternatives
6. Research based changes/animal needs/ & Q'life
7. Welfare measurement/ research
8. Policy drivers– climate change, community protection, feed/water shortages, migration
9. **AAWS driven national policy**

The perfect regulator

