



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Date 08/08/19

**NSW Animal Justice Party MP Mark Pearson to address local community concerns
over the NSW governments plan to wipe out the Brumby**

Justice for Animals in NSW at last

**Animal Justice Party MP secures inquiry into animal welfare investigation and
enforcement powers**

Animal Justice Party's Mark Pearson has been in NSW Parliament for four years and has been frustrated at the glacial pace of change for animal protection law reform. That frustration has melted away with the election of a second AJP MP, Emma Hurst, giving them strength in numbers to draw parliament's attention to the woeful state of protections for animals. Following on from the AJP's success in setting up an inquiry into animal welfare in the caged egg industry, Mark Pearson was able to convince his fellow parliamentarians to set up an inquiry into the effectiveness of enforcement and prosecution of animal welfare laws.

"The inquiry will put a spotlight onto exactly how the current enforcement agencies, which are charities already struggling with financing their animal shelters, manage to enforce and prosecute our animal cruelty laws, especially with minimal government funding." said Mr Pearson

"Former minister responsible for animal welfare, Niall Blair stated in the debate that charities are best placed to police our animal welfare laws because they are at 'arm's length' from government." Said Mr Pearson

"Arm's length, not 'under our watch' is precisely the problem. No other criminal activity is investigated by independent charitable organisations" said Mr Pearson, "so now we will be able to examine whether this unique arrangement works for the benefit of animals in protecting them and bringing perpetrators to justice, or not".

The inquiry will commence in October and report by April 2020.

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