

TRANSCRIPT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Pig Welfare in Victoria

Melbourne – Tuesday 12 March 2024

MEMBERS

Georgie Purcell – Chair

David Davis – Deputy Chair

John Berger

Katherine Copsy

Bev McArthur

Tom McIntosh

Evan Mulholland

Sonja Terpstra

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Gaelle Broad

Georgie Crozier

David Ettershank

Michael Galea

Renee Heath

Sarah Mansfield

Rachel Payne

WITNESS (*via teleconference*)

Lisa Ryan, Regional Campaigns Manager, Animal Liberation.

The CHAIR: I declare open the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee's public hearing for the Inquiry into Pig Welfare in Victoria. Please ensure that mobile phones have been switched to silent and that background noise is minimised.

I would like to begin this hearing by respectfully acknowledging the Aboriginal peoples, the traditional custodians of the various lands we are gathered on today, and paying my respects to their ancestors, elders and families. I particularly welcome any elders or community members who are here today to impart their knowledge of this issue to the committee or who are watching the broadcast of these proceedings.

To kick off we will get committee members to introduce themselves. I should have stated at the beginning that Lisa will not have her camera on throughout this session, so there is no error there. Ms Broad.

Gaelle BROAD: Hi, I am Gaelle Broad, Member for Northern Victoria.

Bev McARTHUR: Bev McArthur, Western Victoria.

Renee HEATH: Renee Heath, Eastern Victoria.

Katherine COPSEY: Katherine Copsey, Southern Metropolitan Region.

The CHAIR: Georgie Purcell, Northern Victoria Region. Thank you very much for appearing today.

All evidence taken is protected by parliamentary privilege as provided by the *Constitution Act 1975* and further subject to the provisions of the Legislative Council standing orders. Therefore the information you provide during this hearing is protected by law. You are protected against any action for what you say during this hearing, but if you go elsewhere and repeat the same things, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. Any deliberately false evidence or misleading of the committee may be considered a contempt of Parliament.

All evidence is being recorded, and you will be provided with a proof version of the transcript following the hearing, and then transcripts will ultimately be made public and posted on the committee's website.

For the Hansard record, can you please state your full name and the organisation you are appearing on behalf of.

Lisa RYAN: Lisa Ryan, Animal Liberation.

The CHAIR: Thank you very much. We now welcome your opening comments but ask that they are kept to a maximum of around 10 minutes to ensure there is plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Lisa RYAN: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Lisa Ryan, and I am the Regional Campaigns Manager at Animal Liberation. We thank the committee for the invitation to appear at today's hearing and the opportunity to provide informed and considered responses founded on critical and evidence-based thinking.

Animal Liberation is Australia's longest running animal rights organisation, having worked to permanently improve the lives of all animals over four decades based on our ethos of interspecies equality. We have witnessed the growing popular sentiment towards the welfare of animals combined with the diminishing level of public confidence in current attempts, legislative or otherwise, to protect animals from egregious, undue or unnecessary harm.

Our mission at Animal Liberation is to permanently improve the lives of all animals through education, awareness raising, action and outreach. We welcome and support this very important and very long overdue inquiry and the committee's intent to explore and examine the welfare of pigs in Victoria, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be able to contribute to what we all desire, and that is meaningful and robust reforms, enforceable regulations and better welfare and wellbeing outcomes for pigs in Victoria. It is also our earnest desire that any positive advancements that emanate from this inquiry's findings and recommendations will

influence progressive and meaningful change in other Australian state-based jurisdictions and at a Commonwealth level.

While this inquiry is Victorian based, the Australian pork industry is a national industry. A pig may be bred and raised in Victoria, slaughtered in South Australia, further processed in New South Wales and found for sale in several states and territories less than a week later, or possibly exported overseas. Weekly hundreds of New South Wales-bred pigs are transported and slaughtered in Victoria. What impacts Victorian pigs impacts all pigs.

Over the last several decades animal agriculture in Australia has increasingly become industrialised and secretive. Large-scale intensive agriculture has become almost commonplace across our rural landscapes. In the process we are increasingly sacrificing all that is unique and intrinsically woven into the fabric of who we are as a compassionate society for commercial and economic gain. This industrial concentration means that individual profit-driven corporations can be responsible for many thousands of animals at the one time whilst also securing economic and market dominance. These large, often wealthy and powerful individual profit-driven corporations benefit much at the expense of animals, the environment and people, including people in our rural communities. Terms like ‘controlled atmosphere stunning’ and ‘pig protection pens’ only serve to allow the ongoing secrecy and the hidden nature of this industry, the deflection from the truthful practices endured by pigs day in and day out and what are the birth-to-death experiences of around 5 million Australian pigs every year.

The welfare and wellbeing issues impacting millions of pigs raised for commercial purposes and human use have been widespread, rampant, systemic and abhorrent. These issues have also been exposed and publicised over many decades and are therefore well known. There can be no doubt that the animal suffering and exempted and therefore legalised practices inflicted on pigs are very real and widely known and that animal cruelty has occurred and continues to occur.

Like others, we have reflected at Animal Liberation with some frustration on the numerous exposures and investigations that frequently flag the same issues time and time again. Despite such efforts and analysis reflecting critical opportunities for urgent improvement to regulation and oversight, there have only been some reactive government and industry reforms in response. As a result, historical opportunities have not translated into either meaningful improvements for pig welfare or heightened integrity within the industry. Hopefully this committee will change the future and these past missed opportunities. As recently as December 2023 on behalf of Animal Liberation I lodged a formal complaint, with footage, to the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, known as DEECA, about a quality-assured and accredited piggery – an intensive piggery.

The footage depicted a piggery where pigs were expressing clear signs of distress and suffering. The footage showed processing arrangements in place with Diamond Valley Pork, a CO₂ gassing facility. A consignment note included reference to the facility being gestation-stall free, which is clearly not depicted in the footage we provided DEECA. These pigs were being fed in part a cheese product. The facility was putrid, with a heavy burden of flies made much worse by the number of dead piglets and pigs laying around. The footage also showed the distressing loading of pigs and the excessive use of electrical prods. The pigs themselves continued to slip on totally inadequate walkways and repeatedly slipped backwards and fell on each other. The unloading at Diamond Valley Pork also showed frustrated workers frightening the pigs and not making effective use of paddle boards.

In spite of our allegations raising serious animal welfare and biosecurity issues and the supporting footage, we were refused access to the investigation outcomes. Our communication to Australian Pork Limited has also remained unanswered. Our subsequent freedom-of-information application to DEECA has not enlightened us as to the outcome of the investigation either. What this experience confirmed for Animal Liberation was an ongoing lack of transparency and that the state’s leading animal welfare agency, RSPCA Victoria, is in essence impotent when complaints are lodged about farm animals or the animal numbers are greater than the number 10.

Ultimately, we believe that regardless of where the pig lives or the type of housing they are confined in, they all deserve respect, kindness and protection that can and will be enforced. This premise is based on and supported

by contemporary scientific evidence detailing the sentience of farmed animals, each one of which is its own unique individual.

I have had the personal experience and benefit of speaking with former piggery workers and have witnessed firsthand for a period of 6 hours the distressing sights and sounds outside the New South Wales intensive piggery and CO₂ gassing facility known as Rivalea at Corowa in New South Wales. Having lived in rural locations in both northern Victoria and New South Wales, I have also had firsthand experience of rural environments where agriculture forms a big part of the employment workforce. Part of my role at Animal Liberation also involves responding to harmful development applications, including large-scale piggeries. So I have a broad understanding not only of the animal welfare issues with piggeries and slaughterhouses but also of the environmental and people issues these types of developments cause. We are currently in our ninth year opposing one particular New South Wales intensive piggery.

Our legislation and policy direction must – the previous speaker referred to a process of compassionate evolution – continue to evolve to expand its scope and approach from being merely reactive, so simply prohibiting acts of cruelty to animals, to being proactive, so that we are preventing animal suffering, pain and cruelty. I will endeavour to respond to any questions from committee members honestly and to the best of my ability, and I am also happy to take any questions on notice. Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thank you very much, Lisa. We will start questions with Ms Broad.

Gaelle BROAD: Thank you very much, Lisa. I am just interested in your thoughts. The inquiry has been prompted by unlawful activity. The Farm Transparency Project talked about up to 175 visits on private property without the knowledge or consent of the property owners. Just in other submissions that we have received, there was one from a farm that said:

[QUOTE AWAITING VERIFICATION]

We note that this inquiry is taking place against a backdrop of ideological activism and illegal activity that threatens the safety and security of us, our workers and our pigs. All biosecurity is broken with absolutely no thought to the ramifications. Our pigs are terrified, as these cowards always break in at night with no concerns of the welfare of our pigs at all. It is definitely not acceptable that I am attacked for doing my job. We should never, ever feel threatened in any workplace. The multiple times we have had to get police escorts into the abattoir to protect our truck driver is totally unacceptable and the biggest waste of police officers that has been taken away from what the government employs them for. They are not security guards. The illegal activists are a vocal minority and yet they have been able to speak directly to policymakers. Please explain.

What are your thoughts? Do you encourage or condone people breaking the law by trespassing on private property?

Lisa RYAN: Animal Liberation certainly does not and has not ever, as far as my knowledge goes back, encouraged unlawful procedures. My reply would also include some of the responses you have already heard that you may not like, but this is how I see this truthfully – that we should be focusing on the message rather than shooting the messenger. There have been numerous instances historically of things, unlawful activities and cruel activities, including against human beings, where had somebody not exposed them, that cruelty and that suffering would have continued. In New South Wales at the moment we have an investigation into one of the privatised prisons where female workers were sexually abused. Had a whistleblower not documented certain pieces of evidence and gone to somebody who listened and said, ‘We need to expose that,’ that abuse, which had been going on for many years, would be continuing. If we do not shine a light on wrongdoing, we are not going to progress. It has been my experience, living in rural areas in both Victoria and New South Wales for the last 20 years and mixing with all types of rural people, including many farmers and including farmers that farm animals for a living, that they do not support industries that are secretive and covered up.

I would also add that I do not know of any instance where an animal activist or a group of animal activists have harmed animals. With people who either volunteer full time or work in the animal welfare or animal rights space, to have somebody propose that they would harm animals, when many of these people are vegans, just does not add up. That is not what activists are about, and I consider myself an activist. We are about progressing better outcomes in line with community and public expectations that are increasing constantly.

Animal Liberation as an organisation does not encourage others to break the law. In terms of trespassing, entering a piggery, Animal Liberation going way back to the early 1990s, before anyone else was doing it, was entering, documenting and exposing piggeries. It is as a result of those exposures by people who preceded me

but are still very much around that the issue of pigs – not just pigs in sow stalls; in one of the piggeries exposed at Scone, New South Wales, in the very early 1990s pigs were shackled, so they had metal collars around their sensitive necks and they were then tied to stalls – was perfectly legal until it was exposed. I hope that has answered your question.

Gaelle BROAD: Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thanks, Ms Broad. Dr Heath.

Renee HEATH: Thank you. Do you want to ban pig farming?

Lisa RYAN: Yes. Animal Liberation is an animal rights organisation, as I outlined in our statement. It does promote a vegan lifestyle. It does promote plant-based alternatives, which are increasing and numerous and cause minimal harm to the environment – so yes. I think if we look back over, say, the last 40 years in Australia and even longer in other countries around the world, and America is a good example, there really has not been any improvement for the pigs. And the inherent nature of how these pigs are bred and raised, the husbandry procedures and then being slaughtered at around about 5½ months of age – we are not talking about pigs that have lived a good life, we are talking about babies. Baby animals are put on trucks, often transported interstate, and then around about 85 per cent of the 5 million pigs that are being raised for human consumption are ending up in the CO₂ gondolas, so their last bit of life on this planet is 1 to 3 minutes of excruciating suffering and pain that nobody that I know, nor the broad public, considers even remotely acceptable.

Renee HEATH: Thank you for that response. Pig products are the second most consumed source of protein in Victoria. If you are successful in forcing the pig industry in Victoria to close, will you then try banning imported pig products from coming into the state?

Lisa RYAN: The way I would answer that question is: Animal Liberation takes an approach where we believe the public have the right to have input into any decisions that involve them, including the products that they are consuming. It would be arrogant for Animal Liberation to suggest that people should not have access to certain things, even if that does not sit well ethically with us. What I would suggest would happen, however, is that given that a lot of the intensive confinement, the husbandry procedures without pain relief and anaesthesia and the CO₂ gassing issues are also very prominent overseas, if Victorians had said, ‘I don’t want to consume these products anymore. Nothing they’re going to do is going to make them ethical where I would be morally comfortable,’ they would I believe also say, ‘and I will not consume imported products either.’

Renee HEATH: Thank you. In the last presentation we heard about what better technologies are, as opposed to CO₂ gassing, and one of them is the electrical stunning, which can happen, if done right, instantaneously. If procedures like that were adopted, would you then support the pork industry?

Lisa RYAN: No. Again, and meaning no disrespect, Animal Liberation is promoting a cruelty-free world. We are founded on the notion that it is unethical to take the life of another animal, and I put humans in that broad banner of what an animal is. Pigs are certainly, we know, highly intelligent. They are very social, they make excellent mothers, and they are sentient. Taking the life of another being that wants to continue to live is not palatable to us. And while there may have been testimonies suggesting that electrical stunning or other methods of stunning prior to the actual slaughter may be better if done right, we continue to come back to this issue that really does apply to all animal welfare matters, and that is if the independent oversight is not there and the enforcement is not there, it is not going to improve the lot of animals. And there has certainly been very recent footage come out about electrical stunning going wrong, and we really do not know how often those wrongs are actually occurring in abattoirs right across the country at the moment.

Renee HEATH: Thank you so much.

The CHAIR: Great, thanks, Dr Heath. I will pick up from there. Lisa, Animal Liberation exposed a boar semen collection facility in Queensland, and we just heard from earlier witnesses that often boars are left out of this conversation. Can you elaborate on this facility and what you have found in relation to the Victorian industry through this process?

Lisa RYAN: Okay, well, the facility was a Queensland-based facility and this was in conjunction with Animal Liberation Queensland. We agree that the boars are often left out of this equation. The mother pigs are

either in a sow stall or loose housing or back to a farrowing crate, and that is their lot in life until they are around about four. Then they too are viewed as non-viable because they are not producing as many piglets because their bodies are collapsing and worn out, so they are also put on the slaughter truck. The piglets go to slaughter at around about 5½ months of age. The boars spend their entire life in boar stalls, and they have a life of misery where their semen is extracted without their consent. They often suffer cruelty and misery for many, many years until they get to the point where their muscles are so weak they cannot support their heavy bodies. These are commercial pigs, so they are all very big, very heavy pigs.

This particular boar had collapsed in their stall and could not reach their drinking water, could not access their food. The footage that was captured showed that the workers were aware this boar was struggling, had had no water, and they were just squirting water at it. The footage shows this pig slowly suffering and dying a terrible death over many, many days. Now, if that can happen in one boar stall in Queensland, it will be happening in the majority of them I would hazard a guess. And having spoken to more than one ex intensive piggery worker from New South Wales, the stories that they shared with me about the treatment of the boars as well as the piglets and the mother pigs will haunt me for the rest of my life – dreadful, dreadful suffering for many, many years.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Just leading on from your commentary around speaking to former workers, Animal Liberation’s website actually speaks to the health of slaughterhouse and farm workers. Can you explain to us with examples why poor pig health can play a part in, I guess, the workers’ mental states?

Lisa RYAN: Yes, and thank you for the question. From the workers I have spoken to – but this is supported by studies that have been done around the world on the physical health impacts to workers but also the emotional, psychological impact to workers – there are certainly physical aspects. One of the workers I spoke to explained the overalls they were given by the piggery operator. There was no washing machine at the piggery. They were not allowed to take the overalls home because of a potential biosecurity risk, but they were not being washed. He described his overalls as literally standing up by themselves. They were given cheap gumboots that were split, so every day walking around in these huge sheds he was walking through pig faeces and urine and blood because this was where a number of the sickly undersized piglets that were not going to come up to par according to industry standards were slammed against the concrete. So walking through all of that, and that coming into contact with your skin, is not good. They are also breathing in heavy amounts of ammonia, affecting their eyes and their noses. In terms of the emotional and psychological impacts, that was what hit me the strongest. When I sat down with one particular ex-worker, who had formerly been a slaughterhouse worker, so they were used to graphic scenes, within 10 minutes of speaking to this person – and this was a big, burly person, much bigger than me – they had tears rolling down their face recalling the experiences of the suffering, of the lack of compassion, of the bullying by other workers because they showed compassion towards particular piglets or mother pigs. I think it is like a lot of self-regulating industries and a lot of animal exploitation industries in that they become, sadly, disconnected from what they are seeing. We know there have been studies about people involved in this type of work and how that can lead to excessive alcohol consumption, drug consumption and domestic violence. Now, that was not the case with the workers I spoke to, but they were certainly emotionally scarred and, I would suggest, for life.

The CHAIR: Thank you. That concludes my time. We will go to Mrs McArthur.

Bev McARTHUR: Thank you, Lisa. Now, I might have missed it – why did you not want to be on camera?

Lisa RYAN: Because I am in a part of northern New South Wales that has been hit extensively with flooding and we still have internet issues. So if I am using my camera – it is not because I am hiding. I am a real person, committee member.

Bev McARTHUR: It will mess up your audio if you use the camera.

Lisa RYAN: Well, basically it would throw me out.

Bev McARTHUR: Yes, of course. Okay. Now I think I heard you say that you do not, to your knowledge, encourage or condone people breaking the law by trespassing on private property. Did I hear you correctly?

Lisa RYAN: Correct.

Bev McARTHUR: Has your organisation ever published material obtained by someone breaking the law?

Lisa RYAN: Yes, we have.

Bev McARTHUR: So it is okay to publish illegally obtained material, but at the same time you are saying you do not condone it?

Lisa RYAN: Let me clarify what I said or what I intended to say. We do not go out to our Animal Liberation members – those that subscribe to our social media platforms, our emails et cetera – saying, ‘If you’re opposed to pig farming you should trespass and enter a piggery, document what you can and then send it back to us.’ We do not do that. But we are not opposed to sharing the truth and the reality of what is happening to millions of pigs across Australia in what has been a secretive, hidden industry. I also mentioned in a previous answer that Animal Liberation, certainly in the early 90s, exposed multiple piggeries. That was Animal Liberation staff or volunteers. So that is different, to my mind, to going out and saying to people, ‘We want you to break the law.’ People at Animal Liberation have had issues raised with them by whistleblowers or industry knowledge often coming from within the industry. That is a common occurrence for us; we get whistleblowers approaching us all the time because they cannot get results going to government, going to their own industry, so they turn to us for help. Then we have gone into these piggeries, slaughterhouses and other facilities to document and provide that information to the regulators and the animal welfare authorities, and yes, we will publish it. If the response is, ‘That’s standard; they’re allowed to do that,’ but we know that the public are not going to accept that, yes, we will publish it. We publish the truth. We do not believe that the truth should be withheld from the Australian public, regardless of how distressing it is.

Bev McARTHUR: You are a not-for-profit organisation, I take it?

Lisa RYAN: Correct.

Bev McARTHUR: You have charity status?

Lisa RYAN: No. We have charity status, but we do not have the ability to provide tax receipts.

Bev McARTHUR: Do you get any funding from government?

Lisa RYAN: None.

Bev McARTHUR: So it is all voluntary contributions?

Lisa RYAN: It is voluntary contributions from people who care about animals, and the organisation is supported by many volunteers. I am one. Apart from one chunk of work I am currently doing for Animal Liberation, all of my work, including today and including my work for pigs, is voluntary. I have been doing that for six years with Animal Liberation, and that is about 60 hours a week. When people are passionate and they care about a particular cause, be it pigs or the greyhound racing industry, they make a contribution. I am not able to make a financial contribution, but I am able to make a volunteer contribution.

Bev McARTHUR: Given your stated aim, as I understand it, is to shut down the use of animals as a food source, should the committee believe that your evidence is objective or balanced?

Lisa RYAN: Well, I have given in my opening statement an undertaking that my evidence is honest, and it is. I have been involved in animal welfare and animal rights work for three decades. I have also explained that I have lived in a rural environment, certainly for the last 20 years, in both Victoria and New South Wales, so I have a number of perspectives that are unique. When we are opposing harmful development such as a piggery, I am engaging with farmers and other immediate neighbours who are also farming animals. I believe I have a very balanced perspective because I have been both metro and rural, and I live in this environment. I understand the rural issues, and that is where most of these facilities are situated, both the intensive piggeries and the gassing slaughterhouses and other slaughterhouses. So I possibly have a better perspective than anybody else.

The CHAIR: Thank you, Mrs McArthur. Ms Copsey.

Katherine COPSEY: Thank you very much for attending and answering our questions today. In your experience working in this field, if we see regulations that simply result in the codification of existing industry practices which are designed to produce as much meat in as efficient a way as possible, what will be the result for animal welfare outcomes?

Lisa RYAN: The result will be what it has always been, in that there is no change in terms of a better life for these animals. Nothing will change. Codes of practice have been around for a long time. They are all inadequate when they begin. Most of them are exceedingly old and they are designed to allow certain operations to continue with exemptions. Or, as Animals Australia pointed out, and we had also identified this, the exemption under your new Victorian animal welfare Act is going to be called an 'exception'. You can change the colour of the paint on the wall, but it will not change the size of the wall. It will make no difference.

Katherine COPSEY: Thank you. Can you speak to – we have heard a bit today about the necessity of regulators being independent from the industries that they are regulating and the importance of that in ensuring that welfare outcomes are prioritised. Can you give us your reflection on how effective things are currently and what might assist to strengthen that enforcement?

Lisa RYAN: Okay. Well, I will probably use the Victorian piggery that we lodged a complaint about. It was literally two days before Christmas last year. That example is probably the best way to illustrate our concerns about the lack of independence. When I looked at the footage and compiled what I believed to be the breaches against what is required in Victoria and the national code of practice, I then lodged that complaint. I sent it certainly to Agriculture Victoria, but I also sent it to the CEO of RSPCA Victoria, I sent it to PrimeSafe because there were images taken of Diamond Valley Pork, the gassing abattoir, and I sent it to the responsible Victorian ministers at the time.

It was Agriculture Victoria, or DEECA, who responded to me fairly quickly. They were very efficient, and by then it was 24 hours before Christmas Eve. They said they were sending it off for investigation. Very quickly after New Year – so that is after all the public holidays in place – they emailed me again and said, 'The investigation is done. Thank you for reporting.' I chased them up with a phone call and said, 'Are there going to be any penalties here? There's clearly breaches and there's clearly a lot of suffering in this piggery. How do I know what's happening, and why isn't RSPCA Victoria involved?' They explained to me – and I was not aware of this matter, and it concerned me then and it concerns me now – that where there are more than 10 animals and they are farmed animals, RSPCA do not get involved with that investigation. If they are the leading animal welfare agency for Victoria, who are supported generally by the Victorian public and given public money to support their inspectorate and the investigations and prosecutions they are doing, then you may as well say 'Don't even think about farmed animals' when it comes to RSPCA Victoria. I could not get any information in relation to what they investigated – did they confirm the breaches that I was alleging, and what did they do? – so that I had a level of comfort that these pigs were not going to continue suffering the way I had viewed on the footage we had. I had to lodge a freedom-of-information request, and I have got back about 25 pages of fluff and nonsense which is predominantly what I had sent them. I have got a little bit extra back, but not much. So unless we have routine investigations and audits that are happening by independent people, nothing is going to change.

Katherine COPSEY: Thank you. Chair, I have just got one more brief question if I may and we have got time. There has been some discussion about progressing a national approach to animal welfare. In your view, should that stop Victoria from taking action on this issue in our jurisdiction?

Lisa RYAN: I think if we wait for the Commonwealth government to take the first steps in initiating probably a talkfest and then maybe an inquiry and then maybe a public exhibition of what the public would like to see with nationally consistent federal standards, we will be waiting a long time. The wheels of government, as you would all know as well as I do, are incredibly slow. With animal welfare it is like waiting for paint to dry over decades. I think it would be remiss of the current committee and the Victorian government to not progress the work you are doing, which could feed into a national review. I would encourage Victoria to continue doing what they are doing. But I would also, as Animals Australia flagged, encourage the current people responsible for reviewing your *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, which is now going to be your animal welfare Act, to look at it objectively and clinically and say, 'Does this improve things for animals?' Because we also have concerns. We lodged a submission in 2020 about that initial review of POCTA Victoria. We will be lodging a submission to the current review of the POCTA regulations. While there are some tweaks around some things,

for a species like pigs not a lot is going to change. The words have changed, but the outcomes for those animals and their welfare is not going to change.

Katherine COPSEY: Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thanks, Ms Copsey. And thank you very much, Lisa, for coming along today and sharing your expertise with the committee. We really appreciate it, especially at the end of the day. That concludes the hearing.

Committee adjourned.