

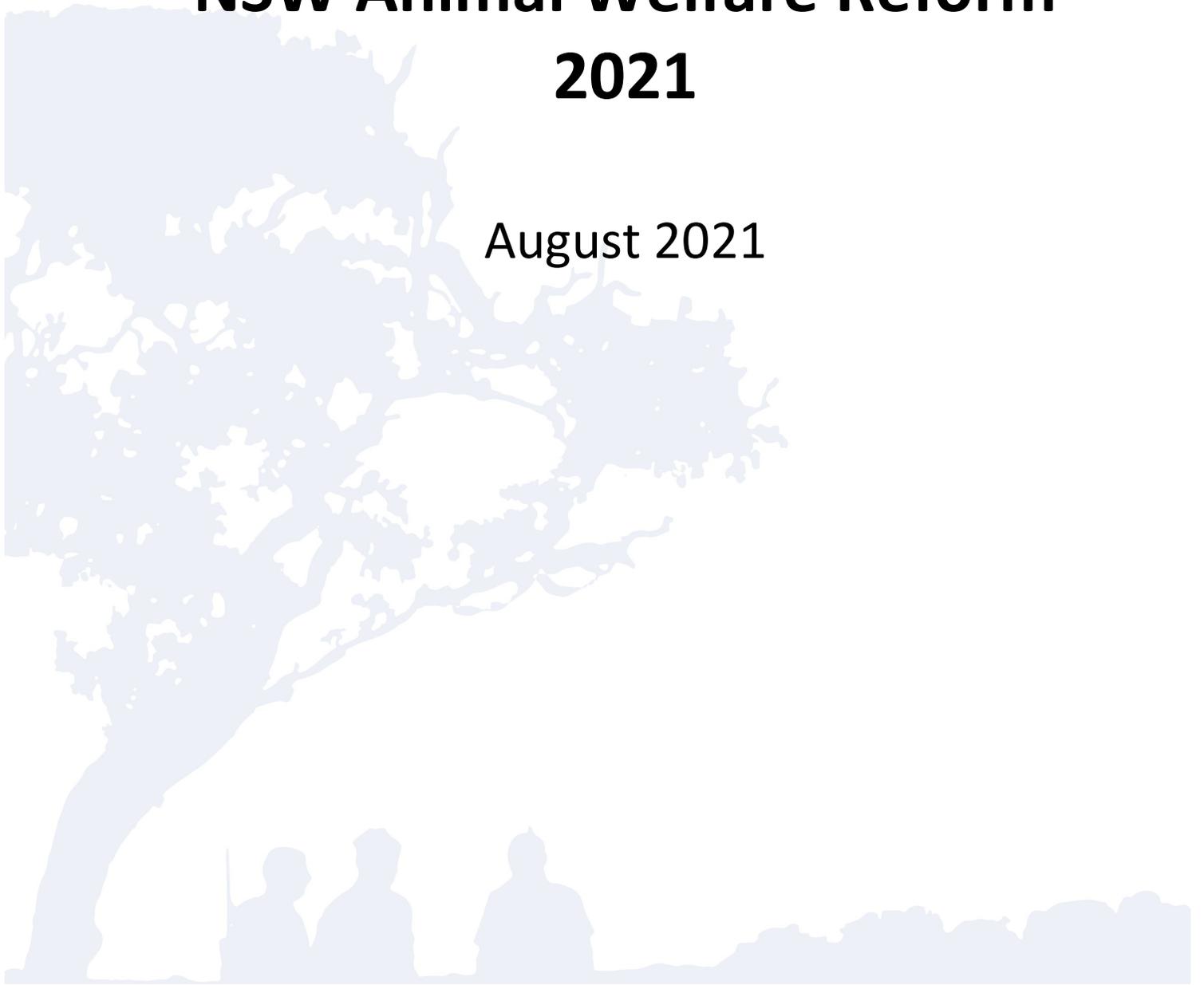
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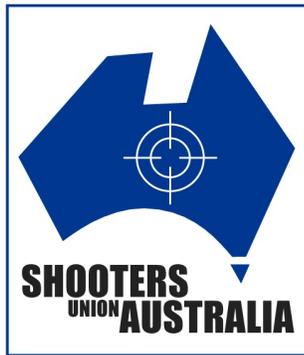
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Discussion Paper: NSW Animal Welfare Reform 2021

August 2021





Shooters Union NSW Pty Ltd thanks the NSW Department of Primary Industries on the opportunity to make a submission on the NSW Animal Welfare Reform 2021 Discussion Paper

Shooters Union NSW Pty Ltd is affiliated with the NSW Peak Shooting Body, the Game Management Council of New South Wales (Gamecon).

Shooters Union NSW Pty Ltd currently has 17,000 financial members that we represent on all shooting & hunting related matters.

At last count there was somewhere in the vicinity of 24 Peak Shooting Bodies recognised by the NSW Firearms Registry & NSW DPI in New South Wales.

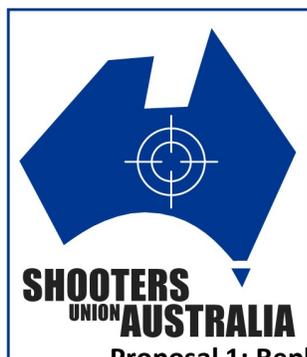
It is concerning that no group within the shooting & hunting sports have been included as Key Stakeholders targeted for consultation despite statistics from the NSW Department of Primary Industries showing that in the 2019-20 financial year, hunting was **worth more than \$1.4 billion** (by comparison, wool production in NSW is \$1.09 billion)

We are concerned at the blatant omission of peak hunting groups as Key Stakeholders targeted for consultation. Any discussion into animal welfare MUST include all stakeholders so a fair and balanced result is achieved.

It is our view that the NSW Animal Welfare Reform Discussion Paper includes veiled implications for legal hunting pursuits, particularly for those that legally pursue wild Pigs with appropriately trained Dogs.

We note that there has been no mention of the traditional or cultural importance of hunting for the purposes of obtaining food. Again, we see this a major oversight of this paper and an example as to why **ALL** stakeholder groups be included in consultation.

We will be monitoring the progress of this reform closely



Proposal 1: Replace the existing laws with a single, modern act.

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd supports the proposal to replace existing laws with a single, modern act.

A single Act that replaces multiple existing Acts across multiple jurisdictions can only be beneficial in legislative efficiency

Proposal 2: Update the objects of the law

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd supports updating the objects of the Act.

Potential laws must clearly and effectively explain the purpose of the law. Too often too much is left “to interpretation” of the laws resulting in unacceptable outcomes.

Proposal 3: Update definition of an animal

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has issue no with updating the definition of animal, and the inclusion of Decapod & Cephlapods, so long as any definition is backed up with scientific research & evidence.

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd also suggest that traditional & cultural harvest practices be exempt from penalty and be included in the list of proposed defences.

Proposal 4: Introduce a minimum care requirement

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd supports the introduction of a minimum care requirement provided that the minimum care requirement is concise and not open to interpretation.

Proposal 5: Update the definition of cruelty

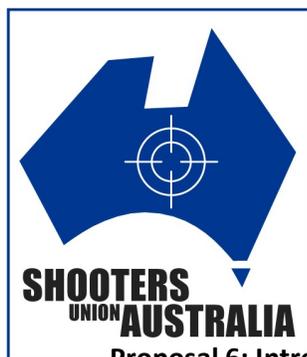
Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd believes that psychological be defined as cruelty only when the proposed minimum care requirements are not met.

Other than that, Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd is interested to hear how psychological suffering is determined?

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd asks **that all legal hunting methods be noted as exempt under the definition of cruelty.**

With the popularity of western or cluster fencing finding its way around NSW, Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd asks that:

1. the definition of Game Parks be reviewed and
2. That a review into the wellbeing of Macropods, and other native animals, as it relates to sufficient natural food & water and the restriction of natural migration routes on properties contained within western or cluster fencing.



Proposal 6: Introduce new offence and enhance existing offences

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd specifically asks that:

1. The legal practice of hunting wild Pigs with appropriately trained dogs be clearly defined as **NOT** animal fighting;
2. That dogs sold for the purpose of legal Pig hunting **NOT** be defined as being sold for animal fighting;
3. The preparation for legally hunting wild Pigs with dogs **NOT** be defined as preparing for animal fighting.
4. Videos, often used as training material for new hunters, that show the legal hunting of wild Pigs with appropriately trained dogs **NOT** be defined as cruelty material.
5. We also ask that all traditional legal methods of hunting with Gun Dog breeds be specifically defined as **NOT** animal fighting.

Proposal 7: Clarify prohibited and restricted procedures

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issue with Proposal 7

Proposal 8: Providing certainty for lawful activities

Fundamentally, Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issues with Proposal 8 however we have concerns as to what constitutes “unnecessary harm”

For instance, in the case of legally hunting wild Pigs with appropriately trained dogs, Pig hunting Dogs can range many hundreds of metres from their handlers and in the event a wild Pig is caught and brought to ‘bay’ it may be several minutes before a handler arrives on the scene.

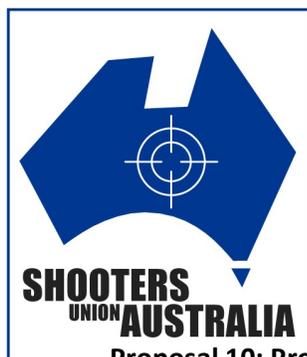
In this instance, a clear definition needs to be applied to “unnecessary harm”.

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd suggests that to prevent any confusion as it relates to “unnecessary harm” relating to legal hunting & fishing practices, that the relevant **NSW DPI Codes of Conduct** be included withing the NSW Animal Welfare Act.

Proposal 9: Introduce modern penalties framework with increased penalties

Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issue with the proposal to establish a consistent penalty framework.

In reference to Appendix A, we believe there should be the inclusion of greater penalties for re-offenders.



Proposal 10: Provide authorised officers with new powers to administer sedatives and/or pain relief.

Shooters union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issue with this proposal

Proposal 11: Enhance authorised officer powers of entry

Fundamentally Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issue with enhancing the powers of entry for authorised officers, provided:

1. All efforts have been made to contact the property owner and/or owner of the animals in question

Proposal 12: Provide Local Land Services & Council officers with powers in critical situations

Fundamentally Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd has no issue with proposal 12. We do ask that a clear definition of “critical situations” be available for LLS & Council officers for their protection.

Proposal 13: Consider enforcement arrangements

No comment

Proposal 14: Improve oversight of animal welfare enforcement activities

No comment

Proposal 15: Amend timeframes and processes related to enforcement agency rehoming of animals

No comment

Proposal 16: Standardise statutory limitation periods and authority to prosecute provisions.

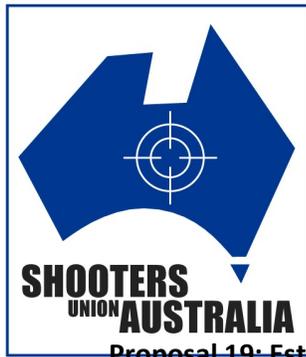
No comment

Proposal 17: Broaden the application of Stock Welfare Panels and improve their functioning

No comment

Proposal 18: Further improve the function of court orders

No comment



**Proposal 19: Establish licensing schemes and committees in the regulation
Shooters Union (NSW) Pty Ltd suggest that:**

1. The current licensing relating to firearms & hunting in NSW be recognised and
2. Any advisory Committees for the welfare of animals include representative of Peak Hunting organisations

**Proposal 20: Make other minor amendments to improve understanding and retain
elements of the existing legislation that are effective**

No comment

Thank you

Craig Golding
NSW State Co-ordinator
Shooters Union Australia

