

# NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee

## Media Watch – June to July 2011

### July

#### **Victoria - Ballan puppy farm objectors 'ignored' as VCAT approves – 19 July**

A VICTORIAN Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision to allow a puppy farm to be built in Ballan has outraged Moorabool Council, residents and animal activists. An original application to house 15 dogs and 85 breeding bitches was turned down by council and Barwon Water in July last year. However, VCAT last week overturned the decision, stating these problems would not be unreasonable if the Geelong-Ballan Road facility was reduced in size to 50 breeding dogs, with a possibility of increasing to 100 in the future.

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/ballan-puppy-farm-objectors-ignored/2230966.aspx?storypage=0>

#### **UK to ban animal testing for household products – July 19**

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/259728/New-ban-on-cruel-animal-testing>

#### **BAWP calls for independent livestock watchdog July 18**

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/lawyers-call-for-livestock-watchdog/story-fn59niix-1226096403380>

#### **Possum cruelty – 15 July**

In one of the worst animal cruelty cases ever seen in Tasmania, a 20-year-old man has pleaded guilty to bashing, stabbing, running over, setting fire to and blowing up five possums.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/ridiculously-immature-and-insensitive-man-tortures-blows-up-possums-20110715-1hgue.html>

#### **Live Export Stunning – July 15**

A PLAN to make stunning of animals compulsory before slaughtering has been deferred for three months.

Quote: *“A meeting of federal and state agriculture ministers in Perth yesterday rejected a South Australian bid to institute national mandatory stunning immediately”.*

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/agriculture-minister-demands-mandatory-stunning-for-cattle/story-e6frea6u-1226094187730>

### **Wild Horse Culling on Private Property – July 15**

AUTHORITIES have come under fire over the mass slaughter of more than 100 horses in NSW's northwest.

Quote: *The decision to shoot the wild horses was made after it was found their health had rapidly deteriorated since a court order to remove them was issued to their owner in February.*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/authorities-under-fire-for-mass-slaughter-of-horses/story-e6frf7jo-1226094946478>

### **Criticism of Australian Slaughter Methods – stunning not compulsory - July 14**

Quote: *I'd be pretty sure that most Australians, like [Adam] Bandt [Greens MP], assumed that we pre-stun animals in our slaughterhouses. Why? Because decades of meat industry spin combined with slaughterhouse secrecy means that people assume Australians do the right thing but don't really have the foggiest what actually happens because there is no transparency in slaughterhouse operation.*

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/you-wont-be-stunned-to-hear-that-slaughter-is-brutal/story-fn6mhct1-1226094814021>

### **Sheep Exporters warned to lift game – 14 July**

Quote: *RSPCA Australia chief executive Heather Neil said the live sheep trade had already had 30 years to get it right, "But they haven't got it right yet, and so they better move fast," Ms Neil said.*

[http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2011/07/14/357211\\_sheep.html](http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2011/07/14/357211_sheep.html)

### **Vet criticised self-policing of live export - 13 July**

Quote: *LLOYD Reeve-Johnson, a veterinary surgeon accredited with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, has alleged government officials charged with overseeing the live export industry have repeatedly failed to address conflicts of interest within the system.*

[http://www.animalsaustralia.org/media/in\\_the\\_news.php?article=2635](http://www.animalsaustralia.org/media/in_the_news.php?article=2635)

### **Puppy Farming Export – 13 July**

Quote: *THOUSANDS of Australian-bred designer puppies are being sold to the lucrative Asian market as the internet fuels demand.*

[http://www.animalsaustralia.org/media/in\\_the\\_news.php?article=2637](http://www.animalsaustralia.org/media/in_the_news.php?article=2637)

### **Cruelty to Kangaroos – 13 July**

*MANDURAH wildlife champion Allison Dixon is demanding an end to the cruelty after dealing with kangaroos she alleges have been tortured, run-over and chased to death in Meadow Springs.*

<http://www.inmycommunity.com.au/news-and-views/local-news/Wildlife-champion-up-in-arms-over--kangaroo-cruelty/7596424/>

### **799 cow dairy avoids planning scrutiny – 13 July**

*A controversial dairy near Bellingen has narrowly avoided the scrutiny of the Joint Regional Planning Panel. The original plan for the North Bank Road dairy was to have more than 800 cows but that pushed it into the realm of designated development, which is assessed by the panel.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-13/dairy-avoids-planning-panel-scrutiny/2792694/?site=midnorthcoast&section=news>

### **Better conditions in Blacktown Pound – 13 July**

*ANIMAL welfare advocates are rejoicing with the news that the Blacktown pound will be overhauled to provide better conditions and to reduce the number of animals being killed.*

<http://www.blacktownsun.com.au/news/local/news/general/better-deal-for-animals-in-blacktown-pound/2222629.aspx>

### **Northern Rivers discussion on Animal Issues – Go Anna!! - 7 July**

*Meat workers, farmers and vegan animal activists all came together in Casino last Thursday for a vigorous discussion about ending the live export trade.*

*Organised by the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre's Animal Law & Education Project (ALEP) the gathering at Casino RSM went an hour and a half overtime because so many people wanted to have their say.*

<http://www.echonews.com.au/story/2011/07/07/meat-love-and-mung-beans/>

### **Greens prepare Bill to ban jumps racing in SA – 6 July**

*The Greens have launched a campaign against jumps racing in South Australia and will introduce a bill to State Parliament this week to ban the sport.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-06/greens-prepare-bill-to-ban-jumps-racing/2783962>

#### **Wind of change: Aussie 'farting camels' cull under attack - 5 July 2011**

*Quote: The world's association of camel scientists fought back angrily on Monday over Australian plans to kill wild dromedaries on the grounds that their flatulence adds to global warming.*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iT9iSS0e5UMWnF4GKAsEPyPCS7tg?docId=CNG.a5218eed5d5f665bf83501f2e05bf050.561>

#### **Victoria: New regulations bring reprieve for death row dogs - 1 July 2011**

*Quote: After extensive consultation with animal welfare groups, the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Peter Walsh, has announced the removal of the deadline of 28 days before an animal must be removed from a pound or shelter and into foster care, or face compulsory destruction. In the first revision of the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds since it was introduced 14 years ago, animals will now have as much time as necessary to find new homes.*

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/new-regulations-bring-reprieve-for-death-row-dogs-20110630-1qt2n.html>

**JUNE 2011**

**Animal Welfare Scholarship Available - 30 June**

*A new animal welfare scholarship has been announced. The Rosalind Dixon Memorial Scholarship for Farm Animal Welfare Research is supported by The University of Queensland (UQ) Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics and the Humane Society International. The annual scholarship, worth \$10,000, will support research into improving farm animal welfare.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2011/s3257542.htm?site=brisbane>

**ACT Kangaroo Cull - 28 June**

*Professional marksmen have shot more than half the kangaroos in six Canberra reserves, in the territory's latest cull. But the cull was a respite of sorts for the kangaroos, with 2439 killed, compared with the original target of up to 3427.*

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/cull-claims-half-of-reserves-roos/2208809.aspx>

**Independents push for ban on live stock exports -21 June 2011**

*INDEPENDENT federal MP Andrew Wilkie has demanded heads roll at Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for blighting Australia's animal welfare record. Mr Wilkie, who is presenting a private bill to Federal Parliament today calling for an all-out ban to live animal exports, said the MLA needs to be brought into line.*

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/independents-push-for-ban-on-live-stock-exports/story-e6frea6u-1226078532417>

**Angry cattle farmers threaten class action - 11 June 2011**

*CATTLE farmers may take legal action against Meat and Livestock Australia, to claim for damages over the Indonesian export ban. Lawyers preparing a class action say that the directors of MLA and LiveCorp may have breached their fiduciary duties to their members by not disclosing to their members and levy payers the slaughtering conditions in some Indonesian abattoirs.*

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/angry-cattle-farmers-threaten-class-action-20110610-1fx2x.html>

**MLA admits 'we knew' - 9 June 2011**

*Independent MP Bob Katter has accused Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) of "towering incompetence" after it admitted knowing for years that there are animal welfare issues in Indonesian abattoirs.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-06-09/katter-demands-compo-after-mla-admits-we-knew/2751826?section=justin>

#### **Private sale of sheep banned in Bahrain - 9 June 2011**

*Private sales of sheep from the Bahrain Livestock Company (BLC) feedlot in Sitra have been banned after Australia launched a review of its live animal export trade. A government study was set up after video footage emerged showing the mistreatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia. All Middle East importers are now being monitored.*

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/AGRI\\_200143.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/AGRI_200143.html)

#### **Live trade boatman calls for better animal welfare training for international workers - 9 June 2011**

*An experienced livestock shipper is calling for improved education of animal workers in countries buying live Australian stock. Farm manager and experienced stockman Terry Coman says he is traumatised by the three years of working in the trade. He has been part of 13 long-haul voyages shipping Australian cattle to ports in the Middle East and China.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2011/s3239896.htm?site=southeastnsw>

#### **Cattle abuse known in 2000 - 7 June 2011**

*AUSTRALIA'S livestock industry knew as early as 2000 that cattle exported to Indonesia were being inhumanely slaughtered, despite repeated claims that horrific footage from abattoirs involved isolated incidents. Reports available on the Meat and Livestock Australia website detail a history of abuses over the past decade.*

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/cattle-abuse-known-in-2000-20110606-1fpb0.html>

#### **Animal groups seek to ban greyhound exports to Macau - 6 June 2011**

*Chinese animal welfare groups have urged the Australia Prime Minister Julia Gillard to ban the export of greyhounds for Macau racetracks. They accuse the Canidrome of destroying healthy dogs after they are found unable to compete, South China Morning Post reported .*

<http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo/macau/25950-Animal-groups-seek-ban-greyhound-exports-Macau.html>

### **Perth man fined for animal cruelty - 3 June 2011**

*A Perth man who failed to seek medical treatment for his cancer-stricken cat has been fined \$3000 for animal cruelty. Bradley Roy Tomlinson, 51, was found guilty in the Perth Magistrates Court of allowing a cat to suffer harm that could have been alleviated by taking reasonable steps.*

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/perth-man-fined-for-animal-cruelty-20110602-1fi8b.html>

### **Puppy farm plan rejected in Victoria - 1 June 2011**

*DEVELOPERS of a super-sized puppy farm at Ballan have taken their application to the state planning tribunal after Moorabool Shire rejected their plan. The Melbourne proponent, Robert Attard, had applied to build 52 runs, each to hold two breeding dogs, and a birthing shed on the 20ha farm on the Geelong-Ballan Rd. The RSPCA, which said the planed farm would be one of the largest in the state, was one of the original objectors to the application to Moorabool Shire.*

[http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2011/05/31/261101\\_news.html](http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2011/05/31/261101_news.html)