

Tasmanian Election Scorecards – Responses

Ahead of the Tasmanian Election 2024, the Alliance for Animals contacted all registered parties asking for their responses to seven key policy issues (listed below). The following table sets out the responses received from each party and the Alliance's view of their position based on this response. In completing the scorecards, we took into consideration responses to our emails, publicly available policy statements and decisions made while in government or opposition.

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.

All scorecards are accessible on the Alliance website: <http://www.allianceforanimals.org.au/tas-election-2024>.

Policy issues

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

1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act

Review the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* to reflect contemporary science and community expectations, 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 consistency with its objects, principles and duties.

2. Animal Welfare Authority

Strengthen animal welfare enforcement arrangements by establishing an independent statutory animal welfare authority under the Animal Welfare Act with responsibility for administering the Act, and with an appropriate budget allocation to ensure adequate resourcing. *(Note: this would not replace RSPCA inspectors – they would report to the Authority).*

3. Minister for 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: this does not require a ministerial position dedicated solely to animal welfare but can include animal welfare alongside other responsibilities).*

4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs

Introduce legislation to mandate the use of CCTV in all slaughter facilities (abattoirs and knackereries) including provisions for regulators to access the footage for compliance monitoring purposes.

5. Reform racing

End public funding of thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing by 2029. Establish an independent statutory body (such as an Animal Welfare Authority or Commission), separate to the Office of Racing Integrity, to set and oversee animal welfare standards, compliance monitoring and enforcement within the industry. *(Note: partial tick available for supporting one of these two policies.)*

6. 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.

7. End mulesing of sheep

Introduce regulations to phase out the mulesing of lambs by 2030 under the Animal Welfare (Sheep) Regulations 2023.

PARTY NAME	RESPONSE Plain text = direct responses from parties. <i>Italicised text</i> = Alliance for Animals commentary.	POSITION
ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY <i>The AJP provided their response to our request for policies on 1/3/2024</i>	<p>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</p> <p>We strongly support this objective and would work actively towards it if elected. Many of our policies reference stronger protection for non-human animals, but this introductory statement from our Animal Law policy is a good summation: "The Animal Justice Party (AJP) seeks a new legal framework for animals which protects their right to live free from human harm."</p> <p>Specifically, Point 2 of the Animal Law Policy states: "abolish the property status of animals and introduce uniform legislation that recognises animal sentience and protects animals from harm (for more on sentience, see our Animal Definition Policy)."</p> <p>https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/animal_law</p> <p>Point 4 of our Animal Definition Policy states: "Support changes to animal protection legislation to recognise animal sentience and its rich complexity, and to incorporate the Animal Sentience Precautionary Principle as a new guiding principle to afford protection for more animals."</p> <p>https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/animal_definition</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>2. Animal Welfare Authority</p> <p>A well-funded, truly independent office of animal protection is the only way to ensure effective enforcement of improved legislation.</p> <p>Point 4 of our Animal Law policy states "Introduce a publicly-funded Independent Office of Animal Protection (IOAP) in each state and territory to oversee and enforce the new legislation and at a federal level with the responsibility to coordinate and provide national leadership on animal protection."</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>3. Minister for Animal Welfare</p> <p>Strongly supported. Point 1 of our Animal Law policy states "Establish a designated Minister for Animal Protection in all federal, state and territory governments who would oversee the administration and enforcement of animal protection legislation."</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs</p> <p>Strongly supported and stated in Point 10 of our Animal Agriculture policy: "Require the installation of mandatory Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in all factory farms and slaughterhouses, with independent monitoring (possibly by Artificial Intelligence)."</p> <p>Full Animal Agriculture policy here - https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/animal_agriculture</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>5. Reform racing</p> <p>This is one of AJP Tasmania's key election platforms. We are committed to ending all thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing in Tasmania. In the lead up to this, ending public funding of the industry is a priority, as is the establishment of an independent statutory body.</p> <p>AJP Policies support this:</p> <p><i>Greyhound Racing Policy</i>, point 3: "Redirect government funding and subsidies into transitioning those employed by the industry into non-exploitative jobs and careers."</p>	SUPPORTS

	<p>https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/greyhound_racing</p> <p><i>Animals in Entertainment Policy</i></p> <p>Point1: "To work towards ending all animal racing, beginning with greyhound and jumps racing."</p> <p>Point 5: "To redirect government funding and subsidies away from any industries that use animals for entertainment. Instead these subsidies should flow to education programs which raise awareness about the cruel realities in these industries. Our ultimate goal is to eliminate them."</p> <p>https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/animals_in_entertainment</p> <p><i>Horse Racing, Jumps, Harness Policy</i></p> <p>Point 9: "Redirect government bailouts and subsidies to other sectors such as human and environmental health and education. Also use funds to assist those who work within the industry to retrain into new, non-exploitative employment."</p> <p>https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/horse_racing_jumps_harness</p>	
	<p>6. Phase out battery cages</p> <p>Strongly supported.</p> <p>The AJP Animal Agriculture Policy states "The Animal Justice Party (AJP) is opposed to the exploitation of animals through farming and slaughter for meat, dairy, eggs, fibre, fur and other products."</p> <p>Interim measures while seeking this goal support the objective to phase out battery cages:</p> <p>Point 2 : "Rapidly phase out and ban factory farming, including aquaculture."</p> <p>Point 4: "Remove the loopholes, exemptions and defences in existing laws that allow cruel farming practices to occur legally (see Animal Law Policy)."</p> <p>Point 5: "Prohibit routine surgical mutilation of farmed animals (such as castration, tail docking, teeth and beak trimming and mulesing) unless essential for the animal's benefit and then performed with anaesthetic."</p> <p>Point 6: "Require that all farmed animals live in an environment with space and resources that enable them to perform innate species-specific behaviours with kin and are not confined in cages or other restrictive enclosures."</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>7. End mulesing of sheep</p> <p>Strongly supported.</p> <p>The AJP Animal Agriculture Policy states "The Animal Justice Party (AJP) is opposed to the exploitation of animals through farming and slaughter for meat, dairy, eggs, fibre, fur and other products."</p> <p>Interim measures while seeking this goal support the objective to end mulesing of sheep:</p> <p>Point 4: "Remove the loopholes, exemptions and defences in existing laws that allow cruel farming practices to occur legally (see Animal Law Policy)."</p> <p>Point 5: "Prohibit routine surgical mutilation of farmed animals (such as castration, tail docking, teeth and beak trimming and mulesing) unless essential for the animal's benefit and then performed with anaesthetic."</p>	SUPPORTS
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY – TASMANIAN BRANCH	<p>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</p> <p><i>A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act was introduced by the Liberal government in 2022. The Alliance for Animals made a submission during the public consultation process which recommended that the bill included:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>recognition of animal sentience in the objects of the Act</i></p>	OPPOSES

<p>No response received to our request for policy issues.</p> <p>The policies listed here are based on Labor's policy platform and decisions while in opposition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> criteria for the development and adoption of codes and standards under the Act to ensure consistency with its objects, principles and duties. <p>The bill was enacted on 30 Nov 2022 without these additions. During its passage through parliament, Labor supported the government's bill and did not support the Greens' amendments for sentience recognition. Labor have made no commitment for further review of the Act.</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p>http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/tas/num_act/awaa202236o2022254/</p> <p>https://search.parliament.tas.gov.au/search/isysquery/d4300543-90e5-4b97-8978-191441aac61e/7/doc/</p>	
	<p>2. Animal Welfare Authority</p> <p>A Rebecca White Labor Government will further deliver for Tasmanian farmers through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing \$1.05 million in additional funding over three years for animal welfare. <p>Labor recognises the need for a properly funded animal welfare inspectorate service.</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p>https://taslabor.org.au/news/policy-announcements/putting-farmers-first/</p> <p>https://taslabor.org.au/media/izbd0lfh/chapter-2-maximising-tasmanias-resources-platform.pdf</p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>3. Minister for Animal Welfare</p> <p>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs</p> <p>A Rebecca White Labor Government will further deliver for Tasmanian farmers through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing \$1.05 million in additional funding over three years for animal welfare, including improving operations in our livestock processing sector to ensure better animal welfare outcomes, including the introduction of mandatory video surveillance. <p>Source: https://taslabor.org.au/news/policy-announcements/putting-farmers-first/</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>5. Reform racing</p> <p>Racing policy</p> <p>The policy commits to get Tasmanian racing back on track after years of neglect and turmoil under the Liberals. Our first step will be to set a positive future vision for the industry. In our first 100 days in office we will bring together participants from all codes for a racing forum to set the long term vision for racing in our state.</p> <p>We will immediately get the Office of Racing Integrity functioning by appointing a senior, external person to act as Director of Racing until the Monteith Review can be implemented. This role will be critical in ensuring the cases identified by Ray Murrhiy can be immediately dealt with. There will be no further delays under a Labor Government.</p> <p>We are also committed to implement the Monteith Review with the new structure in place by the end of 2024.</p>	PARTIAL SUPPORT

	<p>In consultation with the industry, we will commit to a new, 20 year funding deed by 30 June 2025. We know that long term certainty is critical to ensuring confidence for breeding and capital investments. After the past year, participants need a government that has their back and understands the economic and social value of racing. We will also provide an increase of \$150,000 for breeding incentive schemes in 2024-25 and seek to incorporate breeding incentives into TasRacing funding deed thereafter. Breeders had a very difficult sales period this year with significant pressure now on many businesses. It's not hard to see why sales were down given the state of the industry over the past 12 months.</p> <p>For greyhounds, we will initiate an independent review of the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) with the objective to increase its rehoming capacity. It is clear that Tasmania's GAP program has been underperforming in terms of the number of dogs moving through the program and into new homes. We want to see rapid improvement.</p> <p>Tasmanian Labor is committed to the northwest track. We will work with TasRacing to ensure its built. While the cost has escalated, the cost to the industry if it does not go ahead could be even greater. There will be economic impacts across the northwest from the shutdown of greyhound racing and further pressure on harness racing.</p> <p>Participants were ejected from the Devonport Showgrounds and promised a new track. A deal is a deal and it is shameful that Felix Ellis released a racing policy without committing to the track that the Liberals promised.</p> <p>After 10 years of Liberal Government, racing has taken a hammering. Tasmania was the only state to shut down racing during COVID, Devonport Showgrounds was shut down, race meetings were cancelled due to poor track management at both Mowbray and Elwick and racing was almost lost on King Island.</p> <p>Tasmanian Racing needs a Labor Government to clean up harness racing and ensure higher animal welfare standards.</p> <p>Source: https://taslabor.org.au/news/media-releases/labor-s-policy-to-get-racing-back-on-track/</p>	
	<p>6. Phase out battery cages</p> <p>Labor supports world-leading animal welfare standards in food production, including restrictions on sow stall and cage-egg production, and will assist industry to adapt to changing consumer preferences in this area.</p> <p>Source: https://taslabor.org.au/media/izbd0lfh/chapter-2-maximising-tasmanias-resources-platform.pdf</p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>7. End mulesing of sheep</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
JACQUI LAMBIE NETWORK	<p>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
<i>No response received to our request for policy issues.</i>	<p>2. Animal Welfare Authority</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>3. Minister for Animal Welfare</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR

	<p>4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>5. Reform racing <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>6. Phase out battery cages <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>7. End mulesing of sheep <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
<p>THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA DIVISION</p> <p><i>UPDATED</i> <i>The Liberals provided their response to our request for policies on 17/3/2024.</i></p>	<p>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act My Government strengthened the Animal Welfare Act 1993 through two amendment processes, the most recent of which was enacted in 2022. These amendments included increased the penalties, strengthened inspection and enforcement powers and banning pronged collars. These amendments were developed in close consultation with the RSPCA and Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. A re-elected majority Liberal Government will continue to identify ways to improve animal welfare measures, first focusing on the review of the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016 which provide standards for the care, housing, health of dogs.</p>	OPPOSES
	<p>2. Animal Welfare Authority The Liberals support the current arrangements for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act 1993. I am advised that since 1997, Biosecurity Tasmania and the RSPCA Inspectorate have had a formal arrangement in place in relation to responding to and investigating allegations or reports of animal cruelty. The Act also establishes the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which continues to provide advice to the Tasmanian Government on animal welfare matters. Under our 2030 Strong Plan, a re-elected majority Liberal Government will provide \$3.2 million over four years for the RSPCA to continue to carry out its vital work safeguarding animal welfare and providing advice to government on animal welfare matters.</p>	OPPOSES
	<p>3. Minister for Animal Welfare No. Animal welfare will be a consideration under multiple portfolios including but not limited to Primary Industries and Water, Parks and Wildlife and Racing.</p>	OPPOSES
	<p>4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs Under our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmanian's Future, a re-elected majority Liberal Government will mandate video surveillance in all Tasmanian abattoirs, including contemporary and auditable video surveillance systems, and the provision of workforce development and training for processing staff.</p>	SUPPORTS
	<p>5. Reform racing A re-elected majority Liberal Government will deliver the largest integrity reforms in decades through the Racing Regulation and Integrity Bill, which is based on evidence and industry best practice. The delivery of this reform will provide the Tasmanian racing industry with a modern, effective and fit-for-purpose model for regulation and</p>	PARTIAL SUPPORT

	<p>integrity. This includes \$1.9 million in funding to progress the new integrity model.</p> <p>This funding will help establish the independent Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner with comprehensive oversight of the administration and regulation of the Tasmanian racing industry. It will also ensure Tasracing is appropriately resourced to be operationally responsible for all three codes of racing, including pre-race day and race day management, stewards and daily animal welfare.</p> <p>A re-elected majority Liberal Government will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Invest more than \$1 million to support animal welfare initiatives each year from the Point of Consumption revenue, helping Tasracing to meet its Greyhound Adoption Program target of 150 dogs rehomed through that program. □ Deliver an enforceable Code of Practice for harness and thoroughbred horses and a Greyhound Code of Practice, □ Provide funding of \$100,000 over two years to ensure that Tasmanian stewards have access to professional development and training. <p>Further, in December 2023, my Government established the Tasmanian Livestock Processing Taskforce to improve animal welfare across the livestock processing industry, particularly abattoirs. If re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with the Taskforce.</p>	
	<p>6. Phase out battery cages</p> <p>I am advised that in July 2023, the Agricultural Ministers endorsed the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry, which include a phase out period for conventional cages between 2032-2036.</p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>7. End mulesing of sheep</p> <p><i>No response relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
<p>LOCAL NETWORK</p> <p><i>No response received to our request for policy issues.</i></p>	<p>1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>2. Animal Welfare Authority</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>3. Minister for Animal Welfare</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>5. Reform racing</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>6. Phase out battery cages</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR
	<p>7. End mulesing of sheep</p> <p><i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i></p>	UNCLEAR

SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY TASMANIA <i>No response received to our request for policy issues.</i>	1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	2. Animal Welfare Authority <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	3. Minister for Animal Welfare <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	5. Reform racing <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	6. Phase out battery cages <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	7. End mulesing of sheep <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
TASMANIAN GREENS <i>No response received to our request for policy issues.</i> <i>The policies listed here are based on the Tasmanian Greens policy platform https://tasgreensmps.org/policy/</i>	1. Stronger Animal Welfare Act Reform the Animal Welfare Act 1993 to strengthen standards, monitoring, compliance, and penalties, as well as enshrining animal sentience. Review dog breeding regulations and ban puppy farms.	SUPPORTS
	2. Animal Welfare Authority Establish an independent Animal Welfare Commission, with strong powers. Fully fund the RSPCA for 100% of Tasmania's inspectorate work. Increased funding to animal rights and rehoming organisations.	SUPPORTS
	3. Minister for Animal Welfare <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR
	4. Mandate CCTV in abattoirs Introduce strong regulatory requirements for slaughterhouses, including mandatory, independently monitored CCTV and incident reporting frameworks.	SUPPORTS
	5. Reform racing End taxpayer funded subsidies to the racing industry. Ban greyhound racing in Tasmania.	SUPPORTS
	6. Phase out battery cages Phase-out factory farming, including battery hen farming and beak trimming, and a complete ban on sow stalls.	SUPPORTS
	7. End mulesing of sheep <i>No policy statements found relating to this issue.</i>	UNCLEAR

NOTE

Parties contacted were those listed as registered on the Tasmanian Election Commission website on 4 March 2024. See <https://www.tec.tas.gov.au/info/TECPartyRegister.html>.

- Animal Justice Party
- Australian Labor Party
- Jacqui Lambie Network
- The Liberal Party of Australia, Tasmania Division
- Local Network
- Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Tasmania
- Tasmanian Greens