

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

Progress update - May 2026

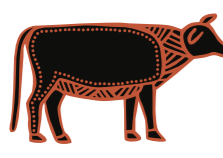
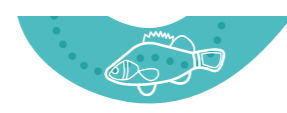




Commonwealth, state, and territory Agriculture Ministers committed to the development of a new AAWS by the end of 2027. The Australian government committed \$5M of funding over 4 years from 2023 to 2027 to renew the AAWS.

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

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

Engagement

700+
Individuals engaged overall

500+
Organisations engaged overall

2800+
Responses in total to 2 public Have Your Say consultations

46
Organisations attended an AAWS roundtable event in April 2025

49
Organisations attended chapter development workshops

40
First Nations stakeholder groups engaged in 2025

11
Focus groups conducted in 2024 across the chapter groups with 71 stakeholders in attendance

21
Chapter consultation meetings held with stakeholders in 2025 and 2026

8
First Nations workshops held in 2025, including 3 on-Country in Katherine, Gungahlin/Cooktown and the Torres Strait

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

Progress at May 2026

- National Statement on Animal Welfare
- Overarching strategy document
- Livestock and production animals
- Aquatic animals
- Animals used in research and teaching
- Animals in the wild
- Companion animals
- Animals used for work, sport and recreation

Status

