

I would like to congratulate Senator Andrew Bartlett for introducing the much needed 'National Animal Welfare Bill 2005'.

The Bill has the potential to save many animals from a life of cruelty, fostering a more humane Australia.

Currently, the law fails to protect animals from abuse and cruelty. This Bill is urgently needed to protect the welfare of animals in the 'care' of people, whether that is in the wild, as pets or as animal husbandry.

I would have like to see more detail and regulation concerning the live-export of animals. The live-sheep trade is a particularly cruel practice. I would ask you to consider how you yourself may endure a three-week journey to the Middle-East in such conditions. There can be no financial return that could condone such brutal treatment of animals.

Reasons for opposing such a bill seem difficult to fathom. This is not a question of zero-sum gain: humans verses animals. Protecting animals from cruelty would have no significant detrimental impact on employment or on the economy more broadly. If there are financial concerns you have for dismissing this bill, I urge you to explain those reasons to the public, or at the very least, look your children in the eye when tell them of your decision.

The Bill is entirely reasonable and practicable. The laws are reasonable and just. The mechanisms of policing and prosecution are entirely sound and workable.

I urge the Committee to support the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005 in full, or to strengthen it, but not to water it down. It would be humiliating for Australia to oppose such sane standards in the care for animals.

Yours sincerely,

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