

15 December 2005

Mr George Brouer
The Ombudsman
Level 3, 459 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000



Dear Mr Brouer,

PARADISE PIGS: COMPLAINT BY ANIMALS AUSTRALIA REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

We refer to the above matter and to correspondence from Animals Australia to you dated 21 April 2005 (copy **attached**).

Lawyers For Animals (**LFA**) is an apolitical organisation of lawyers, law students and others, seeking to reform the law to minimise or eliminate the needless suffering of animals by:

- challenging weak animal protection laws and policies;
- supporting cases which promote the Association's objectives;
- promoting awareness in the community and the legal profession about animal law, including the adoption of 'Animal Law' in the syllabus of law schools; and
- working with industry, government and the community to bring about positive change and law reform to alleviate the plight and suffering of animals and promote animal welfare.

We note that Animals Australia alerted you to its concerns regarding whether the Department of Primary Industries (**DPI**) properly discharged its duties under the Act. Furthermore, Animals Australia made a formal complaint regarding the manner in which the DPI purportedly performed its duties (**Ombudsman Complaint**).

The alleged breaches by the DPI include, inter alia, a failure by the DPI to properly investigate a complaint of cruelty at the "Paradise Pigs" piggery at Leitchville, Victoria (**Investigation**) and, upon the making of a complaint to DPI by Animals Australia regarding the conduct of that investigation (**Complaint**), a failure to properly investigate the Complaint.

We understand that you are currently investigating this matter.

LFA, like Animals Australia, is concerned about the manner in which the DPI conducted the Investigation and handled the Complaint. LFA fully supports the

Ombudsman Complaint and requests that you note LFA's interest in the outcome of your investigation.

If, in the meantime, LFA can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Meredith Shumack
President
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