

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

Progress update - July 2026

Commonwealth, state, and territory Agriculture Ministers committed to the development of a new AAWS by the end of 2027. The Australian government committed \$5M of funding over 4 years from 2023 to 2027 to renew the AAWS.

Progress at July 2026

		Status
National Statement on Animal Welfare		Published December 2024 
Overarching strategy document		Receiving external feedback
Livestock and production animals		Working draft being prepared
Aquatic animals		Working draft being prepared
Animals used in research and teaching		Working draft being prepared
Animals in the wild		Incorporating external feedback
Companion animals		Incorporating external feedback
Animals used for work, sport and recreation		Receiving external feedback

Publications

7 Case studies published to showcase examples of good animal welfare practises already underway in Australia

1 First Nations consultation summary published May 2026

2 Consultation summaries published following stakeholder engagement in 2024 and 2025

1 Cross-sectional animal welfare environmental scan published in 2025

The AAWS will have 6 animal group chapters



Livestock and production animals



Aquatic animals



Animals in the wild



Animals used in research and teaching



Companion animals



Animals used for work, sport and recreation

National Statement on Animal Welfare

Agreed by all Agriculture Ministers

8 Stakeholder workshops

55 Organisations contributed during consultation

 Published December 2024

6 Priority areas for the AAWS:

- Leadership and coordination
- Standards and implementation
- Reporting and compliance
- Research and development
- Education and communication
- International engagement

Engagement

700+

Individuals engaged overall

46

Organisations attended an AAWS roundtable event in April 2025

11

Focus groups conducted in 2024 across the chapter groups with 71 stakeholders in attendance

500+

Organisations engaged overall

49

Organisations attended chapter development workshops

32

Chapter consultation meetings held with stakeholders in 2025 and as of late-July 2026

2800+

Responses in total to 2 public Have Your Say consultations

40

First Nations stakeholder groups engaged in 2025

8

First Nations workshops held in 2025, including 3 on-Country in Katherine, Gungahdie/Cooktown and the Torres Strait