



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Economy and Infrastructure Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Report tabled into RSPCA Victoria

The Victorian Parliament's Economy and Infrastructure Committee has today tabled its report into the RSPCA Victoria.

The Committee has recommended more transparency, information and detail with regard to the powers of RSPCA Victoria inspectors.

"For the most part it appears that the objections raised by stakeholders in relation to RSPCA Victoria relate to the organisation's historical practices," said Committee Chair Bernie Finn.

"For example the organisation has in the past been involved in animal rights activism, in some instances campaigning against activities that are legal in Victoria, such as duck shooting.

"Some stakeholders suggested that RSPCA Victoria inspectors were involved in campaigns and action relating to commercial animals, overstepping their statutory function."

Mr Finn noted that since the Independent Review of the RSPCA Inspectorate in 2016 it has made good progress towards focusing on the prevention of cruelty to companion animals rather than engaging in animal rights activism.

The Committee has recommended that RSPCA Victoria ensure that it investigates cruelty to commercial animals in emergency situations only.

It has also recommended that RSPCA Victoria in consultation with the Victorian Government consider ways to improve engagement and collaboration with animal stakeholder organisations.

"The RSPCA Victoria now needs to focus on developing stronger stakeholder relationships. Many of the organisations the Committee engaged with believe that a more collegial approach to prevention of cruelty to animals would be of great benefit to the sector," Mr Finn said.

"I thank all of those who provided submissions or appeared before the Committee to provide advice, in particular the RSPCA Victoria Chair and the CEO."

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

Media queries

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