

The **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Stock Animals) Bill 2015** goes to the very heart of the principles of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979—an Act, of which, the fundamental spirit seeks to **prevent** the suffering of animals. This core principle is reflected in the title of the Act.

I refer to the fundamental principles of the Act, which were reviewed in 1997. The objects stipulate that **the duty of care, control and supervision of animals is a positive duty, not a reactive one.** The fundamental principle of this Animal Justice Party bill is that a person must promote and ensure the welfare of animals and must prevent cruelty or harm and suffering to those animals, even if the act of cruelty is not intentional.

There is a strong community expectation that when animals are raised for human consumption and transported to slaughter that the process should limit the pain and suffering caused to them. At the very least they should not be subjected to unlawful acts of violence and cruelty, or burnt to death in sheds because no sprinkler systems were installed.

Acts of extreme cruelty are often recorded by animal activists which is problematic in terms of legality and admissibility of the evidence.

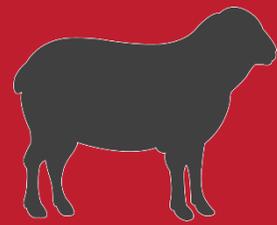
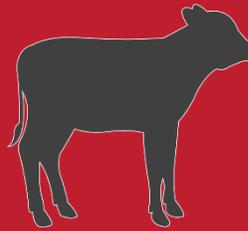
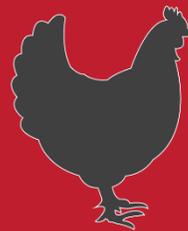
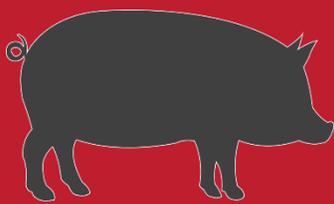
The Bill:

- Mandates that all slaughterhouses must install CCTV cameras at critical points of animal handling and recordings must be kept for viewing by the NSW Food Authority.
- Mandates the installation of fire sprinkler systems and the installation of remote monitoring systems where animals are regularly intensively housed

Mandatory CCTVs in slaughterhouses would be a major deterrent against animal abuse and would assist in satisfying the public that animal cruelty will be exposed and punished. Many countries around the world have or are in the process of legislating mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses<sup>1</sup>.

It is common practice for sheds housing tens of thousands of live animals to be left unattended for long periods of time.

Confined animals are unable to escape from fire outbreak in sheds or from suffocation as a result of malfunctioning ventilation systems. Livestock owners are legally obligated to prevent the unnecessary suffering of animals and to meet this obligation the AJP believes that sprinkler and alarm systems be a mandated requirement in all intensive farming systems. It should be viewed as a basic cost of running a business that uses live animals.



- 2500 pigs burnt to death in piggery fire near Young in 2015<sup>2</sup>
- Up to 500 pigs died from heat stress at a piggery in Riverina region 2015<sup>3</sup>

- Up to 16,000 chickens burnt to death in a fire that engulfed a shed on a poultry farm in 2017<sup>4</sup>.

- Slaughterhouse workers filmed beating male calves and throwing them to the ground by the ears prior to slaughter in 2016<sup>5</sup>

- A Hawkesbury slaughterhouse shut down following shocking animal cruelty footage in 2012<sup>6</sup>

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/aug/11/all-slaughterhouses-in-england-to-have-compulsory-cctv>  
 2. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/farmhand-risks-life-as-2500-pigs-perish-in-shed-inferno-20150618-ghrosf.html>  
 3. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/500-pigs-die-from-heat-stress-at-nsw-piggery-20150313-143j4l.html>  
 4. <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/4706487/thousands-of-chickens-perish-in-fire/>  
 5. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-04/abattoir-owner-admits-calves-ill-treated/8495952>  
 6. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/cruelty-video-rogue-abattoir-checked-four-times-in-a-year-20120209-1saat.html>