

**NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee
Media Watch
October – December 2011**

December

Dairy Cruelty – WA

7 December 2011

A KOJONUP man alleged to have starved and overstocked 250 head of cattle in 2009 has appeared in Court in WA.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/kojonup-farmer-faces-court-over-dairy-cow-cruelty-charge/story-e6frg13u-1226214170465>

Labor reaffirms support for live exports

4 December 2011

The Labor party has reaffirmed its support for the controversial live animal export industry but has rejected calls to make stunning compulsory.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/labor-reaffirms-support-for-live-exports-20111204-1od4m.html>

November

Abattoir closed over animal cruelty concerns – VIC

30 November 2011

Government regulators have cancelled the licence of a Victorian abattoir after inspectors reported "appalling" incidents of animal cruelty.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-11-30/abattoir-closed-over-animal-cruelty-concerns/3703144>

Indonesia resumes processing Aussie cattle

30 November 2011

Indonesian abattoirs have begun processing the first Australian cattle shipped to the country under the Federal Government's new live export regulations.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-11-29/first-shipment-after-live-export-ban/3702446>

Killing of young calves is dairy industry's 'dark secret'

24 November 2011

THE dairy industry is preparing to fight a major attack from animal rights groups over its treatment of young dairy calves. Animals Australia have recently launched their bobby calves campaign, targeting cruelty in the dairy industry.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/killing-of-young-calves-is-dairy-industrys-dark-secret/story-e6frg6nf-1226204115002>

Keep live export trade going, says Senate report

24 November 2011

A Senate inquiry into the live export trade has rejected calls to end the industry.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201111/s3374593.htm>

ACCC chicken crackdown – truth in labelling

21 November 2011

THE beef industry could face a crackdown from the consumer watchdog for using the word "natural" to describe its products in the wake of legal action against the chicken meat industry for using the term "free to roam".

The federal government is expected to release its response next month to the Blewett review into food labelling.

The egg industry is also under pressure to come up with a legally enforceable definition of the term free-range.

A bill passed the upper house of the NSW Parliament last month which would enforce that eggs in NSW could be labelled as free-range only if they have come from a farm that has no more than 1500 hens a hectare.

The Australian Egg Corporation, which represents most local egg farmers, wants to allow a free-range egg farm to run 20,000 chickens a hectare to ensure the long-term sustainability of the entire free-range industry.

The truth in labelling bill has been introduced into the lower house but has not yet been debated or voted on.

http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/livestock/cattle/chicken-case-leads-to-natural-cattle-beef/2364407.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Tuna by-catch devastating marine life

18 November 2011

A video of whale sharks, rays and whales being slaughtered by tuna fishermen has been released by an industry whistleblower.

The never-before-seen footage shows protected marine life caught as bycatch, then killed after being lured into massive purse-seine nets by Fish Aggregating Devices, nicknamed death magnets.

The whistleblower, who worked as a spotter onboard a tuna fishing boat in the Pacific said marine species, such as dolphins, manta rays, marlin and whales, were caught almost every time FADs were deployed.

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/special-features/tuna-industry-whistleblower-reveals-whale-shark-slaughter/story-e6frg19l-1226197937437?sv=2f2062d99fc89d1e885ef47d53c45569>

New pig-keeping legislation – VIC

15 November 2011

CHANGES to pig-keeping legislation will be put into action in Victoria this month, through enactment of the 2007 Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Pigs. The code includes a mandatory phase out of sow stalls - something the industry has voluntarily agreed to do by 2017.

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2011/11/15/407541_latest-news.html

500 sheep die on ship to Middle East

15 November 2011

More than 500 sheep died from starvation and infections during an interrupted two-month journey from South Australia to the Middle East on the vessel Al Messilah, which left port Adelaide in August.

However, the federal Agriculture Department says the number of deaths was relatively low and veterinarians had declared the animals "fit to travel".

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/500-sheep-die-on-ship-to-middle-east/2357152.aspx>

Animal testing under the microscope

11 November 2011

The national guidelines for scientific experiments involving animals in Australia are being reviewed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-11-11/animal-testing-guidelines-review/3659688?section=act>

Grazier condemns mass camel cull - NT

10 November 2011

A Central Australian grazier says the recent camel cull in the region is inhumane. More than 5,000 feral camels were shot by a government contractor near Uluru over the last few weeks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201111/s3360076.htm>

October

Gold Coast mayor fails in bid to ban rodeos as 'too cruel' to animals

31 October 2011

GOLD Coast councillors have bucked Mayor Ron Clarke in his bid to ban rodeos. The Gold Coast City Council has already banned circuses on council land and Cr Clarke had wanted to extend the ban to rodeos which he believes are cruel to horses and bulls.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/gold-coast-mayor-fails-in-bid-to-ban-rodeos-as-too-cruel-to-animals/story-e6freoof-1226181746397>

VIC Government gets tough on illegal puppy farms

23 October 2011

New fines, jail terms and unprecedented powers to shut down illegal puppy farms will be introduced in Victoria in a crackdown on animal cruelty in puppy farms to be introduced into Victorian legislation soon.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/rogue-puppy-farms-hit/story-fn7x8me2-1226174074198>

Parties unite on free-range eggs bill - NSW

19 October 2011

A vote before State Parliament seeking a standard definition for free-range eggs will be the first time the Shooters and Fishers Party backs a Greens bill.

The bill, which also has the support of Labor, would mean eggs in NSW could be labelled as free-range only if they have come from a farm that has no more than 1500 hens an hectare.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/parties-unite-on-freerange-eggs-bill-20111018-1lypc.html>

Australian Government refuses to ban fur skinned from live raccoon dogs

5 October 2011

THE Federal Government is refusing to ban the importation of fur from animals skinned alive despite revelations it was being used to make clothes and ugg boots in Australia.

<http://www.news.com.au/features/environment/australian-government-refuses-to-ban-fur-skinned-from-live-raccoon-dogs-for-ugg-boots/story-e6frflp0-1226159080875>

Animal cruelty crackdown - VIC

3 October 2011

A LIFETIME ban on owning animals and increased jail terms will be considered by an animal welfare round table that will push for tougher sanctions for cruelty in Tasmania.

A number of high-profile animal mistreatment cases have prompted calls for harsher penalties for people who mistreat their animals.

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2011/10/03/265945_todays-news.html

September

SA Parliament rejects bill to ban jumps racing

29 September 2011

A MOVE to ban jumps racing in South Australia has failed in Parliament, after the Government and Opposition joined forces to defeat a Greens bill

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/sa-parliament-rejects-bill-to-ban-jumps-racing/story-e6frea6u-1226150411263>

Go vego – save the planet

25 September 2011

When are we going to hear more about the great elephant in the room - animal agriculture? The CSIRO and the University of Sydney have jointly reported that it is responsible for more than 30 per cent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Meaningful action in reducing emissions cannot be achieved without a general move towards a plant-based diet.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/some-say-cows-are-killing-the-earth-so-do-we-need-to-ban-beef-20110924-1kr2a.html>

'Sustainable' seafood labelling flawed

25 September 2011

Created and promoted by the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the popular Sustainable Seafood Guide uses traffic-light colour coding to identify what it deems the best fish to eat.

Conservation groups including the Sea Turtle Conservancy, the David Suzuki Foundation and Oceana have challenged the merits of its eco-labelling.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/marine-sustainability-is-a-matter-of-location-20110924-1kqh9.html>

Dolphin and seal by-catch close fishery off Kangaroo Island

24 September 2011

A key shark fishery has been closed for six months because authorities found that more than 45 dolphins had died there in the past year.

In a move to reduce an estimated 374 sea lion deaths each breeding cycle, the South Australian fishery authority began observing all the fishery's boats, as well as the four kilometre nets, in May.

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/whale-watch/dolphin-deaths-close-shark-fishery-20110923-1kpgr.html>