

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE

18 Nov 2014

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014



**Government
of South Australia**

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2013-14

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES	5
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	5
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE	6
OBJECT OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.....	6
ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE.....	6
FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.....	7
MEMBERSHIP	7
MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL	8
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.....	8
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	8
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS.....	8
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	9
FRAUD	9
CONSULTANTS.....	9
OVERSEAS TRAVEL	9
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	9
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	10
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS.....	10
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993	10
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	10
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	10
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 2014.

Yours sincerely

Ian Carmichael 11/8/2014

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 2013-14.

- 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 and updating position statements;
- Investigating animal welfare matters which come to the attention of the committee;
- Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies; and
- Assessment of the effectiveness of the committee.

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

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee provided DEWNR and the Minister with responses to the eleven recommendations the Senate Select Committee's Final Report on Dogs and Cats as Companion Animals.

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

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee provided DEWNR with advice on reducing duplication in animal ethics committee approvals and a preliminary paper on a proposal to introduce exemptions into the Animal Welfare regulations.

Providing responses to national Standards and Guidelines for animal welfare

There were no standards and guidelines reviewed within the reporting period.

Providing comments on Codes of Practice and developing Codes of Practice

There were no codes of practice reviewed or developed during the reporting period.

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 2013-14, the Committee further reviewed its Position Statements to add definition, background and context. It specifically reviewed the position statements related to Killing of Native and Feral Wildlife including hunting.

Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies

Subject specialists provided the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee with presentations on Greyhound Racing.

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.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the committee

The committee undertook a self-assessment using the criteria provided by the DEWNR Boards & Committees Governance Officer, Governance and Legal Unit.

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 consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with section 6 of the Act.

As at 30 June 2014 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 Ogilvie	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
Dr Dianne Evans	6(2)(c) One will be nominated by the Society (RSPCA SA)
Vacant	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, one of the two nominees ‘representing the interests of animal welfare organisations’ resigned. The Committee wish to thank Mr Grant Robb for his contribution.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Five general Committee meetings were held during the 2013-14 financial year.

No special Committee meetings were held during the 2013-14 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Dr Ian Carmichael	Five	
Mr Andrew Ogilvie	zero	Apology for 5 July 2013, 25 October 2013, 6 December 2013, 9 April 2014, 20 June 2014.
Mr Warren Starick	Five	
Dr Dianne Evans	Five	
Mr Grant Robb	Two	Apology for 6 December 2013.
Dr Sue Bigwood	Two	Apology for 5 July 2013, 9 April 2014, 20 June 2014.
Dr Susan Hazel	Four	Apology for 6 December 2013
Dr Denise Noonan	Five	

Mr Grant Robb resigned from the committee on 21 January 2014.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR 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 2013-14.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Governor:

- 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 2013-14.

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 contained in the DEWNR annual report 2013-14:

- 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
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- 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 2013-14.

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.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2013-14 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 2013-14 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Committee did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2013-14 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide plains region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee would like to thank the Minister and staff of DEWNR for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.

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

Person/entity

Mr Matt Corby, Mr Paul Marks
and Mrs Belinda Pearce from
Greyhound Racing SA

Discussion on Greyhound racing and the
Greyhound adoption program

Dr Mark Peters (PIRSA)

PIRSA observer

Mr Richard Mussell (AWL SA)

AWL observer after the resignation of Mr
Robb