

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE

28 Nov 2019



**Government
of South Australia**

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2018-19 Annual Report

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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To:

The Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be 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 the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and 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

Date

26 SEPT 2019

Signature



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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

The focus of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) is defined by section 12 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

12—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

In accordance with section 6 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*, AWAC consists of eight members appointed by the Minister.

The membership of AWAC has been appointed for a three-year period, expiring on 3 February 2022. In 2018, one member resigned from AWAC as she was moving interstate and, at the end of the term of office one member asked not to be renominated for personal reasons. Her replacement was appointed at the same time as the other members. At 30 June 2019, there were no vacancies on AWAC.

The Committee membership and remuneration is reported in the South Australian Government Board and Committee Information Annual Report.

Our Executive team

In accordance with section 11 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* Dr Deborah Kelly, Manager Animal Welfare, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is Executive Officer to AWAC.

Legislation administered by the agency

Animal Welfare Act 1985.

Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Department for Environment and Water

The agency’s performance

Performance at a glance

Due to the resignation of one member and delays in the reappointment of AWAC, only three meetings were held this financial year. However, over the course of those meetings, AWAC completed updating all its position statements and considered the following issues:

- Use of electronic collars with particular emphasis on livestock.
- Whether cage sizes the *South Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Breeding and Trade of Companion Animals* should be mandatory or advisory.
- The *Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Flocking Birds by Trapping and Carbon Dioxide Narcosis in South Australia* and the *Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in South Australia* with consideration for implications to the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* (and associated regulations).
- The issuing of rodeo permits.
- The requirement for a lethal toxin to be applied to dog traps if the traps are checked daily.

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

| Key objective | Agency’s contribution |
|-----------------|---|
| More jobs | Maintaining linkages and networks with industry and non-government organisations, ensuring mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions. Participation in the development of national animal welfare standards, and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged |
| Lower costs | Consideration of the prohibition of electronic collars for livestock management |
| Better Services | Consideration of deregulation initiatives |

Agency specific objectives and performance

As a statutory committee, the objectives of AWAC are defined by section 12 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*. The performance of AWAC is considered at the commencement of each term of office. The Governance Statement is currently under review and the performance of the committee will be considered in light of the amended statement and its statutory role.

| Agency objectives | Indicators | Performance |
|---|---|--|
| Advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this Act. | Completed the review of AWAC position statements on topics under the headings of pets, animals in scientific research and teaching, native and introduced wildlife, animals in work, recreation and sport, production animals and aquatic 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 | Electronic collars, lethal toxins on traps and rodeo permits have been discussed by AWAC and advice has been, or will be, provided to the Minister to be considered before any legislative changes are initiated. | 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. | Advice is being developed on the <i>Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Flocking Birds by Trapping and Carbon Dioxide Narcosis in South Australia</i> and the <i>Code of Practice for the Humane Destruction of Birds by Shooting in South Australia</i> with consideration for implications to the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1985</i> (and associated regulations). | The public seeks assurance that, if birds must be destroyed, it is done in a humane manner. The public expects Government to consider up to date evidence in policy development relating to humane animal management. |

Corporate performance summary

The AWAC has achieved its statutory roles.

Employment opportunity programs

The Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2018-19.

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

Agency performance management and development systems

| Performance management and development system | Performance |
|---|---|
| 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. |

Work health, safety and return to work programs

| Program name | Performance |
|--|---|
| This Committee abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEW to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements | Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEW Annual Report 2018-19. |

| Workplace injury claims | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|---------|---------|------------------|
| Total new workplace injury claims | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Seriously injured workers* | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

**number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)*

| Work health and safety regulations | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|--|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

| Return to work costs** | 2018-19 | 2017-18 | % Change (+ / -) |
|---|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Income support payments – gross (\$) | 0 | 0 | 0% |

**before third party recovery

Data for the previous years 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 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| The Chair of AWAC is the Deputy Chief Executive of PIRSA. However, his executive classification relates to his substantive position, not to his Chairmanship of AWAC. Professor Doroudi is not eligible for, nor is paid, any allowance to Chair the committee. | 0 |

Data for the previous years is available at:

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

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

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 DEW Annual Report 2018-19.

The costs associated with the administration of the Committee are met from within existing DEW 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.

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies

| Consultancies | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|
| Nil | N/A | \$0 |

Data for the previous years is available at:

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

The details of all South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website [here](#).

The website also provides details of across government contracts [here](#). See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors

| Contractors | Purpose | \$ Actual payment |
|-------------|---------|-------------------|
| Nil | N/A | \$0 |

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

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Other financial information

Nil to report.

Other information

Nil to report.

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Nil to report.

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 |

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEW Annual Report 2018-19.

Data for previous years 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 *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*:

Nil

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

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

It is declared that Committee has no reporting requirements under any other Act or Regulation.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Not applicable

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

| Complaint categories | Number of Complaints 2018-19 |
|----------------------|---|
| All complaints | No specific complaints have been received by the Committee. |

| Additional Metrics | Total |
|--|--|
| Number of positive feedback comments | 0 |
| Number of negative feedback comments | 0 |
| Total number of feedback comments | 0 |
| % complaints resolved within policy timeframes | No complaints have been received or acted upon |

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

Service improvements for period

Service improvements that responded to customer complaints or feedback

Not applicable

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2018-19

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

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