



Animal Defenders
Office

Using the law to protect animals



ANIMAL DEFENDERS OFFICE

FEDERAL ELECTION 2022

ANIMAL POLICY REPORT

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THE NEED FOR CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE ANIMAL POLICIES

Animal welfare is an important issue for most Australians, whatever their personal beliefs, values, or political leanings. A clear majority of Australians are concerned about the welfare of animals in the agricultural industry, for example, and want to see reform and stronger regulation.[1]

However, animal-related issues are often side-lined - or completely absent - from parties' policy statements and election campaigns. This can make it difficult for citizens to make decisions about how to ensure their vote can do the most good for animals.

The Animal Defenders Office is a community legal centre that focuses on issues in animal law. We are run by volunteers and are unaffiliated with any political party. As part of our community outreach mission, we seek to provide accessible information about animal law policies in the lead-up to federal and state elections, so that voters can make informed decisions at the ballot box.

[1] McGreevy, P, Cornish, A, & Jones, B, "Not just activists, 9 out of 10 people are concerned about animal welfare in Australian farming", May 15, 2019, <https://theconversation.com/not-just-activists-9-out-of-10-people-are-concerned-about-animal-welfare-in-australian-farming-117077>



Helping you to
share your voice
with animals on
Election Day

ABOUT THIS REPORT

In the lead-up to the 2022 federal election we chose to focus on three key animal issues that are a concern at the federal level:

- Live export of agricultural animals for slaughter or breeding purposes
- Export of kangaroo products such as the meat and skin
- The creation of a government-funded, independent, national animal welfare advisory body

The information provided in this report was gathered primarily from the policy materials provided on the websites of political parties and candidates. Where information on the three key issues was not available, we emailed parties and candidates directly about their positions on these issues (see p. 4 for the list of parties contacted).

The report also includes, where available, information about any other animal-related policies or positions that were made available on parties' websites.

The ADO is committed to providing accurate, up-to-date information about animal welfare policies in the lead-up to the 2022 Federal Election. If any members of the public provide us with information that



can help us to better reflect parties' policies, we will update this report accordingly.

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The following parties/independents were contacted by the Animal Defenders Office for comment on their animal-related policies: Labor; the Liberals; the Nationals; the Greens; United Australia Party; One Nation; the Australian Christians; Reason; Liberal Democrats; Democratic Alliance; Fusion; Citizens Party; Informed Medical Options Party; Andrew Wilkie; Allegra Spender; Kylea Tink; Sophie Scamps; Kate Chaney; Zoe Daniel; David Pocock.

The following parties/independents responded with substantive information about the policies of interest: the Liberals; the Greens; United Australia Party; Andrew Wilkie; Fusion; Allegra Spender; Zoe Daniel.

We have classified parties as 'major', 'minor' or 'micro' according to the number of current elected representatives to the Australian Parliament (if any, as in the case of the micro parties).

We have listed sitting independents before candidates.



The
PARTIES



THE GREENS

LIVE EXPORT

Under the 'Caring for Animals' policy of the Australian Greens ("the Greens"), the party states that it will 'Ban the live export of livestock for slaughter, consumption or profit'.^[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

The Greens support the introduction of national animal welfare laws that would cover "Kangaroo slaughter for commercial purposes".^[2] This does not suggest a ban on the export of kangaroo meat or skins.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The Greens introduced the Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill to the Senate in 2015, and still maintain support for the establishment of a federally funded Independent Office of Animal Welfare.^[3]

OTHER POLICIES

The Greens have promised to ban the following practices or industries:

- Factory farming^[4]
- The commercial horse racing industry^[5]
- The greyhound racing industry, and greyhound exports^[6]
- The export and import of shark fin products from/to Australia^[7]

REFERENCES

- [1] <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/Greens-2022-Policy-Platform--Enviro--Animals.pdf>; p.1
- [2] *ibid.*, p.2
- [3] *ibid.*
- [4] *ibid.*, p.3
- [5] *ibid.*, pp.3-4
- [6] *ibid.*, pp.4-5
- [7] *ibid.*, p.5



LABOR

LIVE EXPORT

While the Australian Labor Party ("Labor") supported a ban on live sheep exports in the lead-up to the 2019 election, it is not mentioned in its 2021 National Platform.[1] Two weeks out from polling day 2022, Labor announced that if elected it would **phase out** sheep live exports, but later pulled back from this suggesting it would merely limit the trade at certain times, so the party's position on this issue is not clear.[2]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

There is no mention of the kangaroo export trade in Labor's 2021 National Platform.[3]

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Although Labor has supported the creation of such an office in the past,[4] Labor's National Platform 2021 does not refer to it. More recently, however, there are reports (none from the party itself) that it may support the creation of such an office.[5]

OTHER POLICIES

The Australian Labor Party's position statement on wildlife trade notes that it will work with the states to ban Australia's domestic trade of ivory and rhinoceros horn, but only enforce existing laws on the import or export of shark fins or lion trophies.[6]

Labor promises to "to protect ... animals from the impacts of increasing severe weather events".[7]

Labor seeks to have animal welfare legislation and codes made consistent across Australian jurisdictions.[8]

REFERENCES

- [1] See: <https://alp.org.au/media/2594/2021-alp-national-platform-final-endorsed-platform.pdf>
- [2] <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7727587/labor-woolly-on-live-sheep-export-policy/>
- [3] See: <https://alp.org.au/media/2594/2021-alp-national-platform-final-endorsed-platform.pdf>
- [4] www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/17/labor-calls-for-new-animal-welfare-agency-after-live-cattle-bludgeon
- [5] <https://www.allianceforanimals.org.au/federal-election-2022>
- [6] <https://alp.org.au/media/2594/2021-alp-national-platform-final-endorsed-platform.pdf>, p.45
- [7] *ibid.*, p.44
- [8] *ibid.*, p.59



LIBERAL PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

In its response to the ADO, the Liberal Party of Australia ("the Liberal Party") stated that it does not support a ban on live animal export.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The Liberal Party does not support this proposal. In its response to the ADO, it stated that the establishment of such an office is unnecessary, as its proposed functions are already covered by federal, state and territory bodies, and would result in "a significant cost to everyday Australians, farmers and taxpayers and would add a layer of bureaucracy for no real benefit".

KANGAROO EXPORTS

In response to the ADO's inquiry about their animal policies, the Liberal Party did not indicate support for a ban on the export of kangaroo products such as meat and skins. Its ongoing support of what it regards as a "hugely important industry" can be seen in recent parliamentary statements.[1]

OTHER POLICIES

The Liberal Party does not have specific animal welfare policies on its website. Under its environmental policies, it notes that it has:

- invested in support for "threatened species, habitat restoration, marine conservation and environmental projects - including ... koala recovery and conservation"[2]
- achieved "over 3 million hectares of pest animal control"[3]

REFERENCES

- [1]<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansards%2Fefd17093-1787-4c2e-9d81-995467782802%2F0033%22>
- [2]www.liberal.org.au/our-plan/environment
- [3] ibid.



THE NATIONALS

LIVE EXPORT

The National Party of Australia ("the Nationals") does not support a ban on live export.[1]

The Nationals support an increase in "beef, sheepmeat and goatmeat exports to the Middle East, North Africa, and South-East Asia".[2]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

The export of products made from kangaroos is not mentioned in the Nationals' election policies listed on their website.

However its ongoing support of the export of kangaroo products can be seen in recent parliamentary statements.[3]

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

There is no evidence to suggest that the Nationals support the establishment of such an office. Debate on the Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 indicated that the party was not in support of this proposal.[4]

OTHER POLICIES

The Nationals have no animal welfare policies listed on their party website.

REFERENCES

- [1]www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/22/nationals-claim-win-as-australian-government-says-it-wont-appeal-live-cattle-export-court-ruling
- [2]<https://nationals.org.au/grant-to-help-expand-red-meat-exports/>
- [3]<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansards%2Fefd17093-1787-4c2e-9d81-995467782802%2F0033%22>
- [4]www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/0190ecee-5b78-4065-b6a9-0dd14f1dd9d6/&sid=0000



CENTRE ALLIANCE

LIVE EXPORT

The Party's policy is for strict regulation of the trade, but it has indicated a preference for the phasing out of the industry[1] in favour of onshore processing of meat.[2]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

OTHER POLICIES

Centre Alliance has stated its support for "feral pest eradication" on the basis of "environmental management".[3]

REFERENCES

[1]<https://centrealliance.org.au/media/media/live-sheep-exports/>

[2]<https://centrealliance.org.au/policies/live-animal-exports/>

[3]www.ssaa.org.au/?ss_news=centre-alliance-statement

JACQUI LAMBIE NETWORK

LIVE EXPORT

Jacqui Lambie's voting history in Parliament suggests that she is in favour of live animal export.[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

REFERENCES

[1]https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/people/senate/tasmania/jacqui_lambie/policies/32



KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

Bob Katter has stated that he is "tenaciously opposed to any restrictions on live exports".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

Katter's Australian Party ("KAP") is not in support of banning kangaroo exports, with Robbie Katter stating that "Kangaroo harvesting is a long-entrenched practice in Australia ... that has an overwhelmingly positive impact on our environmental biosecurity".[2]

OTHER POLICIES

A goal of KAP's Safer Waterways Bill is to "eliminate crocodiles from our waterways that pose a threat to human life, while protecting crocodiles from becoming endangered as a species".[3] KAP is also "pro culling flying foxes".[4]

REFERENCES

- [1] <https://tinyurl.com/nkwaffue>
- [2] <https://kap.org.au/shots-fired-as-u-s-considers-kangaroo-export-ban/>
- [3] <https://kap.org.au/project/crocodile-management/>
- [4] <https://kap.org.au/project/flying-foxes/>

ONE NATION

LIVE EXPORT

Pauline Hanson's One Nation party is not in support of a ban on live export.[1][2]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

OTHER POLICIES

One Nation leader, Pauline Hanson, has previously called for a cull on cane toads, with the goal of "the eradication of this pest species".[3]

REFERENCES

- [1] <https://shop.onenation.org.au/blogs/labor-ldp-plan-to-burn-cane-growers/one-nation-slams-live-export-opponents>
- [2] https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/people/senate/queensland/pauline_hanson/policies/32
- [3] https://shop.onenation.org.au/blogs/labor-ldp-plan-to-burn-cane-growers/pauline-hanson-calls-to-exterminate-cane-toads?_pos=15&_sid=2c511bca2&_ss=r



UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

There is no policy regarding live export listed on the UAP website.

In 2012 current UAP MP Craig Kelly voted in favour of a motion to condemn the 2011 ban on live exports.[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

REFERENCES

[1]<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansard%2Fa8785071-a01e-4d0b-bf4e-9e6ea9104940%2F0029%22>



ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

The Animal Justice Party ("AJP") supports an immediate ban on the export of all live animals. [1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

The AJP's policy is to "rapidly phase out the commercial killing of kangaroo and wallabies and close down processing industries".[2] We have taken this as support for a ban on the export of kangaroo products.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The AJP supports the establishment of an "Independent Office of Animal Protection", which would "independently investigate and report on the commercial exploitation of animals in Australia" and "actively investigate and support opportunities for commercial operations to switch to a cruelty-free business model".[3]

OTHER POLICIES

The AJP's policies in relation to animals include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that legal definitions of "animal" in Australian jurisdictions are consistent and minimally include all animals capable of experiencing pain.[4]
- Abolishing the property status of animals.[5]
- "The rapid phase out of ... the slaughter of animals without pre-stunning for any reason", and of "all farm animal mutilations, including tail docking, castration, branding, ear marking, teeth clipping, de-horning and mulesing".[6]

REFERENCES

- [1]www.animaljusticeparty.org/live_animal_export
 [2]www.animaljusticeparty.org/kangaroos
 [3]www.animaljusticeparty.org/federal_animal_protection_body
 [4]www.animaljusticeparty.org/animal_definition
 [5]www.animaljusticeparty.org/animal_law
 [6]www.animaljusticeparty.org/farming

NOTE

More space has been given to the Animal Justice Party than other micro parties due to the comparatively large volume of animal-related policies that it has, and given its status as a party with elected members at the state and local government level.



FUSION PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

The Fusion Party supports a ban on the "live export of animals for food".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The party supports this policy.[2]

OTHER POLICIES

The party is in favour of ending the factory farming industry, and promoting the consumption of non-meat and "clean" or "lab" meat.[3]

REFERENCES

[1] www.fusionparty.org.au/policy_faq#animal_welfare

[2] *ibid.*

[3] *ibid.*

GREAT AUSTRALIAN PARTY

LIVE EXPORT

The party supports "a return to domestically slaughtered, packaged and canned meat products for export".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

The party is in favour of "open and compassionate debate regarding the culling of and commercial killing of Kangaroos"[1] suggesting they are not necessarily opposed to kangaroo exports.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The party supports "establishment of an independent national regulatory body to provide national oversight and coordination of animal welfare and awarded powers of prosecution".[2]

REFERENCES

[1] www.greataustralianparty.com.au/primary-industries-policy

[2] www.greataustralianparty.com.au/animal-welfare-policy

[3] *ibid.*



THE NEW LIBERALS

LIVE EXPORT

The New Liberals ("TNL") support a ban on all live animal exports.[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The party is in support of such an office.[2]

OTHER POLICIES

TNL propose a Koala Protection Act that would impose "criminal penalties for persons and corporations who harm, take, sell, or interfere with any koala, or in any way damage its [sic] habitat".[3] TNL also support the introduction of "a national blacklist database of convicted animal abusers (for the use of breeders and rescues to ensure safe placement of animals)".[4]

REFERENCES

[1] tnl.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The-New-Liberals-Animal-Welfare-Policy.pdf

[2] *ibid.*

[3] tnl.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-New-Liberals-Koala-Policy.pdf

[4] tnl.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The-New-Liberals-Animal-Welfare-Policy.pdf

SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

LIVE EXPORT

Supports a ban on this practice.[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

The party does not mention support for the establishment of such an office, but they do support "a national framework for the protection of animal welfare to monitor and enforce existing laws that criminalise cruelty against all animals and regulate conditions for the captivity, transport and slaughter of animals".[2]

OTHER POLICIES

Socialist Alliance's animal-related policies include bans on factory farming, whale slaughter, trophy hunting, and "the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation or entertainment".[3]

REFERENCES

[1] <https://socialist-alliance.org/policy#animal-welfare>

[2] *ibid.*

[3] *ibid.*



ZALI STEGGALL, MP

LIVE EXPORT

Zali Steggall MP (Independent Federal Member for Warringah NSW) has stated that "I believe it is our moral and ethical responsibility to bring an end to live animal exports"[1], and has voted in favour of the Live Animal Export Prohibition (Ending Cruelty) Bill 2020.[2]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

REFERENCES

- [1]www.zalisteggall.com.au/where_does_zali_stand_on
[2]www.zalisteggall.com.au/zali_steggall_mp_seconds_bill_to_stop_live_animal_exports

ANDREW WILKIE, MP

LIVE EXPORT

Andrew Wilkie (Independent Federal Member for Clark in Tasmania) supports an "end to the vile live animal export trade", stating that "live animal export is systemically cruel".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

While not explicitly supporting a ban, in correspondence with the ADO Mr Wilkie's policy team noted that he "is not convinced that the animal welfare standards which are currently in place are adequate or properly enforced, or that sufficient monitoring of the practice takes place".

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Supports the establishment of such an office, and "seconded the Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2013".[2]

OTHER POLICIES

Supports bans on duck hunting[3] and greyhound racing.[4]

REFERENCES

- [1]<https://andrewwilkie.org/statement-on-resumption-of-live-sheep-exports/>
[2]<https://andrewwilkie.org/project/independent-office-of-animal-welfare/>
[3]<https://andrewwilkie.org/make-this-duck-hunting-season-the-last/>
[4]<https://andrewwilkie.org/its-beyond-time-tassie-banned-greyhound-racing/>

ZOE DANIEL

LIVE EXPORT

Zoe Daniel (independent candidate for Goldstein, Victoria) believes that "the live animal export trade should be wound up".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

From correspondence with Ms Daniel's team, her campaign has no policy on this issue.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

From correspondence with Ms Daniel's team, her campaign has no policy on this issue.

REFERENCES

[1] www.zoedaniel.com.au/policies/policy-faqs/

ALLEGRA SPENDER

LIVE EXPORT

Allegra Spender (independent candidate for Wentworth, NSW) supports an "end [to] live exports of sheep and cattle".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

From correspondence with Ms Spender's team, her campaign has no policy on this issue.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Supports the establishment of such an office.[2]

REFERENCES

[1] www.allegraspender.com.au/more_policy_positions

[2] *ibid.*

SOPHIE SCAMPS

LIVE EXPORT

Dr Sophie Scamps (independent candidate for Mackellar, NSW) is opposed to live animal exports, stating that "the practice is systemically cruel", and supports the development of "a plan to cease live animal exports".[1]

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policy found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policy found.

REFERENCES

[1] www.sophiescamps.com.au/faq

OTHER INDEPENDENTS

LIVE EXPORT

No policies found.

KANGAROO EXPORTS

No policies found.

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

No policies found.