

## NSW Election Scorecards – Responses

Ahead of the NSW Election 2023, the Alliance for Animals contacted all major parties and registered independent candidates in selected electorates asking for their responses to seven key policy issues (listed below). Six of these policies were included in the final scorecards. The following table sets out the responses received from each party or independent candidate and the Alliance's view of their position based on this response. In completing the table and scorecards, we took into consideration responses to our emails as well as policy statements in the previous term of government.

The scorecards were prepared to raise awareness of the interests of animals and prevent animal suffering by summarising the position of political parties on key animal welfare policy issues relevant to the charitable purposes of the Alliance. The scorecards represent the view of the Australian Alliance for Animals and should not be relied upon. The Alliance does not promote or oppose political parties or direct people on how to vote.

### Policy issues

We asked each party/candidate for their response to the following policy issues:

#### 1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act

Expediate the development of a new Animal Welfare Act including:

- recognition of animal sentience in the objects of the Act
- criteria for the development and adoption of codes and standards under the Act to ensure they are based on contemporary science, reflect community expectations, and do not prescribe practices that are inconsistent with the objects, principles and duties outlined in the Act.

#### 2. State Animal Welfare Authority

Establish a NSW Animal Welfare Authority as an independent statutory body under the new Animal Welfare Act with responsibility for administering the Act with an appropriate budget allocation to ensure adequate resourcing. (Note: this would not replace RSPCA and Animal Welfare League inspectors – they would report to the Authority).

#### 3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare

Elevate the importance of animal welfare within Government by recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio separate to the agriculture portfolio. (Note: partial tick available for including animal welfare in the title of an assistant ministerial portfolio).

#### 4. Phase out battery cages

Introduce legislation to implement the phase out of conventional battery cages in the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry with an end date of 2030.

#### 5. End native forest logging

Protect the welfare of threatened species such as koalas, greater gliders and gang-gang cockatoos by implementing a planned transition away from native forest logging to a sustainable timber industry.

#### 6. End puppy farming

Introduce legislation consistent with the [Companion Animals Amendment \(Puppy Farms\) Bill 2021](#) to end puppy farming.

#### 7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty

Implement the recommendations of the [Inquiry into the Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW](#).

## POLITICAL PARTIES

Parties contacted were those listed as registered on the NSW Election Commission website on 20 January 2023. For a full list of registered party names and abbreviations, see: <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-disclosure/public-register-and-lists/register-of-parties/state-register-of-parties>

NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from parties. <i>Italicised text</i> = Alliance commentary.	POSITION
<b>ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY</b>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The Animal Justice Party supports a stronger Animal Welfare Act that recognises animal sentience. Codes and standards developed under the Act must be based on contemporary science, reflect community expectations, and must not prescribe practices that are inconsistent with the objects, principles and duties outlined in the Act.</p> <p>There are many problems with the current legal system, as no animal is adequately protected by law.</p> <p>Our policy states:</p> <p>“The AJP will abolish the property status of animals and introduce uniform legislation protecting animals from human interference or harm. Until AJP’s uniform legislation is in place, we will also campaign to remove exemptions from existing animal welfare laws (e.g. industry codes of practice).</p> <p>The AJP will introduce new uniform legislation that guarantees the bodily security of nonhuman animals with protection from undue human interference. Animals should be seen as individuals, not property. The transition from exploited commodity to respected individual will require new laws and new thinking.”</p>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p>The Animal Justice Party seeks a new, independent, professional, government funded body with animal welfare and protection as its focus and mission: an Independent Office of Animal Protection. We will provide funding of \$50m to establish an Independent Office of Animal Protection that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• operate independently from the agricultural industries that exploit millions of animals each year</li> <li>• take on the role of developing policies, procedures, standards and guidelines for the protection of animals in NSW.</li> <li>• undertake policy analysis on the needs of all animals; farmed, native, introduced, companion, those used in entertainment and research and working/assistance animals</li> <li>• animal behaviour research and reviews of standards and guidelines and communicating findings on issues relevant to animal protection</li> <li>• monitor police enforcement (investigations and prosecutions) of animal protection laws, including receiving reports of serious incidents</li> <li>• conducting inquiries, and informing government of systemic reforms required in the animal protection system</li> <li>• inspect facilities where animals are kept for commercial and research purposes.</li> </ul>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>

	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p>A designated Minister for Animal Protection is long overdue. Animals deserve their own minister and establishing a ministerial portfolio would elevate animal protection issues. The Minister would be responsible for the proper administration and enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act and would have joint responsibility for the protection of native wildlife under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.</p> <p>The Minister would act on advice and recommendations from the Independent Office of Animal Protection and the Independent Commissioner for Wildlife.</p> <p>The Minister would be responsible for securing funding to advance animal protection and welfare.</p> <p>The Minister would be required to table an annual report to parliament detailing the improvements in animal welfare outcomes for farmed and native animals.</p> <p>Making the position a cabinet appointment would increase the awareness of the importance of animal protection in parliament and society more broadly.</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p>The Animal Justice Party supports the Introduction of legislation to implement the phase out of conventional battery cages in the new <a href="#">Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry</a> with an end date of 2030.</p> <p>Our policy states that the AJP:</p> <p>Supports a rapid phase out of battery hen cages</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>The Animal Justice Party supports a ban on native forest logging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will introduce a complete ban on the logging of native forests including state and private forests.</li> <li>• A \$50m fund will be established to compensate private landholders for any economic loss where they had entered into native forests logging contracts with the NSW Forestry Corporation</li> <li>• A “Landholder Guardianship of Native Forests” scheme will be established. Landholders will be able to apply for Native Forest Guardianship payments where their land has been assessed to be of significant environmental value in regards to biodiversity or the presence of endangered species such as the koala. Payments will be calculated on the basis of the monetary value of commercial logging contract rates.</li> </ul> <p>The Animal Justice Party also proposes the introduction of an Independent Commissioner for Wildlife whose role is to specifically advocate for the protection of wild animals. The Commissioner would be independent from government with the power to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implement systemic change by prioritising animal habitat over development</li> <li>• intervene in planning and development applications to enforce habitat protection.</li> </ul>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p>This is the Bill that the Hon. Emma Hurst passed through the NSW Legislative Council in November 2022.</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party calls for an immediate end to puppy and kitten farming across Australia. Animals currently in the industry must not be killed but, rather, adopted out.</p>	SUPPORTS

	<p>The Animal Justice Party is putting forward a plan to end puppy farming and to weed out dodgy backyard cat and dog breeders and to ensure safe homes for all pets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert pet shops to adoption centres</li> <li>• Registration system for breeders</li> <li>• Implement traceability for companion animals by integrating all state/territory systems into a national online register which documents the history of every animal from birth.</li> <li>• Mirroring the legislation in Victoria -Introduce a cap on the number of breeding dogs/cats, held at any one property and a cap on the number of litters a breeding dog/cat can have per year and over their lifetime.</li> <li>• Allocate sufficient resources to enforce animal protection laws in each state, including annual inspections and audits of breeders and breeding facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure that when puppy and kitten factories close, the animals are rehomed through appropriate rescue groups, and not killed</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>In 2021 the Animal Justice Party secured the Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW - the first of its kind in over 50 years.</p> <p>The Hon. Mark Pearson was Deputy Chair of the inquiry.</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party supports the implementation of all recommendations of the inquiry.</p> <p>The Animal Justice Party is also calling for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An immediate moratorium on the commercial killing of kangaroos.</li> <li>• An immediate moratorium on exclusion fencing, and a review of the impact of exclusion fencing on kangaroos and all native wildlife.</li> <li>• An independent review of all counting methodologies and population and data modelling.</li> <li>• Review and assessment of the impact of climate change on kangaroos - including impact of fires and floods on population numbers.</li> </ul> <p>Promotion of coexistence between farmers and landholders with kangaroos and all wildlife</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>
<p><b>AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (NSW BRANCH)</b></p>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>NSW Labor will introduce a new animal welfare framework in NSW to replace the outdated POCTA legislation. We will review the consultation conducted by government to date in determining the animal welfare framework we will legislate.</p>	<p><b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b></p>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p>NSW Labor will create a new independent Office of Animal Welfare. In doing so we will consult with our Federal colleagues to ensure the NSW office will complement the work currently being conducted by the Commonwealth.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p>Portfolio allocation and titles are a matter for the Premier after each election. NSW Labor acknowledges the importance of animal welfare in policy implementation and functions of government.</p>	<p><b>UNCLEAR</b></p>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p>	<p><b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b></p>

	<p>Labor supports the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry (the poultry standards). The most significant improvements to poultry welfare in the standards and guidelines made by the independent panel include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A phase-out of conventional layer hen ‘cages’ over 10 to 15 years (at the latest by 2036), depending on the age of current infrastructure.</li> <li>• A requirement to provide environmental enrichment for meat chicken breeders.</li> <li>• Changes to the minimum light intensity and required periods of darkness, ventilation, and temperature parameters for all species.</li> </ul> <p>A requirement to provide breeder ducks with access to bathing/dunking water.</p>	
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>Labor is committed to saving koalas and other threatened species by protecting their habitat. We are going to create a Great Koala National Park. We have allocated \$80mil to establish the park including 140,000ha of national parks and the assessment of 176,000has of state forest. Labor will also finalise a national parks establishment plan that will protect more areas into the future.</p> <p>Labor will work with landowners, native title entities, the forest industry, environment groups and workers and their unions on the management of forests at a regional landscape level focussing on an environmentally and economically sustainable approach, reducing reliance on native forests and meeting more of our timber demands from plantations.</p>	PARTIALLY SUPPORTS
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p>NSW Labor we will introduce legislation to ban puppy farms in NSW. The legislation will draw upon the recommendations from the <i>Puppy farming in New South Wales Report 2022</i> as well as the Victorian, Western Australian and South Australian puppy farming legislation. NSW will also review the funding arrangements for Approved Charitable Organisations (ACOs) legislated to conduct compliance and enforcement activities under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA) with a view developing and implementing a sustainable long-term funding model. Labor will also introduce a “fit and proper person” regime that will prevent people convicted of an aggravated animal cruelty offence, multiple animal cruelty offences or repeat animal cruelty offences from being involved in the keeping or breeding of companion animals.</p>	SUPPORTS

	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>Labor supports the recommendations of the Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in New South Wales Report.</p> <p>Kangaroos are an iconic native species. They have a very special place in the lives of many First Nations people and other Australians.</p> <p>Kangaroos are an emerging commercial industry. Unfortunately, kangaroos sometimes cause real difficulties for farmers and other land holders when their local populations grow very large. The committee inquiry examined the importance of kangaroos to First Nations people and the way that NSW regulates the commercial industry and licensing of non- commercial culling of kangaroos. The committee undertook important work and also examined the need to provide the highest level of animal welfare standards, use of the best science available to assess kangaroo populations and the need to manage the pressure on populations in peri urban areas.</p> <p>Labor will review the recommendations in this report, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the issues raised in this report prior to the finalisation of the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2022 – 2026.</li> <li>- ensuring that there are sufficient monitoring and compliance officers in the National Parks and Wildlife Service to be able to properly oversight the licensing system for non-commercial culling of kangaroos.</li> </ul>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<b>ELIZABETH FARRELLY INDEPENDENTS</b>	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>INFORMED MEDICAL OPTIONS PARTY (IMOP)</b>	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b>	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b> Not sure if another government organisation is necessary.	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b> I think this is not a priority that warrants a portfolio and minister.	<b>OPPOSES</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b> It is too blanket, and there are always exceptions.	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b> Depends on how humane it is.	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b> Have not had time to review the inquiry.	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>LEGALISE CANNABIS NSW PARTY</b>	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>

	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<b>LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY</b>	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA – NSW</b>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has committed to reforming animal welfare laws in NSW to ensure that the legislation keeps pace with the latest animal welfare science, community expectations, industry practises and technology. Whilst this has been a long process, it is something we want to get right.</p> <p>As you would be aware, in January 2022, the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 (Draft Bill) was released which marked the third opportunity for stakeholders and communities to have their say their say in shaping animal welfare laws in NSW.</p> <p>A parliamentary committee has reviewed the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 as part of the Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW. More information regarding this inquiry is available at the Parliament of NSW website. The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is currently considering feedback received on the Draft Bill prior to its introduction into Parliament. Importantly, the new Act will not commence until the new Regulations are finalised following public consultation.</p> <p>The NSW Liberal and National Government in 2023 announced a record investment of \$40.6 million in funding to improve the welfare of animals across the State. This funding boost will provide greater outcomes for animal rehoming organisations and crack down on animal abusers who violate the Governments strict animal cruelty laws.</p> <p>The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20.5 million for the RSPCA NSW to expand enforcement of animal cruelty laws</li> <li>• \$5.5 million Animal Welfare League to expand enforcement of animal cruelty laws</li> <li>• \$12 million to support the construction of new facilities for companion animal rehoming at the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home at Kurnell</li> <li>• \$1.5 million to the Cat Protection Society to deliver cat desexing programs</li> <li>• \$750,000 for Lucy’s Project, an organisation which improves access to support for people with animals experiencing domestic and family violence</li> <li>• \$350,000 to Greyhound Rescue to support the rehoming of greyhounds</li> </ul> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government additionally funded two additional initiatives worth over \$20 million, including a \$15.6 million digital renovation of the NSW Pet Registry and a new \$5 million grant program for animal rehoming organisations to improve rehoming outcomes and reduce euthanasia rates.</p>	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p><i>Response makes no reference to this policy.</i></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>

	<p><i>However, the Government provided the following response to a recommendation of the Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW to establish an independent statutory body for animal protection:</i></p> <p><b>Not supported</b></p> <p>The administration and enforcement of NSW's animal welfare laws are currently provided through a robust framework of agencies and groups, including the NSW DPI, NSW Police Force and the approved charitable organisations.</p>	
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<p><b>UNCLEAR</b></p>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p>In relation to poultry standards and guidelines, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to ensuring there is a national process for the implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Poultry Standards and Guidelines, designed to manage the welfare of birds used in egg and meat production.</p> <p><i>This response does not provide specific support for the phase out of battery cages.</i></p>	<p><b>UNCLEAR</b></p>
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government supports a sustainable renewable timber industry. Forestry Corporation has been appointed to manage State forests for a range of uses including tourism and environmental conservation as well as renewable timber production. Protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitat is a priority and there are detailed regulations that require feed trees and habitat for native fauna to be identified and protected. These regulations were developed by expert scientific panels on the basis of ongoing research and form part of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval, which the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) independently regulates. Forestry Corporation is also independently certified to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, Responsible Wood.</p> <p>Timber is the most renewable building product available; it stores carbon for the life of the products harvested and it has a lower carbon footprint than alternatives such as concrete or steel, and it is a product that is in high demand from communities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognises that sustainably managed production forests that maintain carbon in growing trees while producing an annual yield of timber, deliver a large, sustained climate change mitigation benefit. The regulations in place in NSW ensure this important resource continues to be produced responsibly.</p>	<p><b>OPPOSES</b></p>
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to safeguarding animal welfare in NSW and providing a strong regulatory framework to promote responsible animal ownership and care. This includes ensuring that NSW animal welfare laws are fit-for-purpose for everyone involved working with animals. The Animal Justice Party's Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021 does not meet this standard and as such, the Liberals and Nationals did not support bill.</p> <p>To improve breeder knowledge of regulatory requirements and help consumers make more informed decisions, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), supported by the Office of Local Government and NSW Fair Trading, and launched an education and awareness campaign for breeders and consumers in August 2022. The campaign aimed to improve the welfare of animals being bred by raising awareness of responsible breeding practices, legislative requirements, requirements when transferring ownership of companion animals and raise awareness of potential purchasing scams.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's responded to the NSW Parliament Legislative Council Select Committee on</p>	<p><b>OPPOSES</b></p>



	Puppy Farming in New South Wales in November 2022. The response can be found on the NSW Parliament website <a href="#">here</a> .	
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government also responded to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and other Macropods in April 2022. The response can be found <a href="#">here</a>. More information on the kangaroo program in NSW can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>The Government only supported 4 of the 23 recommendations of the Inquiry.</i></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
<b>PAULINE HANSON'S ONE NATION</b>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues, however, PHON members voted against the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.</i></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION PARTY</b>	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY (NSW) INCORPORATED</b>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues. The Party's farming and forestry policy is available here: <a href="https://www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au/nsw_policies-new">https://www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au/nsw_policies-new</a></i></p> <p><b>Supporting the NSW timber industry</b></p> <p>The NSW timber industry employs more than 22,000 people and generates more than \$2 billion each year. For too long both major political parties have been held hostage by the extremist inner city Greens. Timber is a sustainable industry that has been badly affected by political games. The Shooters and Fishers Party support a return to working forests.</p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>

	<i>No response received to request for policy issues, however, SFF members voted against the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.</i>	
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues. The Party's farming and forestry policy is available here:</i>  <a href="https://www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au/nsw_policies-new">https://www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au/nsw_policies-new</a></p> <p>Kangaroo culling  Amend current National Parks and Wildlife legislation to enable kangaroos culled by farmers or volunteer conservation hunters (in non-commercial zones) to be lawfully utilised rather than go to waste.</p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
<b>SOCIALIST ALLIANCE</b>	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<p>Specifically we support:</p> <p><u>Animal welfare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End live animal exports</li> <li>• Abolish the cruel and inhumane use of animals for sport, recreation or entertainment</li> <li>• Mandate alternatives to shark nets and the culling of sharks</li> <li>• Ban trophy hunting of all animals, including Australian native water birds</li> <li>• End the inhumane intensive factory farming of animals</li> <li>• Support comprehensive and enforceable standards for free-range farming practices for all animals</li> </ul> <p><u>Save our forests and green spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End logging in native forests, transition to plantation timbers</li> <li>• End land clearing and logging in important water catchments to preserve water quality</li> <li>• Build the Great Koala National Park corridor through the Coffs Harbour hinterland</li> <li>• Create more parks and green space in urban areas, including wildlife corridors</li> <li>• Create and fund alternative employment for logging communities</li> <li>• End toxic incinerators in regional NSW and Sydney's Western suburbs</li> <li>• Boost sustainable recycling of waste, including plastic bags</li> </ul> <p>Our full policy platform is here:  <a href="https://socialist-alliance.org/2023-new-south-wales-state-election/people-before-profit-nsw-election-march-25">https://socialist-alliance.org/2023-new-south-wales-state-election/people-before-profit-nsw-election-march-25</a></p>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY – STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT/ CORRUPTION</b>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) supports science and evidence-based approach to policy. SAP therefore supports a stronger Animal Welfare Act as proposed, including recognition of animal sentience in the objects of the Act, and criteria for the development and adoption of codes and standards under the Act to ensure they are based on contemporary science, reflect</p>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>

	<p>community expectations, and do not prescribe practices that are inconsistent with the objects, principles and duties outlined in the Act.</p> <p>As outlined in SAP's 'Animals &amp; Biodiversity' policy [<a href="https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_and_biodiversity">https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_and_biodiversity</a>], we call for governments to "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments." A stronger Animal Welfare Act is consistent with this policy.</p>	
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party supports the establishment of a NSW Animal Welfare Authority as an independent statutory body under the new Animal Welfare Act with responsibility for administering the Act with an appropriate budget allocation to ensure adequate resourcing.</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party supports elevating the importance of animal welfare within Government by recognising animal welfare within the title of a ministerial portfolio separate to the agriculture portfolio.</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) supports the introduction of legislation to implement the phase out of conventional battery cages in the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry with an end date of 2030.</p> <p>Again, this is consistent with SAP's calls for governments to "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments."</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) supports a moratorium on all native forest logging.</p> <p>As outlined in SAP's 'Environment' policy, all economic development including logging, housing development, mining, etc should avoid all habitats of threatened, vulnerable and endangered native species.</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) supports an end to unregulated puppy farming and the implementation of laws to properly regulate the conduct of businesses breeding companion animals.</p> <p>Again, this is consistent with SAP's calls for governments to "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments."</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) supports the implementation of the recommendations of the Inquiry into the Health and wellbeing of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW.</p> <p>Again, this is consistent with SAP's calls for governments to "Implement mandatory and independently regulated best practice animal welfare management in farming, agriculture, conservation, research, sporting, breeding and domestic environments."</p>	SUPPORTS

<p><b>THE GREENS NSW</b></p>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The Greens will overhaul existing animal welfare and anti-cruelty legislation to bring it into line with modern science and community expectations, and remove cruelty exemptions. We introduced the <a href="#">Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Animal Sentience) Bill 2022</a> in August 2022 which addressed some aspects of this ask, and are committed to continuing the fight for these overdue reforms in the new Parliament.</p> <p>We make specific commitments with regards to intensive animal agriculture which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An end to battery cages by 2030 and a ban on debeaking and forced moulting of hens in the egg production industry.</li> <li>● A ban on sow stalls and farrowing crates brought into effect over a rapid two year transition to enforce the industry's failure to self-regulate a phase out.</li> <li>● Mandated shade for farm animals to protect from extreme temperatures and support for farmers to install shade structures and plant shade tree shelter belts.</li> <li>● Tightening animal transport standards, including density limits and restricting the amount of time farmed animals can spend in transit.</li> </ul> <p>We note that this does not preclude support for further anti-cruelty measures.</p> <p>Additionally, we will commit to a phase out of mulesing via: An immediate requirement for pain relief administered before and immediately following mulesing and tail docking, and ongoing pain relief</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p>The Greens will establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare (or similar name) responsible for advising on animal welfare and protection issues, and for monitoring compliance with and enforcement of animal welfare laws, in line with the <a href="#">Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2022</a> introduced by the Greens in November 2022. We are committed to appropriately resourcing the Independent Office to ensure it succeeds.</p> <p>The Independent Office will take over companion animal matters from the Office of Local Government and farmed animal matters and animal medical research oversight from the Department of Primary Industries. The Independent office will also work closely with the Department of Planning and Environment on wild, native and introduced animal matters, and will take responsibility for animal welfare issues relating to racing and entertainment from the Office of Racing. We will also ensure adequate oversight and accountability of RSPCA and Animal Welfare League inspectorate programs through the Independent Office of Animal Welfare.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p>To complement the establishment of an Independent Office for Animal Welfare, the Greens also appoint a Minister for Animal Welfare. The Minister will work closely with, but not have oversight over, the Independent Office, and will never also hold Agriculture or Racing portfolios.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p>The worst of industrial agriculture has been allowed to flourish under lax regulation in NSW. As a part of our commitment to prioritise a rapid transition away from factory farming, the Greens will end the use of conventional battery cages by 2030. This continues our long-standing and vocal commitment to end battery cages.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>

	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>The Greens plan will immediately end of native forest logging, with a transition to 100% sustainable plantation on marginal agricultural land that has been previously cleared of native vegetation.</p>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p> <p>The Greens have been long-standing and vocal opponents to puppy farming in NSW. In addition to committing to legislate against puppy farms in line with the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021, we will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mandate breeder registration and introducing regular compliance requirements.</li> <li>● Raise welfare standards in the breeding Code of Practice and make them enforceable.</li> <li>● Cap animal numbers, with limits on fertile female animals per breeder, total animals on a single property and total litters whelped per female animal.</li> <li>● Restrict breeding of brachycephalic breeds.</li> <li>● Ban surgical artificial insemination.</li> <li>● Give power back to councils and local residents to oppose intensive commercial breeding facilities in their community.</li> <li>● Establish prior animal cruelty charges as grounds for breeding facility development application refusal.</li> <li>● Ban pet shops from selling companion animals except in partnership with animal shelters and rescues.</li> </ul> <p>Make desexing at the point of sale or adoption mandatory for everyone except registered breeders</p>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>The Greens chaired this inquiry and we are committed to implementing the recommendations. We also support stronger protection measures, and will prohibit all commercial killing of native wildlife populations, including kangaroos.</p>	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<p><b>THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION</b></p>	<p><b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has committed to reforming animal welfare laws in NSW to ensure that the legislation keeps pace with the latest animal welfare science, community expectations, industry practises and technology. Whilst this has been a long process, it is something we want to get right.</p> <p>As you would be aware, in January 2022, the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 (Draft Bill) was released which marked the third opportunity for stakeholders and communities to have their say their say in shaping animal welfare laws in NSW.</p> <p>A parliamentary committee has reviewed the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 as part of the Inquiry into Animal Welfare Policy in NSW. More information regarding this inquiry is available at the Parliament of NSW website. The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is currently considering feedback received on the Draft Bill prior to its introduction into Parliament. Importantly, the new Act will not commence until the new Regulations are finalised following public consultation.</p> <p>The NSW Liberal and National Government in 2023 announced a record investment of \$40.6 million in funding to improve the welfare of animals across the State. This funding boost will provide greater outcomes for animal rehoming organisations and crack down on animal abusers who violate the Governments strict animal cruelty laws.</p> <p>The funding includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20.5 million for the RSPCA NSW to expand enforcement of animal cruelty laws</li> <li>• \$5.5 million Animal Welfare League to expand enforcement of animal cruelty laws</li> </ul>	<b>PARTIALLY SUPPORTS</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$12 million to support the construction of new facilities for companion animal rehoming at the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home at Kurnell</li> <li>• \$1.5 million to the Cat Protection Society to deliver cat desexing programs</li> <li>• \$750,000 for Lucy's Project, an organisation which improves access to support for people with animals experiencing domestic and family violence</li> <li>• \$350,000 to Greyhound Rescue to support the rehoming of greyhounds</li> </ul> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government additionally funded two additional initiatives worth over \$20 million, including a \$15.6 million digital renovation of the NSW Pet Registry and a new \$5 million grant program for animal rehoming organisations to improve rehoming outcomes and reduce euthanasia rates.</p>	
	<p><b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b></p> <p><i>Response makes no reference to this policy.</i></p> <p><i>However, the Government provided the following response to a recommendation of the Select Committee on Animal Cruelty Laws in NSW to establish an independent statutory body for animal protection:</i></p> <p><b>Not supported</b></p> <p>The administration and enforcement of NSW's animal welfare laws are currently provided through a robust framework of agencies and groups, including the NSW DPI, NSW Police Force and the approved charitable organisations.</p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
	<p><b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b></p> <p><i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>4. Phase out battery cages</b></p> <p>In relation to poultry standards and guidelines, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to ensuring there is a national process for the implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Poultry Standards and Guidelines, designed to manage the welfare of birds used in egg and meat production.</p> <p><i>This response does not provide specific support for the phase out of battery cages.</i></p>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
	<p><b>5. End native forest logging</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government supports a sustainable renewable timber industry. Forestry Corporation has been appointed to manage State forests for a range of uses including tourism and environmental conservation as well as renewable timber production.</p> <p>Protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitat is a priority and there are detailed regulations that require feed trees and habitat for native fauna to be identified and protected. These regulations were developed by expert scientific panels on the basis of ongoing research and form part of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval, which the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) independently regulates. Forestry Corporation is also independently certified to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management, Responsible Wood.</p> <p>Timber is the most renewable building product available; it stores carbon for the life of the products harvested and it has a lower carbon footprint than alternatives such as concrete or steel, and it is a product that is in high demand from communities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognises that sustainably managed production forests that maintain carbon in growing trees while producing an annual yield of timber, deliver a large, sustained climate change mitigation benefit. The regulations in place in NSW ensure this important resource continues to be produced responsibly.</p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
	<p><b>6. End puppy farming</b></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>

	<p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to safeguarding animal welfare in NSW and providing a strong regulatory framework to promote responsible animal ownership and care. This includes ensuring that NSW animal welfare laws are fit-for-purpose for everyone involved working with animals. The Animal Justice Party's Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021 does not meet this standard and as such, the Liberals and Nationals did not support bill.</p> <p>To improve breeder knowledge of regulatory requirements and help consumers make more informed decisions, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), supported by the Office of Local Government and NSW Fair Trading, and launched an education and awareness campaign for breeders and consumers in August 2022. The campaign aimed to improve the welfare of animals being bred by raising awareness of responsible breeding practices, legislative requirements, requirements when transferring ownership of companion animals and raise awareness of potential purchasing scams.</p> <p>In addition, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's responded to the NSW Parliament Legislative Council Select Committee on Puppy Farming in New South Wales in November 2022. The response can be found on the NSW Parliament website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government also responded to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and other Macropods in April 2022. The response can be found <a href="#">here</a>. More information on the kangaroo program in NSW can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>The Government only supported 4 of the 23 recommendations of the Inquiry.</i></p>	<b>OPPOSES</b>
<b>THE SMALL BUSINESS PARTY</b>	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>

## INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Independent candidates contacted were those listed as registered on the NSW Election Commission website on 20 February 2023 from the following electorates: Ballina, East Hills, Heathcote, Leppington, Lismore, Londonderry, Manly, North Shore, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Ryde, Sydney.

NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from parties. <i>Italicised text</i> = Alliance commentary.	POSITION
<b>BALLINA</b> Kevin Loughrey	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>MANLY</b> Joeline Hackman	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b> I support a stronger Animal Welfare Act.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b> I support a State Animal Welfare Authority.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b> I support Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b> I support the phase out of battery cages.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b> I support ending native forest logging.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b> I support ending puppy farming.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b> I support protecting kangaroos from cruelty.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<b>NORTH SHORE</b> Helen Conway	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b> I support a stronger Animal Welfare Act.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b> I support a State Animal Welfare Authority.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b> I support Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b> I support the phase out of battery cages.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b> I support ending native forest logging.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b> I support ending puppy farming.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b> I support protecting kangaroos from cruelty.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<b>PENRITH</b> Geoffrey Duncan	<i>No response received to request for policy issues.</i>	<b>UNCLEAR</b>
<b>PITTWATER</b> Jacqui Scruby	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b> I support a stronger Animal Welfare Act. I would not support a code or regulation that unacceptably compromises the ability to effectively manage feral/ pest animals that are harmful to native	<b>SUPPORTS</b>



	wildlife and ecosystems. However, with the information currently available, I am satisfied the new object and criteria proposed here would not lead to that outcome.	
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b> I support a State Animal Welfare Authority.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b> I support Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b> I support the phase out of battery cages.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b> I support ending native forest logging.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b> I support ending puppy farming.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b> I support protecting kangaroos from cruelty.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
<b>SYDNEY</b> <b>Alex Greenwich</b>	<b>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</b> I support a stronger Animal Welfare Act.  New South Wales law has not protected animals from harm but rather sanctioned their suffering for profit. We need an overarching animal welfare act that recognises that animals are sentient and puts protecting them from suffering at the forefront of regulating animal policies and practices.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>2. State Animal Welfare Authority</b> I support a State Animal Welfare Authority.  Including animal welfare as an add-on in the agriculture/primary industries department creates a conflict of interest and has seen policy and laws give priority to industry profit at the expense of animals. A new authority could not only turn this around but promote innovation in the treatment of animals and provide advice on animal welfare to government.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>3. Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare</b> I support Ministerial portfolio recognition of animal welfare.  Animals' lives are intertwined with ours, from being our companions to using them in industry and living with them in our environment. Yet their needs have no voice in government or in cabinet. It is time that they were represented through a ministerial portfolio separate to agriculture so that they have an advocate in decisions that affect them.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>4. Phase out battery cages</b> I support the phase out of battery cages.  I have been calling for a phase-out of battery cages since I was elected through speeches, questions and discussions with colleagues across party lines. New South Wales must stop blocking national reform and help industry move forward without cruelty.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>5. End native forest logging</b> I support ending native forest logging.  Ending native forest logging is a priority for me and has been since I was elected. It is more important than ever in the face of climate change that we protect threatened species' habitat and remaining carbon sinks.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>
	<b>6. End puppy farming</b> I support ending puppy farming.	<b>SUPPORTS</b>

	<p>Puppy farming has no place in a modern humane society. I am a co-sponsor of the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill and remain committed to this bill becoming law.</p>	
	<p><b>7. Protect kangaroos from cruelty</b></p> <p>I support protecting kangaroos from cruelty.</p> <p>I oppose kangaroo culling and share concerns about cruelty and secrecy in the industry. I support the recommendations of the inquiry to protect kangaroos from harm and ensure their populations remain sustainable into the future.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTS</b></p>