Bureau of Animal Welfare

Biosecurity Victoria Division
Policy and Regulation
Bureau role – animal welfare & management

- Minister advising/correspondence
- Government Department advising/liaison
- Policy & legislation development
- Licensing role - research, rodeos
- Committees – HAC, AWAC, DAMIC, VHC, LICC, PISC AWWG, AAWS (groups), (ANZCAWG), IWG (pigs), WT&PC, Chairs AEC Committee, Writing Groups, NCCAW….
- Consultation/advising” with community, animal welfare organisations, interstate government, national government, activist groups…….stakeholders – letters, media, emails, phone calls
- Monitor International/interstate policy, OIE standards, EU, USA, Canada, internet (research, welfare organisations, gov’ts) & AWSCentre!
Bureau – policy development

- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994
- [Livestock Management Act?]
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
  : prevent cruelty
  : encourage considerate treatment of animals
  : improve the level of community awareness about prevention of cruelty
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986

- empowers inspectors (Police, DPI, RSPCA, Councils)
- cruelty offences/powers for inspectors/court powers
- licensing of use of animals in research and teaching
- rodeo licensing
- creates codes of practice (31 defence-guides, 5 regulated)
- can create regulations for most animal practices (e.g. POCTA (Domestic Fowl) Reg’s, prohibited procedures, LTS?)

Effectiveness of legislation-
- Department/government enforcement policy
- Codes not enforceable (unless regulated)/provide defence for cruelties without deadlines for alternatives
- Exemptions – Wildlife Act, CALP, Meat Industry Act, code compliance
- No reliable education or research funding mechanism/is about to change/AWSC efforts.
Policy example – pig code: stalls

- **Welfarists** – ban sow stalls now!/ethical view
  - not meat eaters/don’t keep pigs
  - don’t pay for changes they lobby for

- **Producers** – need stalls, care for pigs, make profit
  - pay for the changes/no $$reward

- **Consumers** – believe RSPCA, PETA, AA, TV
  - pig husbandry knowledge = 0
  - want cheap meat/imports ok
  - concern does not translate to buy

- **Government** – does not want to pay for cost
  - permits & enforces changes
  - permits imports/no discrimination

= Lack of policy holistic approach to achieve/protect welfare of animals

Combative/abusive/defensive relationship generally?
Future AW policy needs

1. Consumer attitudes/behaviour research
2. Producer education/training/community funded
3. Public education policy/develop AUS ethics
4. Apply domestic standards to imports
5. Community funding/grants for move to desirable alternatives
6. Research based changes/animal needs/ & Q’life
7. Welfare measurement/ research
8. Policy drivers– climate change, community protection, feed/water shortages, migration

9. AAWS driven national policy
The perfect regulator