

A KINDER *LUTRUWITA* / TASMANIA FOR ANIMALS

BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

BACKGROUND

Lutruwita/Tasmania's Animal Welfare Act 1993 is not strong enough to protect animals from neglect and cruelty. The State still subsidises cruelty in the greyhound and horseracing industries, and facilitates puppy farming, while our wildlife laws allow the slaughter of tens of thousands of native animals each year and the use of 1080 poison.

Animal welfare organisations, whose mission it is to give voice, veterinary care and new homes to the voiceless, are underfunded. The RSPCA has been nobbled in its inspectorate work by the Liberal Government, and the animal welfare inspectorate in Biosecurity Tasmania has been broadly judged as ineffectual.

The most recent, damning example of this failure on the part of Biosecurity Tasmania is the scandalous allegations of animal neglect and cruelty surrounding the former VDL Dairy, now trading as Van Dairy in North West Tasmania.

On multiple levels, the State fails to uphold high animal welfare standards for both wild and domesticated animals.

The Greens believe this is out of step with community expectations.

Animal Welfare Standards and Compliance

We will reform the Animal Welfare Act 1993 to strengthen standards, monitoring, compliance and penalties.

An Animal Welfare Commission

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee under the Animal Welfare Act 1993 will be replaced with an independent Animal Welfare Commission, with broad investigatory, advisory, advocacy and educational functions.

Animal Welfare Organisation Support

We will allocate \$1 million over four years to support animal rescue and welfare organisations to meet increasing costs.

Funding the RSPCA

We will fund the RSPCA for 100% of Tasmania's inspectorate work, reallocating funding from the existing Biosecurity inspectorate, as well as providing an additional \$200,000 per year. We will provide an additional \$300,000 for the AWARE program and 'Safe Beds' program.

Banning Puppy Farms

We will review dog breeding and sale regulations in order to ban puppy farming and consider any further actions, such as banning of the sale of puppies in pet shops, that will improve animal welfare outcomes.

A Ban on Greyhound Racing

Greyhound Racing in Tasmania, and the breeding and sale of dogs for the purposes of racing, will be banned.

We will allocate \$2 million over four years to phase out the industry within this term of Parliament

Wind-up TasRacing

TasRacing, established under the Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009, will be wound-up, and the deed providing in excess of \$30 million per year to the entity will end.

This will facilitate a wind down of the horse racing industry, removing subsidised profit incentives that drives the breeding and early disposal of race horses.

Ban Rodeos

Rodeos will be banned in Tasmania.

Prohibition on Factory Farming Techniques

We will legislate for phasing out factory farming practices, including battery hen farming, a complete ban on sow stalls, and beak trimming.

We will allocate \$4million over four years to support industry transition to cruelty free practices.

Review of on-Farm Welfare Issues

We will task the Animal Welfare Commission, in consultation with agricultural producers, to conduct an independent review of animal welfare practices and recommendations for further reform to animal welfare regulations.

Ban Duck Hunting

We will ban native duck hunting in Tasmania in line with other Australian jurisdictions, scientific evidence and community expectations.

The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.

GREEN NEW DEAL

