



# Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

**Hearing Date:** 12 March 2024

**Question[s] taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Animals Australia, Glenys Oogies, Shatha Hamade, Stephanie Hing

**Received Date:** 27 March 2024

1. Question from Katherine Copsey to Animals Australia (Additional QON)

There has been discussion of progressing a uniform national approach to animal welfare standards – should this present a barrier from Victoria acting on promoting pig welfare outcomes through strengthened regulation and enforcement?

**Response:**

**No there is no barrier.** Under the Australian constitution the States have carriage of animal welfare law. The intention to have a ‘consistent’ national approach to animal welfare standards, at least in the farmed animal sector, has been in place since 2005 after a review of the then-current Codes of Practice’ development process and the subsequent adoption of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

See this extract from the federal Department of Agriculture [website](#):

*The Australian Government is working together with states and territories to develop and implement **nationally consistent** standards and guidelines for farm animal welfare. The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines update and replace the [Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals](#), for particular animal industries. **The standards are designed to be implemented in state and territory legislation.***

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*The development of standards and guidelines includes a consultative process, and a Regulation Impact Analysis. **Once developed, it is up to each state and territory government to implement the standards, as appropriate for their jurisdiction.***

Note that over the past 20 years State and Territory Agriculture Ministers have acknowledged nationally developed Codes and Standards as minimums to be adopted, but **also maintained the right to impose higher standards in their own jurisdictions.**

A good recent example of this is the Victorian adoption in 2019 of a [regulation](#) to require pain relief for lambs that have been mulesed, whereas the current national *Standards and Guidelines for Sheep* (2016) do not require this.