

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

Progress update - September 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.

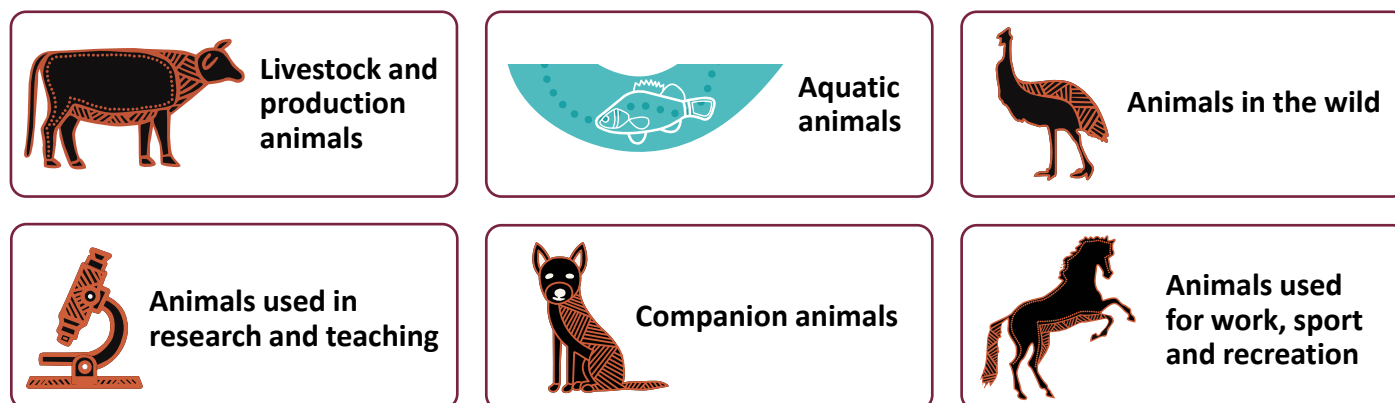
Progress at September 2026

Progress at September 2026	Status
National Statement on Animal Welfare	Published December 2024 
Overarching strategy document	Working draft being prepared
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	Working draft being prepared
Companion animals	Working draft being prepared
Animals used for work, sport and recreation	Working draft being prepared

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



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

33

Chapter consultation meetings held with stakeholders in 2025 and as of August 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, Gungahlin/Cooktown and the Torres Strait