

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE**

18 Oct 2016

# **ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee  
Annual Report 2015-16

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## 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 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J Tilbrook'.

Prof Alan Tilbrook  
**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 *Animal Welfare Act 1985* (the Act) and contemporary animal welfare issues. The Committee set the following strategic priorities for 2015-16.

- 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; 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
<b>39. Competitive business climate:</b> 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.
<b>32. Performance in the public sector - customer and client satisfaction with government services:</b> 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.
<b>95. Industry collaboration, research and development commercialisation:</b> Increase to \$650m total gross cumulative value of industry and other funding for research earned by universities and state-based publicly funded research institutions 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

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, the term of office of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee members expired. Members were reappointed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

In accordance with the decisions taken during the Review of Boards and Committees, and subsequent amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*, the new membership was appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and subsequently held its first meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016. Until the review of Boards and Committees, AWAC had been appointed by the Governor.

During the year, the Committee provided comment on the Draft South Australian Code for Breeding Dogs and Cats and the Draft South Australian Code for Retail Trade in Companion Animals (3rd Edition).

The Committee also considered, and provided extensive comment on the draft National Standards and Guidelines for the welfare of poultry. An expert poultry veterinarian was invited to give advice on poultry welfare and industry practices whilst AWAC considered the draft. The committee appreciated being able to seek her advice and input.

A subject specialist was also invited to attend a meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to provide a presentation on feral cat biology, impacts, policy and control.

The committee continued the process of reviewing its position statements, and prioritised areas of future consideration.

Members were provided with the opportunity to tour the University of Adelaide Small Animal Veterinary Clinic and the Equine Centre at Roseworthy Campus.

## **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.
- Providing advice on appeals of the decisions of animal ethics committees in accordance with section 26 of the Act.

### **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.

Section 26(3) of the Act describes the role of AWAC in the Minister's consideration of an appeal against the decision of an animal ethics committee

- (3) The Minister may not determine an appeal under this section unless the Committee has investigated, and furnished the Minister with a report upon, the appeal.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Committee consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with Section 6 of the Act.

The interim one year term of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee expired on 31 December 2015 and was reappointed on 3 February 2016 until 2 February 2019. The Committee membership was as follows:

Until 31 December 2015	Since 3 February 2016	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act
Prof Alan Tilbrook (Chair)	Prof Alan Tilbrook (Chair)	6(2)(a) One is to be nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>
Mr David Basham	Mr David Basham	6(2)(b) Two will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation Incorporated
Ms Kerryn Moses	Ms Kerryn Moses	6(2)(b) Two will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers' Federation Incorporated
Dr Dianne Evans	Ms Andrea Lewis	6(2)(c) One will be nominated by the Society (RSPCA SA)
Mr Richard Mussell	Mr Richard Mussell	6(2)(d) Two will be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations
Mr Rocky Warren	Mr Rocky Warren	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	Dr Susan Hazel	6(2)(e) One will be nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr Denise Noonan	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>



## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

Five general Committee meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

No special Committee meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting Dates					Comments
	19.08.15	18.11.15	03.02.16	06.04.16	01.06.16	
Prof Alan Tilbrook	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Mr David Basham	Apology	Attended	Apology	Attended	Apology	
Ms Kerryn Moses	Apology	Attended	Apology	Attended	Attended	
Dr Dianne Evans	Attended	Attended	NA	NA	NA	Resigned 7 December 2015
Ms Andrea Lewis	NA	NA	Attended	Attended	Attended	Appointed 3 February 2016
Mr Richard Mussell	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Dr Susan Hazel	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Dr Denise Noonan	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended	
Mr Rocky Warren	Attended	Apology	Attended	Apology	Apology	

## 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 2015-16.

## MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

- Chair: \$221 per four hour session. The Presiding Member in the reporting period was employed under the *Public Sector Act 2009* and is not eligible for remuneration.
- Member: \$177 per four hour session. Employees under the *Public Sector Act 2009* are not eligible for remuneration.

## 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 2015-16.

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 2015-16:**

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

## **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 2015-16.

## **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 2015-16 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 2015-16 financial year.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The Committee did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 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 Kurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee also acknowledges the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide plains region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna 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	
Dr Mark Peters (PIRSA)	PIRSA observer
Ms Sandy Wyatt, (SARDI)	SARDI observer and assistant
Mr Peter Bird, Biosecurity SA	Presentation on feral cats
Dr Margaret Sexton, PIRSA	Provided information on poultry welfare and industry
Staff at the University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus	For a tour of the University of Adelaide Small Animal Veterinary Clinic and the Equine Centre