

## Response to question on notice

### Inquiry – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2023

Inquiry webpage: [NSW Parliament](#)

Transcript: [draft uncorrected transcript](#)

Hearing date: 5 July 2024

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY:** Previous witnesses—I think it was the Animal Defenders Office—recommended delaying the implementation of a virtual fencing regulatory framework until a review of animal welfare legislation and POCTAA was completed. When asked, NSW Farmers said that that's all dependent on when that animal welfare legislation review is completed. Are you able to give an update on the status of the review of animal welfare legislation, including POCTAA? Where is that up to?

**KIM FILMER:** The delivery of the POCTAA reform election commitments will be informed by this stakeholder feedback and there is a commitment from the Government to review POCTAA by the end of this year.

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY:** Apologies, Dr Filmer. When you say "commitment by the end of this year", as in to be presenting model legislation or draft legislation by the end of this year?

**KIM FILMER:** I probably can't give you the detail on that, but the election commitment is that POCTAA will be reviewed by the end of this year.

**Mr JUSTIN CLANCY:** When you say "reviewed by the end of this year", as in review completed, started or out for further consultation? Is there an ability to be a bit more specific there?

**KIM FILMER:** There's work being undertaken at the moment. There has been work undertaken over the past few years, as you would know. There has been consultation over the past few years in that space. So there is a wealth of information that we have available to us from previous consultation. There is work being undertaken to look at not only that previous consultation and feedback, but also looking at the inquiries in this space. There was an animal welfare bill inquiry, you will recall, that's also being looked at. So those things are happening now.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** Can I pick up on Mr Clancy's point? I can understand the legislation or changes and all that stuff, but you will complete the review by the end of this year. That's what you're saying. Does that include some kind of discussion paper that you're going to publish by the end of this year, or at least give it to the Minister for consideration to be published at some stage? It's one thing you doing the review, but is anyone going to see the review?

**KIM FILMER:** I think I'd better take that on notice because I'm not comfortable enough with timings to be able to give you that information here today. I don't want to give you the wrong information.

#### Answer:

The NSW Government has made several election commitments in relation to the introduction of a new animal welfare framework in NSW. These commitments are being delivered in stages, with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Transparency and Fit and Proper Persons) Bill 2024

**Commented [JM1]:** The relevant election commitment wording is "Reviewing the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, including the review of the consultation conducted to date in determining the animal welfare framework to be legislated."

currently before Parliament, and further proposed legislation is expected to be introduced this year, which will include consultation with stakeholders.