

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY

**Regional Affairs and Transport
committee**

National Animal Welfare Bill

ANIMAL WELFARE BILL, 2003

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL

**“A Bill for an Act to Promote Humane, Responsible
and Accountable care, Protection and use of
ALL Animals.”**

FROM PALE

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050925/wl_asia_afp/australiawildlife;_ylt=ArhuqbA6J6tXgYJpfZKq3Tys0NU

Millions of animals face death sentence in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) - Millions of animals -- from camels to cane toads, horses and foxes -- face extermination in Australia under recommendations by a parliamentary committee

A population explosion of species introduced to this isolated continent since European settlement began more than 200 years ago is a growing threat to agriculture and native wildlife, the committee of inquiry has found.

"The exotic species need to be eradicated," committee chairman Alby Schultz told AFP. "That's the first point I make."

Shooting and poisoning would be among methods recommended by the committee, which has been investigating the problem for more than a year and will present its report to parliament by early November, he said.

The Department of the Environment lists animals of "significant concern" as including feral camels (500,000), horses (300,000), donkeys (five million), pigs (up to 23 million), cane toads, European wild rabbits, European red foxes, cats and goats.

Some of the animals such as camels, horses and donkeys were introduced as beasts of burden. Pigs and goats were brought in as food sources by early settlers and foxes for recreational hunting. Others, such as cane toads, were, ironically, imported to eradicate agricultural pests.

With few natural predators and vast sparsely-populated areas in which to roam, the populations have soared, putting pressure on native species by preying on them, competing for food and shelter, destroying habitat and spreading diseases.

Shultz said the committee would recommend the establishment of a national body to oversee a countrywide strategy to eliminate the exotic imports and replace previously uncoordinated attempts at regional control.

Describing the need for action as "very urgent", Shultz dismissed a suggestion that it would be impossible to shoot Australia's half-million feral camels, for example, let alone the millions of other animals.

"You can, because the donkey is a classic example of that. In Western Australia they had a wild donkey population of somewhere between 400,000 and 500,000 and they've basically eradicated them," he said.

This had been done through shooting from helicopters after using female "Judas donkeys" wearing radio collars to lead marksmen to the feral herds, and the same could be done with camels and goats, he said.

The conservation group WWF Australia agrees there is a need to cull feral animals, programme leader for species Nicola Markus told AFP, while stressing that it should be done as humanely as possible.

"WWF Australia certainly recognises that invasive species, and that includes feral animals like cats and foxes and camels and cane toads and rabbits, are without a doubt one of the most serious threats to native biodiversity that there is.

"Along with land-clearing and climate change they'd be right up there," she said.

"They are feral animals and they don't belong in this country and they've had an incredible impact on the environment in the time they've been here."

Shultz acknowledged, however, that some animal rights activists would be outraged by his committee's recommendations.

"The animal liberationists as an example gave evidence to the committee and one of the groups said the introduced exotic species should be allowed to evolve into our natural ecosystem even at the expense of endangered native species.

"Now that's outrageous and my committee certainly won't be advocating that," Shultz said.

"What we'll be advocating is the total eradication where possible of introduced exotic species in the interest of protecting our native flora and fauna."

Shultz said the cost of just a specific few of the pest animal species to agriculture was estimated to be around 720 million dollars (547 million US) a year, but the figure would be much higher if they were all taken into account.

The WWF puts the overall cost of foreign invasive animal and plant species -- also a major problem -- at 4.7 billion dollars a year.

PROPOSAL FROM PALE

Regarding Shultz's proposal to the AFP to shoot or poison thousands and indeed millions of animals from camels, horses, donkeys and other beats nationally. The Department of environment and the AFP's Mr Shultz an alternative method other than the radical plan to shot millions of Australian Animals.

This is a primitive costly ridiculous idea which brings to mind Hitler's plan for the Jews. It is a fact that it is just as easy to shoot from a plane darts containing sterilization control as it is bullets and far more practical as this could either be put up for tender or be done by bounty or hunters in a controlled supervised (by vets) with the funds going back to the government and any farmers who may participate.

The country is running on enormous debt as we have shipped most of our industry off shore & to pay the interest we have to have GST & Parity prices & excise taxes on fuel accounting for over 80% of the price. We are even selling off our national parks to the CFR's World Heritage under debt for equity.

So under these conditions do we believe that this Government is concerned greatly with Animal Welfare issues, clearly not? However PALE has a proposal to submit to this animal welfare inquiry to assist the farmers, the Government, the Indigenous people as attached.

Working in conjunction with several Church based organisations Rotary and others we are able to offer alternative solutions to this radical primitive plan. The eyes of the world are upon us regarding animal welfare already and to follow such an extreme plan would really effect our tourism as Animal Welfare groups and citizens would no doubt alert the world media and on top of live exports and the criticism to our country we feel it would not be in the best course of action for the AFP to take.

Our submission is to encourage programs in our regional areas and to assist farmers to become more involved with tourism. We propose such worthy projects would not only assist Animal Welfare but the indigenous people of this country and indeed and the Australian Farmer. If these programs are successful in other counties there is no reason they can not be put into practise here. This would benefit Animal Welfare and regional areas. These programs have already been successful and were set up by Australians in such places as East Timor, Malaysia, Indonesia to name a few and there is no reason it cannot be successful in Australia.

There are many methods of sterilization of animals. PALE's proposal in conjunction with rotary, church based organisations will achieve some wonderful results both in Animal Welfare. We submit this as an alternative to the mass slaughter of millions of animals. It is clear furthermore that this would be a process that would need to be repeated in this country time and time again as these animals rebreed. It is therefore not considered to be practical in taking the necessary steps to eradicate the problem and we must now address the problem responsibly for once and for all by the use of a controlled sterilization program. Farmers to receive payments in return for there unique knowledge of the problems in there individual areas and there time allotted to this program. If we all work together as one this is a permanent answer to an on going problem and quite achievable. PALE is happy to co ordinate (again) at no cost to the government for setting up of these programs. We strongly urge the committee to look at this proposal and to hold meetings with PALE and other interested parties to co ordinate this project.

<http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/overseasprojects/indonesia.htm>



Father Chris Riley's
Youth Off The Streets®



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Indonesia

• What we are doing

Youth Off The Streets, in partnership with Muhammadiyah, have established a Children's Care Centre (orphanage), to care for children under 18 years old that are separated or unattached as a result of the December 2004 tsunami. An updated, revised Memorandum of Understanding, signed with Muhammadiyah, states that Youth Off The Streets agrees to fund the land purchase and maintain the Centre, fund the ongoing operations of the Centre, support local Muhammadiyah initiatives regarding family care in the local community and support Muhammadiyah in its aim of establishing a "Muhammadiyah Child Protection Agency". The MoU exists for a period of 5 years. Muhammadiyah will manage the Centre, and ensure the children's social, emotional, educational, cultural and religious needs are met.

• Our Partners

Muhammadiyah is the second largest Islamic group in Indonesia, and has 35 million members. It is a socio-cultural non-profit organisation and exists to contribute to the betterment of the Indonesian people, with respect for diversity and humanity as its foundation. Muhammadiyah raises funds through Indonesian Government grants, membership fees and operating profits from its commercial activities which are then spent on operating over 12,000 schools, 47 hospitals and health centres and 70 maternity hospitals. Its social work department operates around 300 orphanages and transit houses, where homeless and orphaned children can stay temporarily. The organisation provides training in entrepreneurship and business management, and has developed economic institutions such as banks and insurance companies. Youth Off The Streets is proud to be associated with this esteemed organisation. The updated Memorandum of Understanding with Muhammadiyah, which was re written then re signed on the 4th July this year, reflects the commitment of Youth Off The Streets towards working to provide the best possible care for the children at the Centre, and children in the wider Indonesian community.



• Details about our projects

Our primary project has involved the establishment of the Muhammadiyah/Youth Off The Streets Children's Care Centre in Jakarta. This project involved free use of land and dilapidated buildings on a disused Telkom site and much renovation took place before the Centre was opened and welcomed to the Centre.

The children are housed in tents, mostly two per tent but some in four person tents (the teenage girls like to be housed in

segregated areas for boys and girls. There is an open sided Mosque, which was built by locals and funded by Youth Off The Streets. This building is also used for meals and activities and has drop down sides for shelter from the rain. Other buildings include a kitchen and a small shop. The kitchen produce beautiful meals in very basic surroundings. The main building houses the office, medical room and storage, although the front of this building has now been cleared of donated goods and is used as a quiet homework area for the children.

Each month YOTS sends a small team of volunteers to assist with the care of the children. They stay in tents and are generally organising after school activities, childcare assistance, and helping teach English, although our "handymen" volunteers are also involved in at getting water tank pumps working, repairing tents, digging trenches and other practical and essential maintenance. In previous months, we would ensure a Doctor or Nurse was sent with each team, but the children are now visited regularly by Doctors. Once the hospital is re established for visits 24 hours per day.

The Centre now houses approximately 45 children, but the numbers may fluctuate slightly, as unaccompanied children are either reunited with their families or Muhammadiyah identifies other children that would benefit from the service provided by Youth Off The Streets/Muhammadiyah Children's Care Centre. We are proud of the fact that our Centre is regarded as the "best" in the region. Youth Off The Streets will fully fund the operations of the Children's Care Centre for the next five years minimum, including the salary of an Indonesian born permanent Australian resident was appointed, in May 2005, as Manager of the Centre for one year. A liason officer works alongside the Manager, to ensure the children's religious, cultural and dietary needs are being met. Staff employed include Team Leaders for a small group of children (some leaders are fully trained psychologists), cooks, a cleaner, drivers, a translator and security guards. All staff are local Acehese.

Our agreement to fund the Centre's operations, right down to the children's pocket money, comes from a wish to assist the children to re establish economically, now the immediate emergency tsunami phase is over. By providing funding, and working with Muhammadiyah, we can help local businesses by purchasing local produce, clothing and shoes, furniture, office equipment, and even University Fees. We believe this has excellent long term benefits within the local community and shows our Centre as a responsible community citizen. The Indonesian Government has already put restrictions on humanitarian aid shipments (no second hand goods whatsoever) to help stimulate the local economy again, and Youth Off The Streets has stopped shipments of donated goods. We would prefer to assist the locals by spending (Australian donated) funds in their shops and businesses for any items the children may require. The Manager of the Centre ensures all funds spent are properly recorded to meet Australian and Indonesian guidelines, and detailed expenses summaries are sent to Australia monthly.

The Aceh Outreach programme is being scaled back. This involved delivery of donated goods and food to some of the more outlying villages, who may not have received sufficient aid from the international relief effort. Medical equipment has been sent to hospitals, to assist them with their rebuilding, and again, it is the generosity of the Australian public and corporate donors that allow us to complete these initiatives. The goodwill that comes from our visits to these destroyed villages, as well as the practical help, is amazing. Donated goods still available include toys, toiletries and clothes, and these will now be held for the use of the children at the Centre, and in anticipation of the increased numbers of children that will be cared for once the building project is complete. Goods will also be distributed to the local community in Sibreh, the village where the new Centre will be built, as a welcoming gesture.



- **Photos**

Click on the thumbnail to enlarge picture



- **Future plans**

Two hectares of land has been purchased, at a total cost of AUD\$122,000-, and building is soon to commence. At the new Centre, children will live in small houses, to assist in creating a family atmosphere. Eight children (two per bedroom) will live in each house, with one Mother/family, depending on age. Once the building is complete, the Centre will house up to 80 separated and unaccompanied children. The land is very close to the village of Sibreh, where many of the children attend school. It is easy to do the daily food shopping at the local markets, and also ensures the new Centre is accessible to the wider community.

Plans at the new Centre also include building of a Mosque, health clinic, auditorium, skills based school, workshop and training centre. The cost of (most) of these buildings is \$300,000.00.

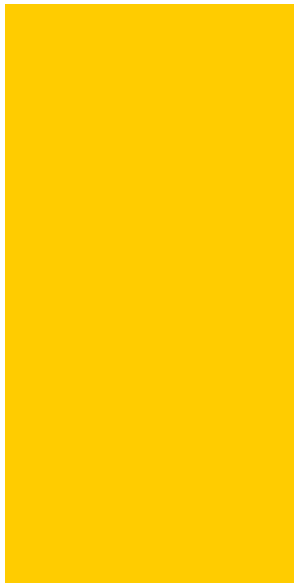
The new Centre will not only offer accomodation and care for children, but will serve as a community centre. We regard education as every child's right, and we are hoping to have a "learning centre" within the Centre, with multiple classrooms, an extensive library, where local children can come and do homework, revision or study.

Other plans include an Education Fund, whereby young people living at the Centre, and who have applied successfully for a scholarship, cannot attend for financial reasons, have their fees, books, accomodation and living expenses paid. The funds required are relatively small compared to Australia, and education is an extremely important way for these disadvantaged young people to gain opportunities for employment as many others.

A proposal for funding for a Mobile Library service has also been investigated and found to have great merit. It involves using suitable vehicles, books and audio-visual equipment, to take library services to thousands of children in camps around the area. The main library in the area was destroyed in the tsunami. This project will not only provide practical assistance with educational materials, but also reading for personal enjoyment, using story tellers, films and other activities. Children professionally identified as having learning issues from the tsunami will be identified and more direct assistance with activities such as sports and games, along with educational books, will be provided, to improve outcomes for these children.



- **How you can help**



Monetary donations are always welcome, as we have a commitment to fund all operations of the Children's Care Centre for 10 years. YOTS has spent about \$80,000.00 to date on airfares for all the volunteer teams, whilst the Centre costs at least \$100,000.00 for all wages and running costs, such as food, water, electricity, clothing, school supplies, pocket money for the children. All costs are paid directly from the funds donated by the Australian public and corporate supporters, in response to our Tsunami Appeal.

We have closed requests for donations of all items such as food, clothing, toys, school supplies for the foreseeable future. All items are now purchased locally, therefore providing direct stimulus for their local economy.



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All enquiries and reservations contact:

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E: greg@horsehandler.com.au

RECENT EVENTS

EQUITANA 2005

Friday 4 to Monday 7 November 2005

DESCRIPTION: Greg will be performing at Equitana 2005 along with Bruce his kelpie and Sam as well as Snowy the brumby and a few more horse mates including Bennalong Bruce his new Australian stockhorse. Greg has also been asked to perform one of his songs "Horses dont lie" on horseback at the opening evening event "The Western Extravaganza".

LOCATION: Melbourne VIC

Australian Stock horse Association

DESCRIPTION: Greg has written a song for the Australian Stockhorse Association which he performed live at the Royal Easter show 2005 in the main arena from the back of the RM Williams F250 ute.

LOCATION: Sydney Showgrounds

Horse Handler private and group instruction

DESCRIPTION: Greg gives instruction at Centennial Park equestrian centre Sydney on Mondays and Fridays by appointment. Bookings 0416 083 297

LOCATION: Centennial Park Sydney

RM WILLIAMS

2005

DESCRIPTION: Greg has been asked to be an ambassador for the RM Williams bush outfitters company. eg. Earlier this month Greg performed at the Royal Randwick Racetrack. Greg will be performing at several high profile events for RM in the near future eg the Royal Flying Doctors Gala Ball in May where he will perform some of his original songs on horseback.

LOCATION: Australia wide

Horse Handler Clinics 2005

2005

DESCRIPTION: Please email us if you are interested in future clinics. greg@horsehandler.com.au Dates will be announced shortly. As well as the proposed fixed date clinics Greg will give consideration to accommodate specific requests for dates suitable to you. Groups of ten generally make up a clinic. Call on 0416 083 297 Lockyersleigh is a 10000 acre sheep and cattle property near Goulburn NSW. Greg leases the substantial horse complex on the property and runs extensive horsemanship weekend clinics. Kalandan is Gregs own property near Cooma NSW, home to the Tinderry brumbies featured in the first documentary and we will be running week long camps at this location.

LOCATION: Lockyersleigh and Kalandan properties

Brumby program

DESCRIPTION: Greg will once again be working with YOTS charity and wild brumbies from the high country of NSW. The program will run at Lockyersleigh and we are looking forward to more positive outcomes.

LOCATION: Lockyersleigh and Kalandan properties

Private lessons

DESCRIPTION: Greg is available by appointment at Pheasants Nest NSW near Picton NSW and Lockyersleigh Goulburn also Kalandan Peak View near Cooma NSW. Ph 0416 083297

LOCATION: NSW

Schools

DESCRIPTION: If your school would like Greg to come and visit with Snowy the Brumby and others and give an educational and entertaining demonstration call 0416 083 297.

LOCATION: NSW

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