



## The Hon. Keith Pitt MP

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Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister  
Federal Member for Hinkler

Ref: MC16-004373

Ms Nicola Beynon  
Head of Campaigns - Australia  
World Animal Protection  
GPO Box 3294  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Beynon

I am aware that World Animal Protection has established a campaign regarding a national framework for animal welfare.

I am keenly aware of the importance of animal welfare in agriculture and the community. Farmers, like all Australians, want animals to be cared for. They know that good animal welfare provides benefits for the animals and for their business through improved productivity.

The Australian Government understands and share the concerns of the community about the welfare of animals. It does not condone animal cruelty. The government's primary role in animal welfare is at the international level where Australia plays an active role, engaging with organisations like the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The government has limited regulatory responsibility for domestic animal welfare. We are responsible for export registered abattoirs and premises registered for live export, as well as Commonwealth research facilities and quarantine facilities. Each state and territory government is responsible for animal welfare laws and the enforcement of these laws.

The government does not support the establishment of a federal body to oversee the regulation and governance of animal welfare issues. The state and territory governments and industry are the driving force on animal welfare standards and reforms. The government is confident that the animal welfare arrangements under state and territory government legislation will continue to achieve positive animal welfare outcomes.

The government is committed to working with the Australian livestock industry to improve animal welfare. The government provides matched funding to industry Research and Development Corporations and to a range of Cooperative Research Centres. This collaborative approach to research, development and extension improves industry best practice through knowledge sharing, on-farm efficiencies and good animal husbandry.

The government continues to support the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and is involved in developing Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. These standards and guidelines are being developed under the Agriculture Ministers' Forum, Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and its Animal Welfare Task Group.

This letter will be made available on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' website at [www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au). The Australian Government will not respond directly to campaign correspondence arising from World Animal Protection or affiliated websites.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Pitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keith Pitt MP

19 APR 2016