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(Address not for publication)

30 January 2006

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
By Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

To whom it may concern:

Animal Welfare Bill 2005

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to comment on this bill.
My comments will be short.

In my opinion the Bill in its current form could more accurately be called the Animal Rights Bill or the Animal Liberation Bill 2005. It seems to be more about animal rights or animal liberation than welfare and, as such, presents a threat to recreational fishing and recreational hunting, both of which are traditional pastimes for a large number of Australians and neither of which are necessarily cruel or involve the inflicting of pain. Certainly it would seem that the Bill is aimed at both these activities. It would appear that the sponsor of the Bill sees these activities as "soft targets" and the first step to the complete banning of the use of animals by humans for almost any purpose.

If we are to ban some – or all – types of fishing and hunting, it is but a short step to ban the farming of animals for human

consumption on the grounds of cruelty or animal welfare at some time in the not too distant future.

I believe that the vast majority of Australians agree that the killing of animals for acceptable purposes is allowable provided it is done without inflicting unnecessary pain and I urge the Senate Committee to bear this in mind when considering the Animal Welfare Bill 2005 and to reject the in its entirety.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Sotos', with a stylized, cursive script.

Terry Sotos.