

Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2011

FACT SHEET

This Bill amends section 39 of the existing *Animal Welfare Act 1993* for the purpose of ensuring that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee continues to function effectively and legislation reflects current practice in the appointment of its members.

The Advisory Committee provides advice to the Minister and ensures that laws keep pace with community attitudes to animal welfare.

The state government agencies responsible for the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* are represented on the Advisory Committee by the Secretary of the responsible Department. Current departmental structure means that the Secretary for the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment must serve as a member in two capacities. By contrast, the state government agency responsible for the *Police Service Act 2003* is represented on the Advisory Committee by a person nominated by the Secretary of that responsible department.

- The Bill will allow the Secretaries of the Departments responsible for the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* to nominate a representative as a member of the Advisory Committee.
- The Bill will also allow the Secretaries of the Departments responsible for the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and the *Police Service Act 2003* to nominate a deputy to the departmental representative to attend Advisory Committee meetings in the event that the original representative cannot.
- The Bill does not amend any other provisions of the Act. A review of the entire Act is to be undertaken by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and DPIPW, and recommendations for amendments to the Act will be provided to the Minister upon completion of that review.