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Action Officers	1 LH
Response due	

Hon Ian Hunter MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047,
Adelaide SA 5001

8th August, 2014

Dear Minister Hunter

Re: Future of the Minister's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC)

I write to you following the recent announcement by Premier Weatherill of the abolition of all government boards and committees.

As a major stakeholder, RSPCA South Australia believes that the AWAC is a vital mechanism to provide prompt, reliable and well considered advice consistent with contemporary thinking and science based evidence on current and emerging animal welfare issues.

Through its broad representative membership, the AWAC demonstrates a strong commitment by Government to the significance of animal welfare, thus providing an important assurance to the community that these matters are highly regarded and well considered.

It is anticipated that public concern for the welfare of animals will continue to increase as evidenced by the high number of submissions to the Report of the Select Committee for Dogs and Cats as Companion Animals in July last year. This is consistent with the unprecedented number of responses/submissions (over 20,000) to the Victorian government following the release of the draft Code of Practice for Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses late last year. This rising sentiment is also demonstrated through the increasing sales of 'welfare friendly' products particularly eggs and intensively produced chicken and pig meat.

Animal welfare is a broad and controversial area, often drawing strong and emotional responses from animal advocacy groups, the community and industry.

RSPCA South Australia firmly believes this State government will benefit greatly from the depth of experience and expertise the AWAC offers, to achieve sound decisions and develop progressive policies.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Tim Vasudeva
Chief Executive Officer
RSPCA South Australia

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