

Legislative Council

Tuesday 19 August 2025

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

566. Hon Amanda Dornto the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the disbanding of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which previously served as an independent advisory body under the Animal Welfare Act.

- (1) On what date was the committee formally disbanded, and what was the rationale for this decision?
- (2) Who is currently providing the minister with expert independent advice on animal welfare matters in the absence of this committee?
- (3) Will the minister commit to establishing a new, transparent and truly independent advisory council with the authority to provide proactive advice on animal welfare issues?

Hon Jackie Jarvis replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is currently a non-statutory body created in February 2022. This committee has not been disbanded although I note that the current member's terms have expired. Recommendation 46 of an independent review of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* recommended that a new statutory committee should be formed. This recommendation is supported and will be included in a bill to update the Animal Welfare Act to be introduced in this term of government. Given the proposed transition of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee from a non-statutory body to a committee enshrined in law, I am awaiting advice on the skill set required and the proposed terms of reference of a new committee, giving consideration to the independent review panel's recommendation 47 that outlines the proposed role of such a committee. We will advertise soon for expressions of interest to join the committee.