



The Hon. Dugald Saunders MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

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Your reference: D22/50766

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

L.C.Procedure@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Blunt *David*

I write in response to the e-petition lodged by Mr Mark Pearson MLC, regarding the mandatory phase out of mulesing by 2030.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTAA) and its supporting Regulation, Codes, Standards and Guidelines set out the required animal welfare standards in NSW. Under POCTAA, husbandry procedures such as mulesing, tail docking and castrating sheep must be carried out within defined age limits in a manner that inflicts no unnecessary pain upon the animal.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep are prescribed guidelines and can be used as evidence in proceedings under POCTAA.

NSW participates in the national process for development or review of nationally consistent Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the production of animal welfare. Coordination of standards and guidelines reviews occur under a national development framework by the Animal Welfare Task Group. The process includes a regulation impact statement and national stakeholder consultation.

The NSW Government is supportive of industry-led initiatives to continuously improve animal welfare and protect sheep against flystrike, such as the Australian Wool Innovations Wool 2030 Strategy: www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/about-awi/how-we-consult/wool-2030-strategy/wool-2030-strategy.pdf.

Industry is voluntarily increasing their use of pain relief for animal husbandry procedures as options and costs improve.

The NSW Government is providing support to industry in developing tools and systems to help growers build confidence and capacity to manage flystrike without the need for mulesing. This includes:

- genetic improvement - development and promotion of breeding values to help growers select rams using fly-strike resistance traits and identification of superior genetics to fast-track genetic gain across the industry.

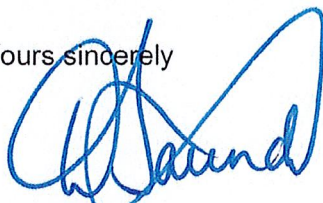
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- biological control – breeding and releasing ‘sterile males’ to compete with wild fertile blowflies.
- efficacy of chemicals registered to prevent and control flystrike – evaluation of strains of blowflies across regions to determine resistance to develop models to assess flystrike risk across regions and the benefits of chemical rotation.

In September 2020, the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 4 inquired and reported on the Provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restriction on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill 2019, which sought to amend POCTAA to prohibit the performance of the mulesing operation on sheep from 1 January 2022, as well as to require the administration of pain relief in certain procedures involving stock animals. The committee concluded that banning mulesing from 1 January 2022 and making the use of pain relief mandatory in certain stock procedures, as the bill proposed, was not the right way forward. The committee recommended that the bill not proceed in its current form.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to hear the views of all members of the community on the mandatory phase out of mulesing by 2023 and I thank the petitioners for taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Dugald Saunders
MINISTER

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Tuesday 25 October
2022

