

# CARING FOR ANIMALS

Transitioning away from industries that put corporate profit ahead of the welfare of animals

Australians are committed to ending animal cruelty. Yet every day, animals across the country are made to suffer to maximise corporate profit in the name of gambling, entertainment or food. The Greens believe we must properly care for animals and treat them with respect and compassion. We will fight for best practice in animal welfare and to end harmful practices like live exports so that animals are protected from cruelty and suffering.



## THE GREENS WILL:

- **End live exports of animals** for slaughter overseas
- **Ban the manufacture, sale and importation of animal-tested cosmetics**
- **End intensive factory farming** across Australia
- **Ban the export of racing greyhounds**

## END LIVE EXPORTS

The export of livestock for slaughter overseas is an inherently cruel industry. We have seen example after example where sheep and cattle exported from Australia experience terrible suffering and horrific deaths.<sup>1</sup> This industry cannot be made safe for animals given the evidence that its operating model is based on standards that are fundamentally cruel.

The Greens have a 5-Point Plan<sup>2</sup> to end live exports and smooth the transition to local processing of boxed and chilled meat for export. Exported chilled meats are worth seven times more to the Australian economy.<sup>3</sup> Many economic reports confirm that domestically processed meat exports grow local jobs and regional economies.

### **The Greens have a plan to end live exports by:**

- Bringing together governments and stakeholders to work with industry, farmers and the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union to ensure a best practice transition;
- Introducing a Farmer Adjustment Assistance Package as part of an industry adjustment package, for farmers to adjust their flocks towards local processing systems, which can be done while spending just \$1.4 million in the first year and \$2.4 million for each of the next 3 years;
- Boosting skills and retraining workers to service a new, strong domestic meat processing industry in rural and regional areas, particularly in Western Australia, by ensuring better targeted local skills and TAFE funding;
- Agreeing on new trade deals with countries that import live animals to remove trade distortions that prop up the live export trade and lobbying overseas for the Australian chilled meat industry; and
- Ensuring the Department of Agriculture and Austrade work together to help drive these reforms.

## ENACT NATIONAL LAWS TO END ANIMAL CRUELTY

For too long, animal cruelty has been ignored by Governments. State based animal cruelty laws lack teeth and are not enforced effectively. Such laws are also wildly inconsistent across the country. For example, aggravated animal cruelty, where an animal is killed or seriously injured by cruelty, has a maximum penalty of seven years jail in Queensland, but just two years in New South Wales. Some of these laws were drafted up to forty years ago.

While States have the primary role of enforcing animal welfare, the Greens will enact animal cruelty laws in areas where the Commonwealth has constitutional power to enact laws, including over corporations.

### **This means that the laws would be wide reaching and would cover:**

- Corporations, including animal farming, factory farming and puppy farms;
- Kangaroo slaughter for commercial purposes;
- Animals that are traded interstate or internationally, including live exports of animals;
- Animals on Commonwealth land, including Commonwealth National Parks and Australian Army Bases;
- Animals covered by international agreements, such as the protection of migratory birds from duck hunting.

Penalties and jail time for animal cruelty offences would exceed every State and Territory equivalent offence.

These laws would be enforced by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in cooperation with animal protection organisations. The Greens will provide a boost in funding of \$20m/year to the AFP for this work, and ultimately look to establish an Independent Office of Animal Welfare to take over this work.

<sup>1</sup> Read a history of live export investigations here: <<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/investigations/live-export-investigations.php>>

<sup>2</sup> Greens, 5-Point Plan to End Cruelty and Expand Jobs, 2018, <<https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2018-05/1803-%20End%20Animal%20Exports%20Five%20Point%20Plan%20Booklet%2006.pdf>>

<sup>3</sup> ABARES, Rural Commodities Trade Data, collated 2000-2017

## END INTENSIVE FACTORY FARMING ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Factory farming is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary.<sup>4</sup> Poultry live short miserable lives in tiny cages or crowded buildings where they never see the light of day. Sensitive beaks are burnt or cut and day old chicks are ground up alive.

Intelligent mother sow pigs are trapped standing in sow stalls where they cannot move or interact with their piglets. Cows are kept continually pregnant and suffer the trauma of their calves being taken away and killed at just a day old. Industrial egg, poultry, milk and pork producers continue to subject animals to horrific conditions, diets and slaughter practices in order to make greater profits.

The Greens will end factory farming and support free range farmers who are producing food humanely. ACT Greens MP Shane Rattenbury successfully banned cage egg production and sow stalls, passing a bill through the ACT Parliament in 2014. We need national leadership to ensure all other states and territories ban cruel factory farming processes.

However, across Australia, Labor and Coalition state governments are taking us backwards. In 2017, State Consumer Affairs Ministers supported the Coalition government's misleading "free-range" egg labelling standards in which factory-farmed chicken densities of 10,000 hens per hectare can now be labelled as "free-range" instead of the accepted definition of 1,500 hens per hectare.<sup>5</sup>

### The Greens will:

- Ban cage egg production, end sow stalls and other cruel industrial animal farming practices;
- Enforce genuine free range standards for all animals;
- Improve food labelling laws to help identify genuine free range and cruelty-free products.

## BAN THE EXPORT OF RACING GREYHOUNDS

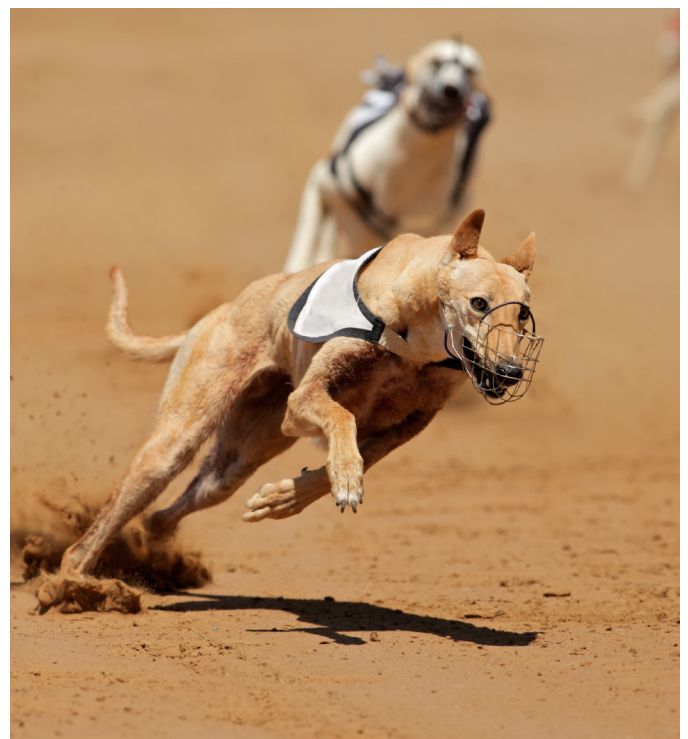
Greyhound Racing is a cruel sport which leads to the deaths of thousands of dogs each year from catastrophic on-track injuries and greyhounds being euthanised once they no longer turn a profit.

Australia is one of only eight countries in the world where greyhound racing is legal. Around the world, it is a sport in decline. In May 2018, the ACT government banned greyhound racing.

Hundreds of Australian greyhounds have been exported to be raced and bred in places with animal welfare conditions below minimum acceptable standards, such as China, Macau and Vietnam.

The Federal government permitted the export of at least 590 greyhounds to the infamous 'Canidrome' in Macau, despite knowing the very high death rates and poor welfare standards.<sup>6</sup> This has led to untold suffering for these animals.

The Greens have been working at a state level to ban greyhound racing, including a transition package for affected workers. Federally, the Greens will ban the export of racing greyhounds.



<sup>4</sup> Animals Australia, Make it Possible: Imagine a world without factory farming, 2018, <<https://www.makeitpossible.com>>

<sup>5</sup> Choice, How 'free range' are your eggs?, 10/8/18, <<https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/meat-fish-and-eggs/eggs/articles/what-free-range-eggs-meet-the-model-code>>

<sup>6</sup> Guardian, Export of 590 greyhounds went ahead despite industry ban, 11/4/18, <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/11/export-of-590-greyhounds-to-macau-went-ahead-despite-industry-ban>>