

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

26 November 2013

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013



**Government
of South Australia**

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2012-13

For further information please contact:

Dr Deb Kelly
Executive Officer
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
C/- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Telephone: 8124 4800
E-mail: DEWNRAnimalWelfare@sa.gov.au
Website: www.environment.sa.gov.au
ABN: 36 702 093 234
ISSN: 1832-9438

September 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES	6
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	6
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE	7
OBJECT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.....	7
ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE.....	7
FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	7
MEMBERSHIP	8
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL	8
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.....	9
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	9
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS.....	9
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	10
FRAUD.....	10
CONSULTANTS.....	10
OVERSEAS TRAVEL.....	10
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	10
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS.....	10
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993	10
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	10
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	11
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	11



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and Part 2 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2013.

Yours sincerely

Ian Carmichael 12/8/13

Dr Ian Carmichael
CHAIR
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on issues relating to the Act and contemporary animal welfare issues. The Committee set the following strategic priorities for 2012-13.

- Responding to Ministerial requests for advice in a timely manner;
- Providing advice to the Minister and DEWNR on draft policies and proposed legislation
- Providing responses to national Standards and Guidelines for animal welfare;
- Providing comments on Codes of Practice and developing Codes of Practice;
- Developing position statements;
- Investigating animal welfare matters which come to the attention of the committee; and
- Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies.

Relationship of strategic plans / priorities to South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) targets

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) contributes to the achievement of the following South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) Targets:

SASP Target	Committee role
39 Competitive business climate: maintain Adelaide's rating as the least costly place to set up and do business in Australia and continue to improve our position internationally.	By ensuring industry participation in animal welfare standards and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged in the broader market.
32 Performance in the public sector - customer and client satisfaction with government services: increase in the satisfaction of South Australians with government services by 10% by 2014, maintaining or exceeding that level of satisfaction thereafter.	By establishing and maintaining linkages and networks with industry and Non-Government Organisations to ensure mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions.
95. Industry collaboration, research and development commercialisation: Total gross cumulative value of industry and other funding for research earned by universities and state-based publicly funded research institutions to reach \$650 million by 2020.	By consideration of the standards and requirements for animal based research such that red-tape is minimised but animal welfare is ensured.

HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Responding to Ministerial requests for advice in a timely manner

During the reporting period, the Minister sought advice on whether or not there is a need to specifically address the welfare of guard dogs. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee considered this matter and determined that, although the legislative framework is sound, it would be useful to have one document containing both the legal responsibilities of security dog owners and guidelines to ensure public safety as well as the welfare of the dogs and made recommendations to the Minister to this effect.

Providing advice to the Minister and DEWNR on draft policies and proposed legislation

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee provided DEWNR with advice in the development of the Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Wombats.

Providing responses to national Standards and Guidelines for animal welfare

At its March 2013 meeting, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee considered and commented on the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Livestock at Saleyards and associated discussion paper. The comments were conveyed to the national writing group for consideration.

Providing comments on Codes of Practice and developing Codes of Practice

With the support of the Minister, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee developed and subsequently endorsed a Code of Practice for the Keeping of Security Dogs in South Australia. This incorporates the mandatory requirements of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and many of the guidelines developed by the New South Wales Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. It will be published on the website as an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Code of Practice.

Developing position statements

The Committee has developed a series of Position Statements regarding specific animal welfare issues. The statements are reviewed on a regular basis to determine relevancy and are amended as appropriate. New statements are added as they are considered. In 2012-13, the Committee reviewed its Position Statements to align with the six categories of animals used within the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. It specifically reviewed the position statements related to hunting.

Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies

Subject specialists provided the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee with presentations on:

- beak trimming;
- duck hunting and hunting practices in general;
- humane destruction of wombats; and
- dingo management.

Updates on current animal welfare issues and initiatives at a state, national and international level were provided to members at each meeting and each organisation's nominee reported on current issues within their organisation.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Committee is established under section 6 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

OBJECT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

The object of the Act is to provide for the promotion of animal welfare; and for other purposes.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is the Minister's advisory group on animal welfare legislation and policy.

The Committee is the peak advisory committee to the Minister and DEWNR on all aspects of animal welfare, including:

- Responding to Ministerial requests for advice in a timely manner;
- Providing advice to the Minister and DEWNR on draft policies and proposed legislation;
- Providing responses to national Standards and Guidelines for animal welfare;
- Providing comments on Codes of Practice and developing Codes of Practice;
- Developing position statements;
- Investigating animal welfare matters which come to the attention of the committee; and
- Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Section 12 of The Act describes the functions of the Committee.

The functions of the Committee are:

- (a) to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this Act; and
- (b) to consider, and report to the Minister on, legislative proposals affecting animal welfare; and
- (c) to examine proposed codes of practice relating to animals and report to the Minister on their likely effect upon animal welfare; and
- (ca) to develop, or assist in developing, codes of practice for animal welfare and to make recommendations to the Minister as to their adoption under the regulations; and
- (d) to investigate and report to the Minister on any matters referred by the Minister to the Committee for advice.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee is made up of eight members.

As at 30 June 2013 Committee membership was as follows:

Presiding Member	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act
Dr Ian Carmichael	6(2)(a) One is to be nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>
Member	
Mr Andrew Olgilvie	6(2)(b) Two will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation Incorporated
Mr Warren Starick	6(2)(b) Two will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation Incorporated
Ms Shatha Hamade	6(2)(c) One will be nominated by the Society
Mr Grant Robb	6(2)(d) Two will be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations
Dr Sue Bigwood	6(2)(d) Two will be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations
Dr Susan Hazel	6(2)(e) One will be nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr Denise Noonan	6(2)(f) One will be engaged in research activities involving animals nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982</i>

During the reporting period the former RSPCA nominated member resigned. The Committee thanks Ms Shatha Hamade for her contribution.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of five general Committee meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

No special Committee meetings were held during the 2012-13 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Dr Ian Carmichael	Five	
Mr Andrew Olgilvie	One	Absent 24 October 2012, 7 December 2012, 14 March 2013, 26 April 2013
Mr Warren Starick	Five	
Ms Shatha Hamade	Two	Apology 24 October 2012,
Mr Grant Robb	Four	Apology 7 December 2012
Dr Sue Bigwood	Three	Apology for 24 August 2012, 14 March 2013
Dr Susan Hazel	Four	Apology 7 December 2012
Dr Denise Noonan	Five	

Ms Hamade resigned from the committee on 14 December 2012.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee by providing an Executive Officer and Secretary for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet:

- Chair: \$Nil. The Presiding Member in the reporting period was employed under the *Public Sector Act 2009* and is not eligible for remuneration.
- Member: \$2,400 per annum.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of Animal Welfare Advisory Committee was made up of four males and four females.

The following matters are also contained in the DEWNR annual report 2012-2013:

- Superannuation contribution by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Committee by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2012-13.

CONSULTANTS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has travelled overseas on Committee business during this reporting period.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2012-13 that required the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au> to view the FOI statement.

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2012-13 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2012-13.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Committee acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we meet and the land that it considers and protects. The Committee acknowledges the Aboriginal people's deep feelings of attachment and relationship to country. In fulfilling its functions, the Committee is aware of the cultural heritage of the traditional owners and strives to achieve mutually satisfying outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee appreciates the support and encouragement it received over the past year from the Ministers for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Hon Paul Caica MP (21 October 2011 – 21 January 2013) and the Hon Ian Hunter MLC (from 21 January 2013).

The Committee records its appreciation for the assistance provided by DEWNR staff, including the Executive Officer, Dr Deb Kelly and Secretaries Ms Jodi Cameron and Ms Deb Rav.

The Committee values the time of invited guests to provide information and promote informed discussions.

Person/entity Dr Phil Glatz (PIRSA/SARDI)	Presentation on beak trimming in poultry
Peter Bird and John Virtue (Biosecurity SA)	Presentation and discussion on developing a state dingo management strategy for South Australia
Ian O'Loan, (National Saleyards Quality Assurance)	Discussion on welfare of livestock at saleyards
Tim Fraser (DEWNR, Feral Animal Management Program)	Discussion on hunting
Dr Mark Peters (PIRSA)	PIRSA observer
Ms Sheree Sellick (RSPCA SA)	RSPCA observer after resignation of Ms Hamade