

Bundaberg Poultry Fanciers Club Inc.

PO BOX 1641

Bundaberg 4670 QLD

BundyPFC@hotmail.com

Animal Welfare Standards Public Consultation

PO Box 5116

BRADDON ACT 2612

26 February 2018

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Public Consultation on Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry

The Bundaberg Poultry Fanciers Club Inc. would like the following to be considered on our behalf.

SA9.10 - A person must only perform de-snooding, dubbing, de-spurring and web marking on day old hatchlings selected as potential breeders.

Club members are against the proposed dubbing standards. The tradition of dubbing game fowl for exhibition purposes makes the suggestion of dubbing day olds impractical as sex cannot be told at day old. However, members propose the following alternatives for your consideration:

- Collaboration between fanciers and the acting body to create and implement a national dubbing policy and procedure to address any welfare concerns
- Investigation into suitable topical anaesthetic products within the fiscal reach of private breeders

- Consultation with fanciers and interested parties to create fowl handling dubbing best practices. For example techniques to minimising stress
- Post dubbing practices. For example wound management

Club members are prepared to undergo training and/or education of above practices to update and/or certify competency in above.

Concerning de-spurring. The club would like to further clarification of what the acting body classifies “de-spurring” and what alternative practices are proposed to reduce and maintain cock bird spurs for the safety of both Hens and handlers.

Regulatory Impact Statement

Our clubs are Not for Profit. Poultry people, whether members of our club or individual owners, are involved with Land and Water fowl privately and at their own cost. Most of our members consider their flock to be integral to their way of life. Our setup and husbandry practices are on a different level to commercial flocks. Heritage and rare breed conservation, sustainability and genetic diversity are important to us. We support the need to review and maintain Animal Welfare, however we ask that the committee consider differentiating between the financial capacity of individuals of our fancy compared to that of commercial entities with regards to dubbing, lighting regulations and ammonia level monitoring.

Exhibition poultry focuses on achieving and maintaining a recognised Australian Poultry Standard (APS). In the event that dubbing birds is no longer an option, at day old or otherwise, members ask any breeds affected by such a ruling be given a spaced implementation to coincide with the update and release of the next version of the APS.

Our club prefers Option B (*Convert proposed national standards in national voluntary guidelines*) unless our concerns mentioned about are addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate our opinion on the Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry and the Poultry RIS.

Kind Regards

Carrie Jones

Hon. Sec. Bundaberg Poultry Fanciers Club Inc.