

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
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**Government  
of South Australia**

# Animal Welfare Advisory Committee **2016-17 Annual Report**

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

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To:

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

This annual report is presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and meets the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee by:

**Professor Mehdi Doroudi**

**Presiding Member**

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Signature

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Date

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## **Section A: Reporting required under the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987***

### **Agency purpose or role**

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) is established under section 6 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* (the Act). Through its broad membership, the Committee demonstrates a strong commitment by government to the significance of animal welfare, providing the public with assurance that animal welfare matters are held in high regard and are well considered.

The Committee provides balanced expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on issues relating to the Act and contemporary animal welfare issues.

### **Objectives**

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee set the following objectives for 2016-17:

- Responding to ministerial requests for advice in a timely manner.
- Providing advice to the Minister and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (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.
- Investigating appeals against decisions of animal ethics committees.
- Sharing of information between nominating organisations and agencies.

### **Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives**

<b>Key strategy</b>	<b>SA Government objective</b>
Ensuring industry participation in animal welfare standards and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged in the broader market.	South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) Target 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.

<b>Key strategy</b>	<b>SA Government objective</b>
Establishing and maintaining linkages and networks with industry and non-government organisations to ensure mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions.	SASP Target 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.
Consideration of the standards and requirements for animal based research such that red-tape is minimised but animal welfare is ensured.	SASP Target 95: Industry collaboration, research and development commercialisation: 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.

### **Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency**

Section 12 of the Act describes the functions of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

<b>Program name</b>	<b>Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this Act.	Reviewed the committees' positions on topics under the headings of animals in research and teaching, aquatic animals, companion animals and production animals.	Provide the Minister with a broad based community view on a variety of contentious animal welfare issues.
Consider and report to the Minister on legislative proposals affecting animal welfare.	Considered potential changes in legislation for annual reports for animal ethics committees and electronic collars use in research.  Noted the settled <i>South Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Breeding and Trading of Companion Animals</i> and public website.	There is public value in revising legislative proposals affecting specific user groups. There is broader assurance that legislation is a reflection of the general community expectations.
Examine proposed codes of practice relating to animals and report to the Minister on their likely effect upon animal welfare.	Committee site visit to Days' eggs facility to provide an update on recommendations regarding the draft Australian Poultry Welfare Standards and Guidelines.  Provided comment on the revised Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Wombats by Shooting.	There is public value in making educated recommendations by attending different types of poultry facilities in operation. Public value is achieved by considering up to date evidence in determining humane destruction of wombats when all other management options have failed.

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
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.	Not assessed in this reporting period.	Not assessed in this reporting period.
Investigate and report to the Minister on any matters referred by the Minister to the Committee for advice.	Advice was provided to the Minister on legislative proposals suggested by the public and referred to the committee for advice.	Public value is embedded in the knowledge that the Minister actively seeks the advice of a diverse expert membership informed by experts in the relevant fields.

### Legislation administered by the agency

The Committee is responsible for complying with the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*, which are administered by DEWNR.

### Organisation of the agency

In accordance with section 6 of the Act, the Committee consists of eight members appointed by the Minister.

The membership of the Committee has been appointed for a three-year period, expiring on 2 February 2019. The Committee membership and remuneration is reported in the South Australian Government Board and Committee Information Annual Report.

### Other agencies related to this agency (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

### Employment opportunity programs

The Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

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

### Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency
The Committee undertake a performance review, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities.	Not assessed in this reporting period.
Government employees supporting the Committee's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers.	Two sessions are held on an annual basis. This is considered to be effective.

### Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs of the agency and their effectiveness

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs	Effectiveness
This Committee abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEWNR to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee in this reporting period.	0

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/animal-welfare-advisory-committee-annual-report-data>

### Whistle-blowers' disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistle-blowers' Protection Act 1993* 0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/animal-welfare-advisory-committee-annual-report-data>

## Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/animal-welfare-advisory-committee-annual-report-data>

For further information, the [Office for the Public Sector](#) has a [data dashboard](#) for further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

## Consultants

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken and the total cost of the work undertaken.

Consultants	Purpose	Value
All consultancies below \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Consultancies above \$10 000 each	-	\$0
<b>Total all consultancies</b>		<b>\$0</b>

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/animal-welfare-advisory-committee-annual-report-data>

See also <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/tenders/index.do> for a list of all external consultancies, including nature of work and value. See also the Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance <http://treasury.sa.gov.au/> for total value of consultancy contracts across the SA Public Sector.

## Financial performance of the agency

The Committee is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

The costs associated with the administration of the Committee are met from within existing DEWNR resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with a recommendation by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in line with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

## Other financial information

Nil to report.



**Other information requested by the Minister(s) or other significant issues affecting the agency or reporting pertaining to independent functions**

Nil to report.

**Section B: Reporting of public complaints as requested by the Ombudsman**

**Summary of complaints by subject**

<b>Public complaints received by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee</b>	
<b>Category of complaints by subject</b>	<b>Number of instances</b>
All complaints	No specific complaints have been received by the Committee.

Data for the past five years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/animal-welfare-advisory-committee-annual-report-data>

**Complaint outcomes**

<b>Nature of complaint or suggestion</b>	<b>Services improved or changes as a result of complaints or consumer suggestions</b>
All complaints	No complaints have been received or acted upon.

## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2016-17**

Financial services are provided to the Committee by DEWNR. Finances are audited annually as part of DEWNR's financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the [DEWNR](#) website.