

Labor Senator's Dissenting Report

Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015

1.1 Labor Senators acknowledge the importance of the issues that this bill seeks to address and notes that this is reflected by the large number of public submissions (1671) received by this inquiry.

1.2 However, Labor does not believe that the Private Senator's Bill put forward by Senator Back is the best way to legally address the issues surrounding trespassing and the report timing of animal welfare breaches.

1.3 The committee's report notes that the committee received a substantial number of submissions to its inquiry which expressed concern about the intentions of the bill and about the appropriateness and efficacy of a number of provisions in the bill.

1.4 While stakeholder concerns have been noted in the committee's report, the vast majority of these concerns have not been adequately addressed in the committee's report, and Labor recommends that these outstanding matters be addressed through an open and transparent consultative process which would allow for each concern raised to be addressed.

1.5 Therefore Labor does not support the passage of the Criminal Code Amendment (Animal Protection) Bill 2015.

Recommendation 1

Labor calls on the Government to facilitate a proper consultative process to address each concern expressed in the committee's report with the aim of providing a way forward for all stakeholders involved.

Senator Glenn Sterle
Deputy Chair