



**Government  
of South Australia**

# ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## 2020-21 Annual Report

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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To:

The Hon David Speirs MP  
Minister for Environment and Water

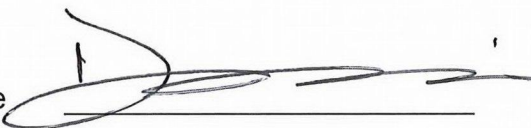
This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

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:

Professor Mehdi Doroudi  
Presiding Member

Date 13th August 2021

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 the AWAC has been appointed for a three-year period, expiring on 3 February 2022. There have been no changes to the structure of the committee during the financial year. At 30 June 2021 there were no vacancies on the AWAC.

The AWAC membership and remuneration is reported annually in the *South Australian Government Board and Committees Information*.

### Changes to the agency

During 2020-21 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

### Our Minister

The AWAC is a portfolio agency of the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon David Speirs 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.

**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

Due to the ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic three meetings were held during the 2020-21 financial year. Over the course of those meetings, the AWAC considered the following issues:

- *Animal Welfare Regulations* consultation
- Position statements across a wide-range of topics
- *Veterinary Practice Act* review consultation
- Breeding facilities – companion animals
- Forced swim test research
- Wildlife emergency response planning

### Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency’s contribution
More jobs	Maintaining linkages and networks with industry and non-government organisations, ensuring mutual understanding and acceptance of issues and their resolutions. Participation in the development of national animal welfare standards, and that South Australian livestock industries are not disadvantaged.
Lower costs	Consideration of the prohibition of electronic collars for livestock management (to enable virtual fencing).
Better Services	Consideration of deregulation initiatives.

### Agency specific objectives and performance

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 2019-20 and the performance of the AWAC considered in light of the amendment and its statutory role.

<b>Agency objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Consider and report to the Minister on legislative proposals affecting animal welfare	Provided advice on <i>Animal Welfare Regulations</i> proposed amendments.	Good
Examine proposed codes of practice relating to animals and report to the Minister on their likely effect upon animal welfare	Provided advice on their revocation and integration of requirements in to proposed new <i>Animal Welfare Regulations</i> .	Satisfactory

**Corporate performance summary**

Overall the performance of the AWAC had been satisfactory.

**Employment opportunity programs**

The AWAC has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.

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

**Agency performance management and development systems**

<b>Performance management and development system</b>	<b>Performance</b>
The AWAC undertake a performance review, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities	Not assessed in this reporting period.
Government employees supporting the operation of AWAC undertake a performance review and development program with their managers	Sessions are planned and held on an six monthly basis. This is considered to be effective.



**Work health, safety and return to work programs**

Program name	Performance
The 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 within the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.

Workplace injury claims	2020-21	2019-20	% 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	2020-21	2019-20	% 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%

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<b>Return to work costs**</b>	2020-21	2019-20	% 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

<b>Executive classification</b>	<b>Number of executives</b>
The Chair of the AWAC is Deputy Chief Executive of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA). However, his classification relates to his substantive position rather than his position as Chair of the AWAC. Prof Mehdi Doroudi is not eligible for, nor paid, any allowance to Chair the 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 is a statutory body, not a corporate entity, and has no funds of its own. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.

The costs associated with the administration of the AWAC are met from within existing DEW resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with the recommendation by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in line with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

### Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

#### Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	N/A	\$0

#### Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	N/A	\$0
	Total	\$ Nil

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

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

### Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

#### Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
Nil	N/A	\$0

**Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
Nil	N/A	\$0
	Total	Nil

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

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the AWAC in this reporting period.	0

*NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.*

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.

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

<b>Act or Regulation</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
It is declared that the AWAC has no reporting requirements under any other Act or Regulation	Not applicable.

## 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 2020-21
All complaints			No specific complaints have been received by the AWAC.
		<b>Total</b>	Nil

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	No complaints have been received or acted upon

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 2020-21**

Financial services are provided to the AWAC by DEW. Finances are audited annually as part of DEW's 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>