

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



**Government
of South Australia**

Annual Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee 2008-09

September 2009

Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Copies of the report can be obtained from:

Dr Deborah Kelly
Manager Animal Welfare
Department for Environment and Heritage
Telephone: (08) 8124 4800
E-mail: deborah.kelly@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au/animalwelfare

ISSN 1832-9438

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE
South Australia 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for the year ending 30 June 2009.

 17/9/09

Dr Ian Carmichael
Presiding Member
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.....	3
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	5
FUNCTIONS.....	5
LEGISLATION	5
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS.....	5
MEMBERSHIP	7
ACHIEVEMENTS 2008 - 09	8
ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	8
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	9
Staffing.....	9
Disability Action Plan	9
Equal Opportunity Employment Programs	9
Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare.....	9
Use of Consultants	10
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	10
Finance.....	10
Account Payment Performance	10
SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING	10
Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports.....	10
Greening of Government Operations (GoGO)	10
OVERSEAS TRAVEL	10
FRAUD.....	11
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.....	11
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	11
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	11
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	11
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	11

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) is constituted under section 6 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* (the Act). This report is for the 2008-09 financial year and is prepared to fulfil requirements of section 6B of the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*.

FUNCTIONS

Section 12 of the Act defines the functions of the Committee as:

- (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 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.

LEGISLATION

The Committee provides advice to the Minister on issues relating to the Act and contemporary animal welfare issues.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

The Committee will satisfy the following South Australian Strategic Plan Targets by:

Objective	Target	Description
Strategic Objective 1 Growing Prosperity	T1.2 Competitive business climate: maintain Adelaide's rating as the least costly place to set up and do business in Australia and continue to improve our position internationally.	By ensuring industry participation in animal welfare standards and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged in the broader market.

	T1.7 Performance in the public sector - customer and client satisfaction with government services: increase in the satisfaction of South Australians with government services by 10% by 2010, maintaining or exceeding that level of satisfaction thereafter.	By establishing and maintaining linkages and networks with industry and Non-Government Organisations to ensure mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions.
	T1.14 Total Exports: treble the value of South Australia's export income to \$25 billion by 2014.	By endorsing animal welfare standards in South Australia which meet the expectations of international trading partners.
Strategic Objective 4 Fostering Creativity and Innovation	T4.6 Commercialisation of research: increase gross revenues received by South Australian-based research institutions from licences, options, royalty agreements, assignments, licensed technology and patents by 2010.	By consideration of the standards and requirements for animal based research such that red-tape is minimised but animal welfare is ensured.

MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with section 6 of the Act, the Committee consists of eight members appointed by the Governor, of whom:

- (a) 1 is to be nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Livestock Act 1997*;
- (b) 2 will be nominated by the South Australian Farmers Federation Incorporated;
- (c) 1 will be nominated by the Society;
- (d) 2 will be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, are suitable to represent the interests of animal welfare organisations;
- (e) 1 will be nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association;
- (f) 1 will be engaged in research activities involving animals nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982*.

Presiding Member

Dr Ian Carmichael	Nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>
-------------------	---

Members

Ms Suzie Kidman	South Australian Farmers' Federation
Mr Warren Starick	South Australian Farmers' Federation
Mr Grant Robb	Animal Welfare Organisation
Ms Linda Allery	Animal Welfare Organisation
Dr Susan Hazel	Australian Veterinary Association
Dr Denise Noonan	Nominated by the Minister responsible for the administration of the <i>Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Act 1982</i>
Vacancy	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Section 11 of the Act further requires that there be a Secretary to the Committee who holds office under the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*. Currently, the Manager, Animal Welfare Unit, Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) holds this office.

Committee Support

Dr Deborah Kelly	Secretary to the Committee
Ms Michele Walter	Manager, Animal Welfare Unit, DEH
	Administrative Support
	Project Officer, Animal Welfare Unit, DEH
Dr Mark Peters	Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (Observer)

Relationships

The Committee provides advice to the Minister on animal welfare issues. Any group, whether within the Minister's portfolio, another Government department or a non-Government organisation may, through the Minister, seek the advice of the Committee.

The Secretary is provided by the DEH Animal Welfare Unit. In addition, the Committee receives advice from members and the organisations who nominated them.

In some instances, other organisations or individuals have brought issues to the attention of a member or to the Minister for consideration by the Committee.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2008 - 09

The Committee met four times during the reporting period. The roles, responsibilities and operations of the appointed Committee were outlined and clarification was provided to members regarding the external relationships, Codes of Practice and guidelines, State and National legislation.

The Committee established mechanisms to ensure that communication links and networks are maintained through the major stakeholders, both Government and non-Government, in the animal welfare arena.

The Committee considered the development of State Regulations for the commercial housing of pigs, the use of animals for research and teaching purposes, unowned/feral cats and homing pigeon racing.

The Committee has developed a series of Position Statements regarding specific animal welfare issues. The statements are reviewed on a regular basis to determine relevancy and are amended as appropriate. New statements are added as they are considered. The Committee is currently reviewing its statements relating to the electroimmobilisation of cattle, the sale of animals through pet shops and street markets, extreme breed standards, homing pigeon racing and animal based research.

ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Committee would like to acknowledge that the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Committee also acknowledges the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today. In fulfilling its functions, the Committee is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Members of the Committee are paid in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, namely:

Chairperson: Nil as the Chairman is employed under the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*.

Members: \$2,400 per annum.

Pursuant to Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC016: *Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-time Boards and Committees*, government employees do not receive remuneration for their services to the Committee.

Staffing

The Committee has no staff of its own. Administrative support is provided from existing DEH resources. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Disability Action Plan

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEH. The members of the Committee are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Equal Opportunity Employment Programs

The Committee has no staff of its own and is serviced by staff of DEH. Members are aware of and abide by equal opportunity policies and programs of DEH. Reporting on this matter may be viewed in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There have been no instances of occupational health, safety and welfare (OHS&W) issues arising within the Committee. Induction is carried out for new members and appropriate precautions are taken if field trips are undertaken. As a user of DEH facilities and equipment, the Committee is aware of and abides by the DEH OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter and evaluation of OHS&W programs and their effectiveness is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Use of Consultants

The Committee did not engage any consultants during the 2008-09 financial year. The Committee utilises the advice of industry and Government authorities on various issues.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Committee is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. As such, reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Finance

The costs associated with the administration of the Committee are met from within existing DEH resources. Members are paid an annual fee in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Account Payment Performance

DEH provides the administrative resources for processing account payments for the Committee. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Contractual Arrangements

The Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEH. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

Greening of Government Operations (GoGO)

The members of the Committee are aware of, and abide by, their obligations in relation to minimisation of waste, reduction in energy consumption and conservation of water. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEH Annual Report 2008-09.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

It is declared that no member of the Committee has travelled overseas on the business of the Committee during the reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee during the financial year.

Financial services are provided to the Committee by DEH. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEH Annual Report 2009.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

As a DEH administered entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEH Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEH internet site. Please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au to view the FOI Statement.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No Regional Impact Assessment Statements were undertaken by the Committee in 2008-09.

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2008-09 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Committee does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are no acknowledgements made by the Committee for the reporting period of 2008-09.