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**Government
of South Australia**

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2023-24 Annual Report

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

To:

The Hon Dr Susan Close MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *(insert relevant acts and regulations)* 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:

Mr Allan Piggott

Deputy Chair

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Date 18/09/2024

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* (the Act).

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 the 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.*

Our organisational structure

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

The membership of AWAC has been appointed for a three-year period, expiring 29 June 2025. At 30 June 2024 there were two vacancies on the AWAC. The second nominee position of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water was vacated in the FY22-23 remaining vacant for FY23-24, and the nominee of the Minister responsible for the Livestock Act was vacated in October 2023.

Changes to the agency

During 2023-24 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Minister (s)

The AWAC is a portfolio Committee of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water the Hon Dr Susan Close MP.

Our Executive team

In accordance with section 11 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* Dr Antonia Dalziel, Manager Animal Welfare and Wildlife, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is secretary to the AWAC. Administrative support for the Committee is provided by Ms Heather Rose, Animal Welfare Project Officer, DEW.

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

The committee met once during the 2023-24 financial year. The AWAC considered the following matters:

- *Animal Welfare Act 1985* review and consultation
- Position statements for the committee
- Ethical decision making frameworks

Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Animal welfare standards reflect community expectations	Considered the Act review process and consultation.	Good
Consider and report to the Minister on legislative proposals affecting animal welfare	Considered the Act review process and consultation	Good

Corporate performance summary

Overall the performance of AWAC has been good.

Employment opportunity programs

The AWAC has no staff of its own and utilises the service of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2023-24.

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

Agency performance management and development systems

As a statutory committee, the functions of the AWAC are defined in section 12 of the Act. The performance of the AWAC is considered at the commencement of each term of office. The Governance Statement was reviewed in FY22-23.

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
AWAC 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 in the DEW Annual Report 2023-24

Workplace injury claims	2023-24	2022-23	% 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	2023-24	2022-23	% 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**	2023-24	2022-23	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0%
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0%

***before third party recovery*

Data for 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 presiding member of AWAC was the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA). However, their classification related to the substantive position rather than their position as Chair of the AWAC. Dr Mary Carr was not eligible for, nor paid, any allowance to be the presiding member for AWAC.	0

Data for 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 AWAC has no income and all expenditure is from existing DEW resources. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2023-24.

Consultants disclosure

No consultants were contracted by AWA during the financial year.

Contractors disclosure

No contractors were engaged by AWAC during the financial year.

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

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the AWAC in the reporting period.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEW Annual Report 2023-24

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

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Nil

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

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

It is declared that AWAC 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	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2023-24
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2023-24
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out-dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		Total	0

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	0

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

Service Improvements

Not applicable

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2023-24

Financial services are provided to AWAC by DEW. Finances are audited annually as part of DEW financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the DEW website at: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/annual-reports>