The Australian Animal Justice Party: a success story

Tess Vickery
Policy Advisor to the Hon. Emma Hurst MLC

29TH ANNUAL ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE
TRANSFORMING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS
Origins of the Animal Justice Party

The AJP was established in 2009 out of frustration that Australian political parties were ignoring animal issues.
Goals and Policies of the Party

Our policies flow from our core values: kindness, equality, rationality, and non-violence

ANIMALS
• Abolish property status of animals
• Support a ‘tranFARMation’ to sustainable plant-based agriculture
• Invest in alternatives to animal experimentation
• Stop cruel killing of introduced animals

ENVIRONMENT
• Legally recognise the Rights of Nature
• Support urgent action on climate change, recognising the role of animal agriculture
• Protect wild animal habitats from land clearing

HUMANS
• Recognise the link between domestic violence, child abuse and animal abuse
• Ensure a humane, sustainable economy for everyone

And much more!
Election Success!

The Animal Justice Party has had three Members elected to Parliament:

- The Hon. Mark Pearson MLC
  Elected in 2015 (NSW)
- The Hon. Andy Meddick MLC
  Elected in 2019 (Vic)
- The Hon. Emma Hurst MLC
  Elected in 2019 (NSW)
Animal Parties around the World

The AJP is part of a global movement of political parties for animals

- The Netherlands: Dutch Party for Animals
- Portugal: People, Animals, Nature Party
- United Kingdom: Animal Welfare Party
- France: The Animalist Party
- Germany: Human, Environment, Animal Protection Party
- Spain: Animalist Party Against Mistreatment of Animals
- United States of America: Humane Party
- Canada: Animal Protection Party of Canada
- Ireland: Party for Animal Welfare
- Australia: Animal Justice Party
Political Animals

Animalism: a nascent ideology? Exploring the ideas of animal advocacy parties
Paul Lucardie
Documentation Centre Dutch Political Parties, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
Legislative Wins Achieved by the AJP

These are just a few examples of what having elected representatives for animals can do!

- Parliamentary inquiries into battery cages, koalas, kangaroos, animal cruelty laws, the dairy industry, and animals in circuses and dolphinariums
- Ban on the breeding and import of cetaceans for entertainment
- Recognition of (and funding for) the link between domestic violence and animal abuse
- Mandatory lifetime bans on owning or working with animals for abusers
- Major overhaul of animal welfare legislation in multiple states
Thank You

Tess Vickery
tess.vickery.ajp@gmail.com