

Australian Animal Welfare

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Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

**AUSTRALIAN
ANIMAL
WELFARE
STRATEGY**



This presentation

- Snapshot of Australia's 'system'
- Australia's Animal Welfare Strategy 2010-14
- Snapshot of engagement & implementation approach
- Current and emerging issues



'Dog dreaming'

Australia – a snapshot

- Population 22.7m, continent is 'same size' as USA
- A federation - National government **does not have jurisdiction for animal welfare**
- Six states and two territories – **responsible for welfare laws**
 - Significant administrative role of local government
- Compliance and enforcement often devolved to NGOs (RSPCA, etc)





Key issues

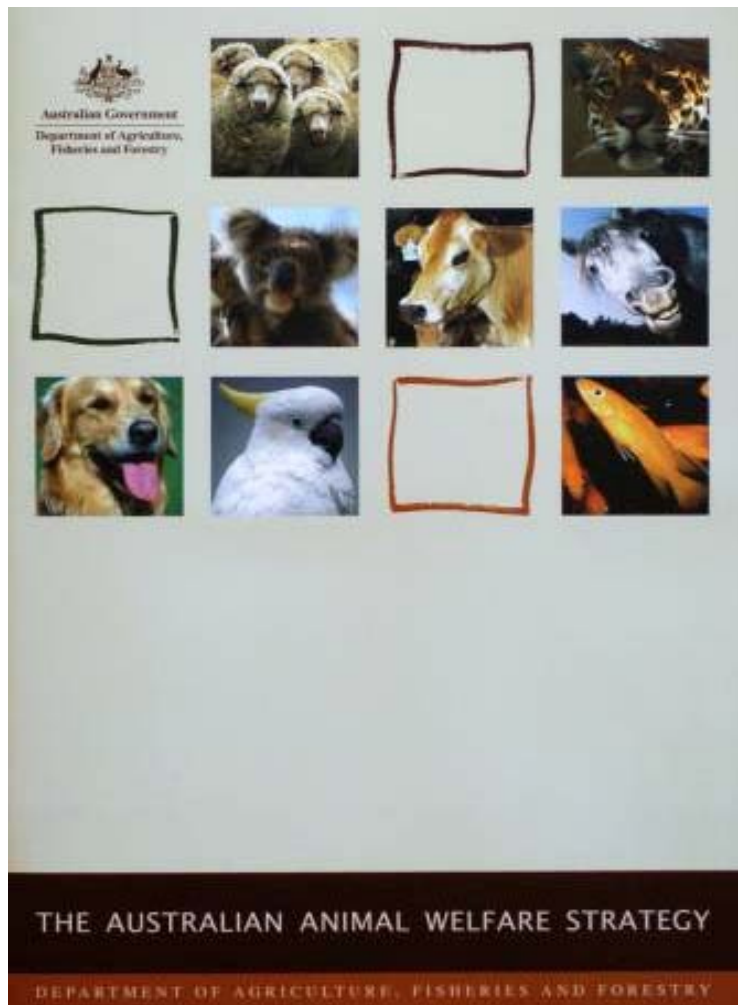
- Large and distributed system, complex stakeholder group
- Regulation differs between states – no central legislative mechanism
- High level of community interest, not necessarily matched by knowledge
- Changing community standards and expectations
- Highly urbanised population, separated from production, nature
- Improvements must be negotiated, change is a gradual, incremental process

Setting national policies, decisions

- The Federal Govt. represents Australia in international government forums (single country)
- The Federal Govt. can also provide leadership and assist in the development of national perspectives, policies, codes, standards
 - Council of Australian Governments and its Councils
 - Primary Industries Ministerial Council



Australian Animal Welfare Strategy 2005-09



- Australia's blueprint to improve animal welfare - **across the entire community**
 - All uses of animals
- Federal Government providing approx \$1million/yr (2005-2014)
 - Shared funds/lots of in-kind



Why have a national strategy?

- **Social responsibility**

- Human responsibility towards animals

- **Guardianship**

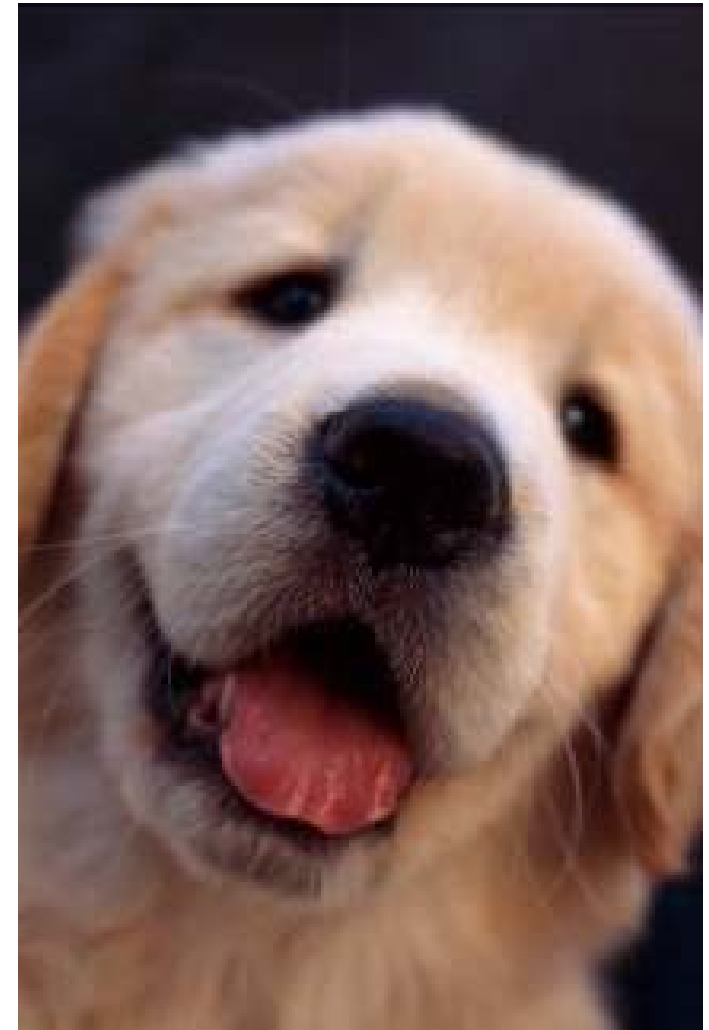
- Governments have core responsibility

- **National consistency**

- Distributed system, varying laws and issues

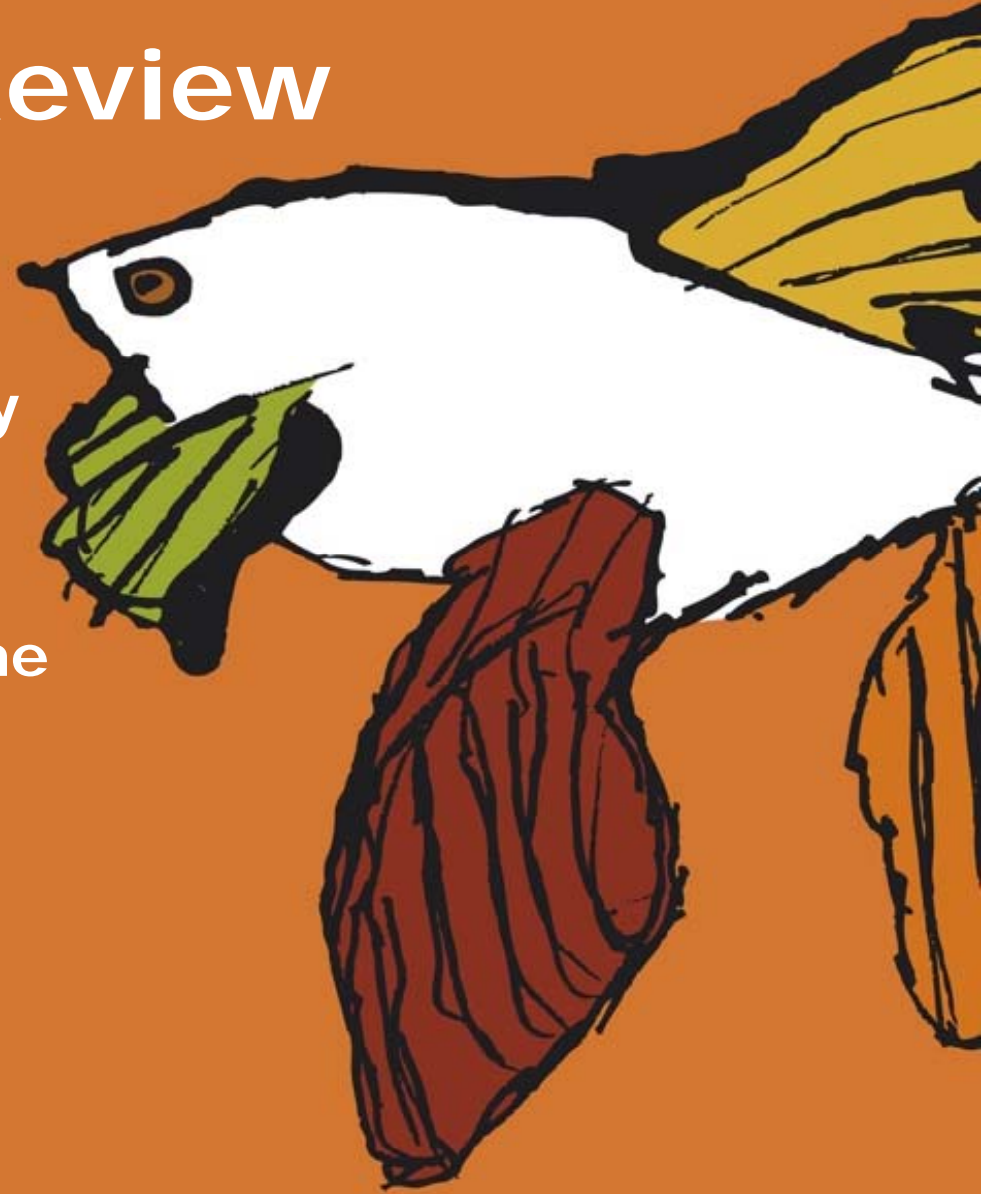
- **Strategic positioning**

- Reputation and trade



Gemmell External Review

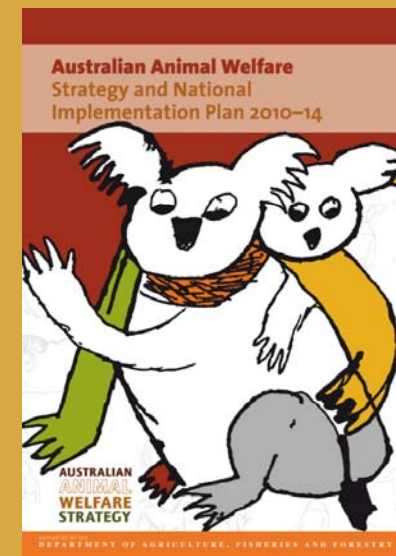
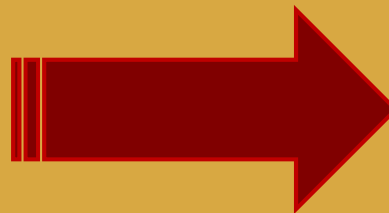
- External review provided 20 recommendations - released by Minister (DAFF Website)
- Impressive progress against the PHASE 1 Implementation Plan
- Very high level of engagement of diverse stakeholders with high level of in-kind contribution and ownership of the AAWS



AAWS — VISION

VISION: Welfare of all animals in Australia is promoted & protected by development and adoption of sound standards & practices

VISION: All Australians value animals and are committed to improving their welfare



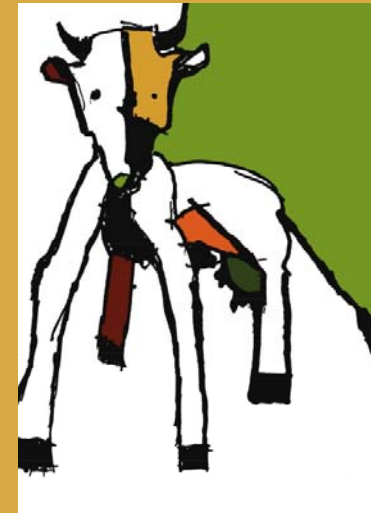
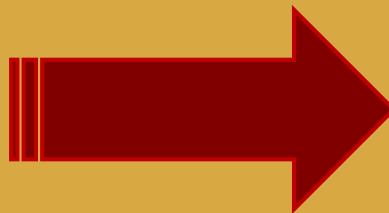


AAWS — MISSION

MISSION: NO MISSION

STATEMENT but a stated purpose:
to provide direction for
development of future animal
welfare policies, priorities & clarify
roles and responsibilities

MISSION: To deliver
sustainable improvements
in the welfare of all animals



AAWS Original GOALS

1. A **national approach** and commitment to ensure high standards of animal welfare based on current approaches.
2. Sustainable **improvements** in animal welfare based on national and international benchmarks, scientific evaluation & research, considering whole of community standards.
3. Effective **communication, education and training** across all community sectors to promote improved understanding of animal welfare





NEW AAWS



- 1. ANIMALS:** The welfare needs of animals are understood and met
- 2. NATIONAL SYSTEMS:** National systems deliver consistent animal welfare outcomes and give priority to ongoing improvements
- 3. PEOPLE:** People make ethical decisions regarding animal welfare, supported by knowledge and skills
- 4. INTERNATIONAL:** Australia is actively engaged in international partnerships and developments to improve animal welfare
(pages 21-23)



AAWS Phase 2

- **Scope still aimed at all key animal sectors and all sections of the community**





Some other changes....

- **POLICY OBJECTIVES** stated (pages 13, 14):

- social responsibility
- guardianship
- national consistency
- strategic positioning

-outcomes embedded in the 4 goal areas –
animals, national systems, people, international

- **OPERATING ENVIRONMENT** (pages 15, 16)

- **AN AUSTRALIAN APPROACH** (pages 17, 18)



also....

- **BENEFITS** against each of the 4 goals
(page 24)

- **COORDINATION** and **GOVERNANCE** defined
(page 25-27)



Phase 2 Implementation Plan

- Program logic framework, enhanced Program management
- Recognises staged progress over 4, 10, 20 years
- Identifies key activities, required resources, risks, and forecast expenditure, including contribution outside AAWS
- Improved transparency and accountability and sets performance measures for the program



Why is it important?

- Summarises the strategy
- Outlines national priorities and planned investments
- Establishes the basis for reporting, and identifies key pieces of evidence for performance and progress
- Identifies responsibilities and accountabilities
- Assesses primary risks
- Promotes active stakeholder engagement



Strategic framework (inside cover of 'koala' document)

AAWS goals			
<i>Animals</i>	<i>National systems</i>	<i>People</i>	<i>International</i>
1. The welfare needs of animals are understood and met.	2. National systems deliver consistent animal welfare outcomes and give priority to ongoing improvements.	3. People make ethical decisions regarding animal welfare, supported by knowledge and skills.	4. Australia is actively engaged in international partnerships and developments to improve animal welfare.
Objectives			
1. Monitor trends. 2. Act on key issues. 3. Deliver improvements.	4. Understand drivers, impediments and opportunities. 5. Cooperate for consistency. 6. Collaborate for efficiency.	7. Engage stakeholders. 8. Inform the community. 9. Create, use and share knowledge.	10. Articulate Australia's perspective. 11. Collaborate internationally. 12. Learn from international experience.
Outcomes <small>(the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions)</small>			
Activities lead to positive change in the welfare of animals.	Streamlined, efficient, transparent and successful processes are developed to deliver nationally consistent animal welfare outcomes.	The strategy provides a basis for engagement and education of diverse stakeholder groups and interests.	Australia assists the development and delivery of improved animal welfare outcomes regionally and globally.
Benefits <small>(measurable improvements resulting from an outcome, perceived as an advantage by one or more stakeholders)</small>			
Animals have greater wellbeing	Effective and efficient processes and application	The community engages in balanced, informed debate	Australia's systems, expertise and reputation



Strategy/Implementation Plan

Timeframe	Item		
20 Years (goal)	1. Animals: The welfare needs of animals are understood and met.		
10 years	The welfare of animals is considered and managed in all decisions and activities that affect them. Animals experience better levels of care, management and wellbeing.		
4 years (objectives)	Regular internal and external reporting of progress against agreed measures, benchmarks (monitor trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated actions to address welfare issues • Avoid duplication of effort (Act on key issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved infrastructure, networks, resources to drive delivery of benefits for animals. (Deliver improvements)



International engagement

- With Canada, USA and New Zealand through the 'QUADs'
- Strongly support OIE efforts and took 'AAWS' offshore to Middle East and Asia/Oceania to assist the development of regional animal welfare strategies
- Like Canada and New Zealand, have an animal welfare cooperation agreement with the European Union
- Jointly manage a New Zealand/Australia OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis (capacity building, training, scientific advice)



Challenges and opportunities

- Improving communications – balance of views in the community, active stakeholder engagement
- National Consistency across governments
- Identify responsibilities, accountabilities (regulation/QA-Co-regulation)
- Industry/govts. to identify 'welfare risks' (painful husbandry procedures) and position themselves to counter campaigns



Challenges and opportunities

- Supporting industry in making sustainable changes to welfare practices
- Engaging Retailers – the ‘new regulators’ driving supply chain changes
- Support education and training and research and development (especially to underpin standards)
- Enhance international reputation and improve co-operation

Working together.....

African saying:

*...if you want to
travel fast,
travel alone*

*...if you want to
travel far, travel
together*



Fishing Village outside Accra, Ghana



THANK YOU



Bribie Island, Moreton Bay (near Brisbane, Queensland)