

Animal Justice Party Candidate—Emma Hurst

Politician or Animal Activist?



Animal Care Australia

March 2019.

“Animal welfare by the experts—those who keep, care for and breed animals”

Emma Hurst - a politician or an animal rights activist?

ACA go head to head with AJP candidate!

Synopsis of ACA meeting 11/3/2019

Earlier this week Animal Care Australia held a General Meeting and the agenda for the evening was Animals and Politics.

With the NSW state election just around the corner on March 23rd the committee decided to be proactive and invite political parties to speak on their policies relevant to animals. This would give the ACA committee and meeting attendees the opportunity to assess impacts of proposed policies on the tens of thousands of NSW voters represented by our member organisations.

We appreciate Animal Justice Party (AJP) candidate Emma Hurst attending to share her party's objectives and her views regarding companion animal ownership, breeding and husbandry.

Emma is an intelligent educated candidate whose background in psychology enables her to quickly adjust her presentation and responses to incorporate the needs of the groups she addresses. She read the meeting well, toning down more controversial Animal Justice Party policy and avoiding direct conflict.

It was clear from the start that the conversations were going to be passionate.

The evening started with Emma outlining the Animal Justice Party's views on companion animals; Emma was articulate and confident in her message, "The party is not an animal

"I've been involved in animal rights for about 17 years. I've worked for Animal Liberation for over a decade and I've also worked for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)."

Emma Hurst at ACTIVEx Sydney, 25/11/2018.

welfare party and not an animal rights party either." This left the committee with the question - if the AJP is neither of these then what are they?

The committee and guests focussed on analysis of the Animal Justice Party's Companion Animal Key Objectives; their relevance and likely impacts should these objectives be implemented via state legislative changes. Those present were intent on uncovering the true meaning of these objectives.

Responses from Emma contradicted the AJP key objectives which she stated were about the bigger picture. Emma indicated that legislation that the AJP would work on would be about reduction, not phasing out or abolition of domesticated/companion animals.

All committee members noted the significance of this glaring contradiction.

Emma's view on Australia's current overabundance and wastage of animals completely aligns with the ACA's view – it is the AJP's proposal to introduce a bill into parliament to "phase out" the sale and breeding of companion animals that is problematic.

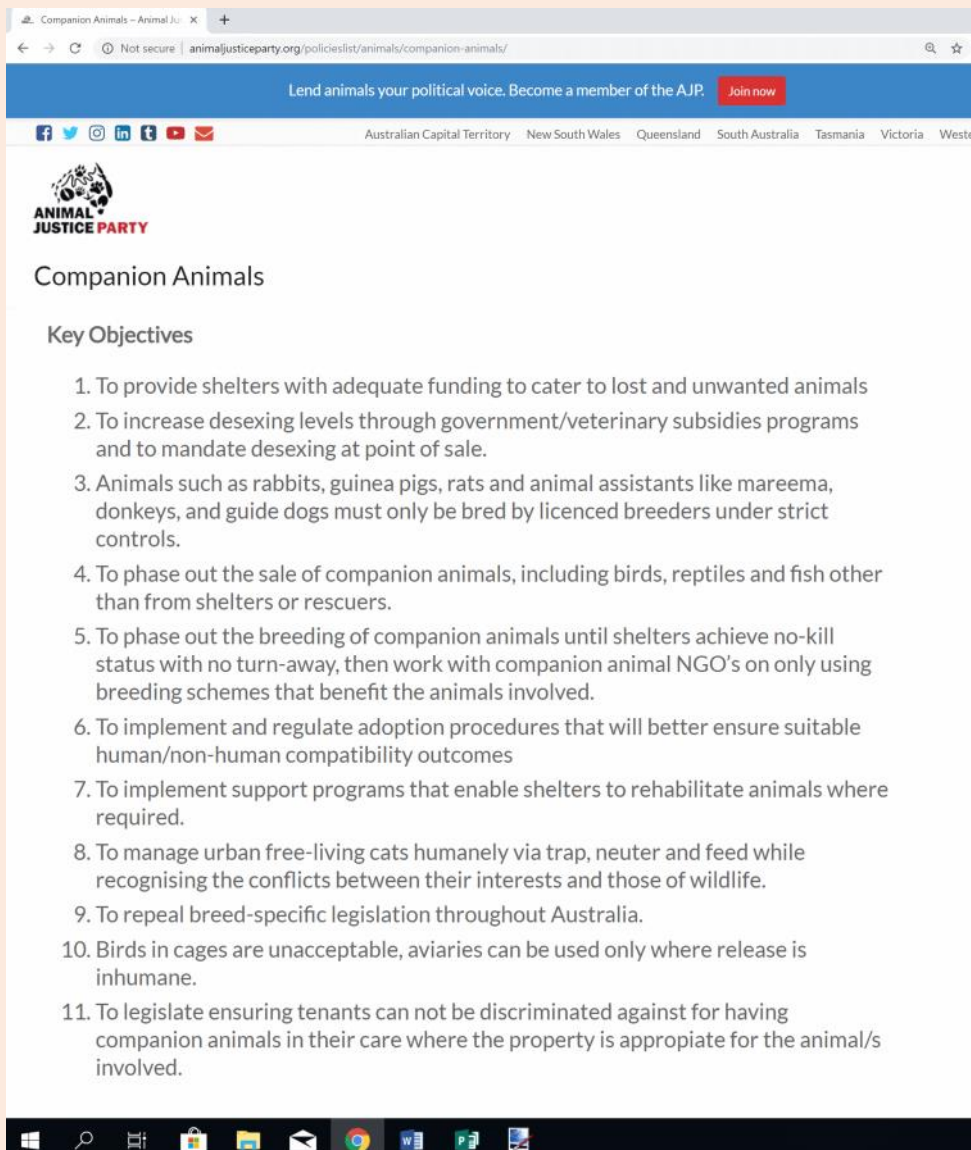
4. To **phase out** the sale of companion animals, including birds, reptiles and fish other than from shelters or rescuers.

5. To **phase out** the breeding of companion animals until shelters achieve no-kill status with no turn-away, then work with companion animal NGO's on only using breeding schemes that benefit the animals involved.

Responding to Emma the committee noted the "phasing out" gave no thought to what we would do when



Emma HURST



Lack of clarity by AJP's lead candidate on policies that if implemented will shut down pedigree dogs, aviculture and all other animal groups ACA represents is concerning, to say the least.

Emma was asked from the committee why the need to create a new bill when the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) simply needs to be enforced. This would go a long way to improving animal welfare and resolving over-breeding issues. When asked about current state licensing for native wildlife such as birds and reptiles, Emma admitted not having enough knowledge of the licensing provisions for these specific animals, and that if she planned to work on any legislative changes in this area she would need expert opinion and consultation.

It was clear Emma was not fully informed of the current POCTA Act and the current wildlife licensing reforms.

Finally, Emma strongly agreed on educational and community awareness programs being the way forward for better animal welfare outcomes however these do not figure in the Animal Justice

Party's key objectives which is of concern to the ACA.

animals are so old they can no longer breed. The reproductive life span of each species is different, ranging from less than twelve months to a decade. "Phasing out" will lead to extinction of numerous companion species and individual breeds. Emma indicated she would take the ACA's concerns on this back to the National AJP committee for consideration

The ACA committee feels it is important to recognise the positive impacts on companion pet ownership, and the community psychotherapeutic benefits of owning animals, as well as the national economic value that the pet industry represents.

Dogs NSW President, Lyn Brown, made it clear pedigree dogs are simply unheard of in rescue shelters and pounds – Emma did not respond, was AJP aware of this fact? Sam Davis, representing bird keepers (aviculturists) was advised that Emma thought key objective 10, "Birds in cages are unacceptable..." referred to wild birds or maybe it was about cockatoos confined solely to small cages? Emma said that wild, rescued/injured birds should be released, but that birds that could not be released should be in aviaries. It was clear here that Mr Davis and Ms Hurst disagreed on the intent of this objective.

At a recent event in Sydney on 25/11/2018 Emma made the following comment.

"If there was potential to form a government with Labor and the Greens and the Animal Justice Party we could potentially get some bills though."

If the AJP gains another seat or two in the NSW upper house then it is likely the AJP will hold the balance of power in the upper house. Based on AJP objectives, this would be a disaster for all who keep, care for and breed animals.

Emma said she would take this feedback to the National AJP committee.

It would behove the AJP to consider the expertise that the constituent groups of Animal Care Australia bring -such as herpetology, aviculturists, equine hobbyists, small animal societies, feline and canine regulatory bodies, to name a few.

The ACA committee looks forward to the opportunity of developing and being involved in further conversations advocating for our animals with the Animal Justice Party.

Animals Welfare or Animal Rights?

Animal welfare and animal rights are often thought to lie on the same continuum – this is not the case.

Generally accepted principles defining these terms are as follows.

Animal Welfare

1. The need for a suitable environment.
2. The need for a suitable diet.
3. The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
4. The need to be housed with, or apart from other animals.
5. The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Animal Rights

1. Animals are sentient beings that should not be owned by humans.
2. Humans and non-human beings should have equal rights both ethically and legally.
3. Animals should not be kept in captivity, including for food, entertainment, research, companionship, conservation or any other reason.

Where do the other Parties stand?



NSW ELECTIONS - WHO WILL IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE?

	Labor	Liberal	Greens	Animal Justice Party	Sustainable Australia	Shooters, Fishers Farmers	Liberal Democrats	The Nationals	One Nation
Animal Welfare Policies supporting:									
Party has a Written Animal Welfare Policy	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
An Independent Office of Animal Welfare	Maybe	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	?	?
Stronger Animal Welfare Laws	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?
Companion Animal Ownership	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?
Protection for Native Animals	Yes	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	?	?
Humane Management of 'Pest' Species	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Some	Yes	?	?
Animal Rights Policies supporting:									
Ban Animals in Circuses, Parks & Tourism	No	No	Some	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Ban Farming Animals for Food	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Ban Animal Sporting Activities	Some	?	Maybe	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Ban Companion Animal Breeders	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

See the available party animal welfare policies (right) or contact the Parties directly
DON'T FORGET TO TALK TO YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT!

The Liberals, Nationals, and One Nation did not respond to our queries.

http://act.nswlabor.org.au/labors_10_point_animal_welfare_plan

<https://animaljusticeparty.org/policies/>

https://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_biodiversity/

<https://greens.org.au/policies/animals>

<https://www.shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au/policies>



**This list compiled by ACA from written policies by the relevant parties. Details of policies vary greatly. This is not an exhaustive list of all policies related to animals in this election.*

***Animal Care Australia does not endorse any one political party. This information is provided as a simplified guide only, to encourage voters to investigate details for themselves. (2019)*

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