

## Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill 2019 (NSW)

# INFO SHEET

The **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill 2019** ("the Bill") was introduced into the NSW Parliament by the Hon. Mark Pearson MLC of the Animal Justice Party. A parliamentary committee is now conducting an inquiry into the Bill, and wants to hear from the public about what the Bill is trying to do.

### What is "mulesing"?

Mulesing is a practice that involves cutting slices of skin from the hindquarters of sheep bred for wool, to stop flies laying eggs in folds of the very wrinkly skin of these wool sheep.



It is usually done without anaesthetics or pain relief.

### What is the purpose of the Bill?

The Bill would make **mulesing** sheep an **animal cruelty offence** by inserting new section 23B titled 'Mules operation prohibited' into the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW).

The Bill would also make **pain relief mandatory** for other painful procedures routinely performed on farmed animals eg:

- Branding
- Ear-marking or ear-tagging
- Castrating cattle, sheep or goats (<6 months old), and pigs (<2 months old)
- Dehorning goats (<1 month old) and cattle (<12 months old)
- Tailing sheep <6 months old

### Why the ADO supports the Bill

Mulesing is a very painful procedure, yet is legal everywhere in Australia. Only Victoria requires that pain relief be used. The wool industry has long been aware of the negative animal welfare impacts of mulesing, but has failed to reform the practice or implement alternatives. Updating the law merely to require pain relief (as in Victoria) is **not enough**, as too hard to enforce, and the types of pain relief allowed may not be effective or long-lasting. The practice should be **completely banned** as the Bill proposes. The industry will cope as some wool farmers have already stopped mulesing.

**COMMENTS DUE:  
Friday, 31 July 2020**

You can do a survey or write a submission. Find out more here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8b9kr8d>

For more info about writing a submission, here's some advice from the NSW parliament:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yd93wqhs>

*Have your say!*

You can help ensure that mulesing is banned in NSW, and that animals subject to other painful procedures are given pain relief, by writing a submission or doing the online questionnaire (ie survey) in support of the Bill. Here are some things to keep in mind when writing:

- Be clear and concise with your language
- Offer concrete suggestions
- If possible, provide evidence (eg links to websites) from reputable sources to support your opinions