

## FACT SHEET

### ***Animal Welfare Amendment (Reformation) Bill 2018***

The Animal Welfare Amendment (Reformation) Bill 2018 introduced a broad range of reforms to Tasmania's outdated Animal Welfare Act 1993 in order to conform with community expectations and contemporary understanding of the impacts of certain practices on the welfare of animals.

In 2017, research commissioned by the RSPCA found that 84% of Australians want to see Battery Hen farming phased out. Battery hen cages often allocate less than an A4 size piece of paper of space per hen, and cram up to 20 of them in the same space. Hens' beaks are removed to prevent distressed animals from fighting, and a lack of exercise and abominable conditions cause bone fractures, disease outbreaks, liver rupture and death.

Sow stalls are metal and concrete cages that are barely larger than a pig's body and prevent movement. Sow stalls cause serious physical and psychological harm to pregnant pigs, including inflicting skin abrasions, reduced bone strength and muscle weight, impaired locomotion and severe lameness, as well as damaging natural socialising behaviours. A Survey by Voiceless found that the majority of Australians support a ban on sow stalls.

The Australian Capital Territory has already passed legislation to ban battery hen cages, beak trimming, and sow stalls. The provisions in this bill are modelled on this legislation.

This bill also brings Tasmania into line with most of the developed world by banning Rodeos and Greyhound Racing.

Currently, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has no representative with expertise in the welfare of native wildlife. The bill corrects this by ensuring that the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has a member on the committee.

The amendment bill also implements several recommendations from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee 2013 review, including:

- apply the definitions in section 8 to the entire Act;
- create a definition of commercial purpose;
- create a definition of management ensuring that failure to act is also captured;
- ensuring that mental suffering is captured by the Act;
- correcting a typo in section 8 of the Act;
- banning the use of pronged collars;
- clarifying that a permit for *soft* leghold traps only may be applied for; and
- allowing for an officer to enter a premises in order to assist an animal under certain circumstances, as well as the conditions for which a warrant is and is not required.