



HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL

newsletter

NO SURPRISE THAT DOLPHINS DIE PAGE 7

ON THE MONEY ONLINE it's never been easier to help our wildlife page 6

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

# Aussie vets on the front and the faultlines



John Skuja treats a member of the family. See back page.

In April a magnitude 7.8 earthquake rocked Nepal and this beautifully mountainous Himalayan country of 30 million people lost thousands of lives, irreplaceable historic buildings and cherished animals.

With the frequency of such tragedies, disaster relief work is now a big part of HSI's global efforts. Typically, our focus is on companion animals but Nepal would prove unique.

Upon arrival the vets saw that the most badly affected animals were live-stock. These animals are vital to their owners and are treated as family members because the Nepalese tend to just have one or two animals and keep them in stone buildings beside or under their houses.

John Skuja, our first Australian vet on the scene, immediately called for large-animal vets. As his plea got out we were humbled by the response of so many fellow Australian vets committing to join him.

Particularly, we would like to thank vets John Skuja, Cate Sutton, Don Hudson and Bill Gaddum for dropping everything and heading into the disaster zone. Back home, support-vets Andrea Britton, Elaine Ong and Michael Heath marshalled essential supplies while others across the country rallied with incredibly generous donations.

Heartwarming, our supporters also responded without prompting.

*Many thanks to all, HSI.*

Firstly, we must thank everybody for a fabulous response to our appeal to help stop the excesses of the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam. We sent the \$20,000 needed by our friends at Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) to continue their huge fight against the burgeoning trade in endangered species.

The importance of their work and your support can't be overstated. *Thank you.*

This issue sees us focus on the earthquake that befell Nepal and the unspeakable suffering of both its people and their life-giving animals. Our US office responded with a major international effort, and thanks to the generosity of HSI members, HSI Australia followed suit. As our stories (**front and back**) recount, HSI funded the travel of four small- and big-animal vets (they, at their own expense, also took medicines worth thousands of dollars).

**Progress has also been made** on *truth in labelling* and industry honesty in describing true "free range" egg production. A recent meeting of Fair Trade ministers resolved to pursue national and enforceable standards; HSI is now lobbying the Federal Government to sort the states and territories out on this animal welfare issue. Page 4 tells you how you can help bring this crucial animal welfare goal to fruition.

Following complaints by HSI, two important court cases have been brought on by the ACCC. We await a decision in one while the other is to complete its deliberations and will alert you to the outcomes shortly.

**HSI, after nearly ten years of campaigning with colleague organisations,** has seen the most recent United Nations climate change talks in Bonn finally agree a plan to help slow destruction of tropical forests and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HSI had published a policy paper for the meeting on how to better protect forests, and two of our best campaigners travelled to Germany to help lobby for this critical outcome.

**Flying-foxes are never out of the media these days and never for the right reason.** HSI continues to fight for these magnificent creatures as governments at all levels ignore their moral and legal responsibilities to protect these threatened species. As they continue to destroy family colonies that are perceived to be a nuisance, we seek your help on the page opposite.

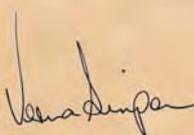
Other stories include the protection of marine species under enormous pressure from an ever-expanding and resource hungry human population. Demands are overwhelming many species and they need your letter-writing skills to pressure our politicians, who remain all too willing to give industry the break at the expense of wild living creatures. We trust in your support as always.

Ending with good news, **Survey Monkey** will donate 50 cents each time you complete a survey from one of its clients seeking public opinion on a range consumer and social issues. See page 6.

*Thank you for your continued loyalty to the animals of this world — they can't speak but it says a lot about you.*



  
Michael Kennedy  
DIRECTOR, HSI



Verna Simpson  
DIRECTOR, HSI



HSI has witnessed the NSW government's short-sighted policy on managing flying-fox camps. Threatened trees and flying-fox habitat are being cleared in a small reserve in Avalon (on Sydney's northern beaches) with industrial noise, smoke and distress calls to used to drive them away.

We know that dispersing camps and destroying habitat are the main reasons why flying-foxes are threatened and yet governments allow land managers to routinely carry out both actions.

We also know that these dispersals are rarely successful, often just forcing

the bats into other confrontational areas. Worryingly, the Federal Government is now poised to allow councils to disperse colonies in conflict with people so we could see evictions on a national scale.

**We must learn to live with flying-foxes.** Following HSI's nomination, grey-headed flying-foxes were listed *vulnerable* in 2001 but a recovery plan for them has been **(unacceptably) in draft form since 2009.**

A recovery plan is urgently needed to provide long-term vision for the protection of this much maligned but keystone species.

A national recovery plan for grey-headed flying-foxes is urgently needed, as is your support for this persecuted species.

Ask for the recovery plan to be finalised NOW by writing to: The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

or by email to: [greg.hunt.MP@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.MP@environment.gov.au)

**ACTION NEEDED**

Please send any replies to us

## There's nothing 'free' about this trade

Asia's wildlife trade is the largest single threat to many of the most endangered species and Vietnam is a major crossroad, with animals smuggled from Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia and India.

And disturbingly, conspicuous consumption from growing middle classes (particularly China) continues to drive new markets, especially in the consumption of rhino horn.

Thanks to the generous help of HSI supporters like you, we have sent a further \$20,000 to Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) to empower their critical and increasingly successful work, fighting this ugly, large scale trading.

We have been championing ENV's work in Vietnam for 15+ years and now, thanks to your support, we have facilitated the expansion of their critical investigation work.

Our earlier support has undoubtedly been one of the best wildlife protection investments we have made. Helping to establish the wildlife hotline has enabled people to provide information anonymously and, with ENV's expertise in using the media, it has become a game changer. *Thank you all once again.*



*Support comes at a price, but not-supporting comes at a much bigger one*



**1,500  
birds per  
hectare**

**Hens need room to move but producers can't have the same freedom in claiming 'free range'**

Yet again your support has been astounding as thousands of you contacted your State Fair Trading Minister asking for the new National Information Standard to represent *true* free range.

The ministers met on the 12th of June to start discussions on a national definition for free range. Obviously we support a National Standard to build consumer confidence and certainty around egg labelling, the devil will be in the detail.

Neither HSI (representing the majority of free range producers and having the only certification trade mark for Free Range produce) nor any free range producers have been asked for input into these

deliberations. So we are requesting that the ministers bring us into all future discussions.

Meanwhile, we await the judgement on our ACCC complaint re Swan Valley eggs in WA. Hopefully, this case will offer further guidance to the ministers, particularly as the ACCC say these cases will underline the basic rules for free range.

Given the company they are keeping, we need to keep the pressure on our state Fair Trading ministers to guarantee that the new free range standard is what consumers expect: hens with enough space and access to go outside each day.

**Please ask your State Fair Trading Minister** to ensure the National Information Standard for free range eggs dictates that the hens have a maximum outdoor stocking density of 1,500 birds per hectare. And they must be able to move about freely on an open range on every ordinary day. Practices must be based on the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) 'five freedoms' of animal welfare.

## **ACTION NEEDED**

### **New South Wales**

The Hon Victor Dominello, MP,  
Minister for Innovation & Better Regulation  
*or email:*  
office@dominello.minister.nsw.gov.au

### **Queensland**

The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP,  
Attorney General and Minister for Justice  
*or email:* attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

### **Victoria**

The Hon Jane Garrett MP,  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
*or email:*  
jane.garrett@parliament.vic.gov.au

### **South Australia**

The Hon Gail Gago MLC, Minister for  
Business Services & Consumers  
*or email:* minister.gago@sa.gov.au

### **West Australia**

The Hon Michael Mischin MP,  
Minister for Commerce  
*or email:* Minister.Mischin@dpc.wa.gov.au

### **Tasmania**

The Hon Vanessa Goodwin MP,  
Minister for Justice  
*or email:*  
vanessa.goodwin@parliament.tas.gov.au

### **Australian Capital Territory**

The Hon Andrew Barr MP, Chief Minister  
*or email:* Barr@act.gov.au

### **Northern Territory**

The Hon Johan Wessel Elferink MP,  
Attorney General & Minister for Justice  
*or email:* Minister.Elferink@nt.gov.au

**Or write** to your minister  
c/- Parliament House in your state.

*Please send any replies to us*

# Things are looking up for forests

but we can't take our eyes off them

**June:** History was made at the UN Climate negotiations in Bonn, Germany with the finalisation of a mechanism to protect tropical forests and combat climate change. And it was almost 10 years to the day since Papua New Guinea proposed it on behalf of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

Known as REDD+, HSI has been involved with the development of this important initiative from its inclusion in the Bali Action Plan (2007) at the UN climate change talks in Indonesia. And fittingly, HSI Climate and biodiversity advisers Peg Putt and Alistair Graham were in Bonn to witness the culmination of this effort:

"It's taken a long time and much effort to reach this important point—the green light for international action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) with final agreement on a package to do so. Countries can now turn their attention to inclusion of forests in negotiation of the new climate agreement to be finalised in Paris this December, to facilitate the protection of primary forests and natural restoration of degraded forests around the planet as a vital contribution to combatting climate change."

Please write to the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt urging his government to ensure the Paris climate change talks produce the strongest forest agreement. And to ensure that Australians and Australian companies are permitted to buy international rainforest credits to save forests and reduce carbon emissions.

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
or email: [greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au)

**ACTION NEEDED**

Please send any replies to us



# No end of help

## Saving tortoises and freshwater turtles

Hundreds of turtle and tortoise species are threatened by habitat loss and ferocious illegal trading.

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) comprises 14 zoos and conservation bodies dedicated to protecting critically endangered freshwater turtles and tortoises.

These gentle creatures deserve all the help they can get so HSI has helped fund dozens of TCF projects globally over recent years and is presently supporting 19 projects in 12 countries: China, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Ghana and the USA.

But our support is only possible because of yours. *Thank you.*

## More species, more protection, more urgency...

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) meets in October 2016. And HSI has assessed marine species that would benefit from inclusion in their Appendices.

Such inclusions would provide better control of international trade and prohibit such trade if the species were threatened.

In line with our assessment, we have also written to the Commonwealth Government urging them to submit this list for inclusion by CITES: Nautilids *Allonautilus spp.* and *Nautilus spp.*; Southern bluefin tuna *Thunnus maccoyii*; Long- and short-fin mako shark *Isurus spp.*; Mobula rays *Mobula spp.*; Tope, school or soupfin shark *Galeorhinus galeus*; Gulper sharks Family *Centrophoridae*; Freshwater Stingrays Family *Potamotrygonidae*; Guitarfishes / Shovelnose rays Family *Rhinobatidae*.

Please write to the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt urging him to strongly consider proposing the marine species listed by HSI for protection under CITES at the meeting of the parties in October 2016.

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

or email: [greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au)

**ACTION NEEDED**

Please send any replies to us

## Now you can help animals simply by taking online surveys. And yes, it's that easy.

Survey Monkey will donate 50 cents each time you complete a survey from one of its clients wanting your opinion on topics like consumer product preferences, trends and brand awareness.

Most surveys only take minutes which makes it a quick, fun way to help animals right from your computer screen. Every time you fill in a survey 50 cents is automatically added to our account so your participation really adds up and it's easy to track your progress.

Just visit this address to sign up (Survey Monkey will not share your details with anyone):

<https://contribute.surveymonkey.com/charity-sign-up/humane-society-international>







42,000 hectares  
of sanctuary =  
acres of security



Make no mistake,  
no culling means  
no nets.

HSI seeks Commonwealth recognition of  
environmental threat of shark control programs

The Australian contingent of HSI's Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) continues to strengthen, with 315 wildlife-friendly properties totalling nearly 42,500 hectares of habitats managed for conservation. Private land is increasingly recognised as one of the most essential factors for species' survival—whether it's one or one thousand acres.

Among recent additions to the WLT is Evan Ahern's "The Bower", a spectacular eight hectare property abutting Coxcomb Nature Reserve in New South Wales. This sanctuary provides habitat for dingoes, tiger quolls, platypus, echidnas and much more, while Evan and family continue with reforestation efforts to restore it to its former 'pre-logged' glory.

Joining the Wildlife Land Trust network is completely free of charge and a straightforward process providing recognition and support for conservation-minded people.

315  
member  
properties



Like to know more? It's easy and free so call now to learn how on 1800 333 737 or visit [wildlifelandtrust.org.au](http://wildlifelandtrust.org.au)

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
**WILDLIFE LAND TRUST**

In March, HSI submitted a nomination to have *Shark Control Programs* listed as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act).

In NSW and Queensland these programs include beach meshing and drumlines. And Western Australia now has an "imminent threat policy" for dangerous sharks and although not an official control program, it threatens shark populations.

Our nomination follows meetings with the NSW Minister for Agriculture and Primary Industries, and a subsequent announcement by Premier Mike Baird that his government would trial non-lethal shark deterrent methods.

HSI fully supports the NSW government's plans, having long objected to shark meshing's effect on mammals and

critically endangered species, including the grey nurse shark. HSI does not advocate any particular non-lethal approach, believing that scientific trials should continue whilst also ensuring there are no knock-on impacts on other marine life. The NSW government must support such trials.

The Premier has also declared that shark culling would not occur in NSW and that his government's focus will be on responding to threats with non-lethal innovative technologies. But despite this statement it is clear that nets cull, as threatened white sharks, critically endangered grey nurse sharks and countless marine animals are killed each year in them. HSI hopes that our nomination and the new government's commitment will help protect and understand sharks while leading to the removal of inhumane control programs.

Write or email NSW Premier Mike Baird and his ministers urging them to stop culling sharks and to replace damaging control programs with non-lethal alternatives:

The Honourable Mike Baird MP,  
NSW Premier  
GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001

or email by visiting:  
<http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au/contact-premier-new-south-wales>

The Honourable Niall Blair MLC,  
Minister for Primary Industries  
GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001  
or email: [office@blair.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@blair.minister.nsw.gov.au)

The Honourable Mark Speakman MP,  
Minister for Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001  
or email: [office@speakman.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@speakman.minister.nsw.gov.au)

**ACTION  
NEEDED**

Please send any  
replies to us

Write or email Environment Minister Greg Hunt urging HSI's nomination of Shark Control Programs as a KTP be added to the Finalised Priority Assessment List (FPAL) for the EPBC Act this year:

Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House.  
Canberra ACT 2600 or email him at: [Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au)

## Saving endangered wildlife habitats

# We asked, you responded and it worked. So, let's do it again.

We asked for your help with the listing of two HSI-nominated threatened ecological communities, 'Hinterland Sand Flats Forests and Woodlands of the Sydney Basin Bioregion' and 'Cooks River and Castlereagh iron-bark forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion' under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

Now, we say thanks to all who had their say because it worked. And we have received more fantastic news: another two HSI-nominated communities, 'Posidonia australis seagrass meadows of the Manning-Hawkesbury eco-region' and 'Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland' are now protected through the same legislation.

Along with the two Sydney Basin Bioregion listings, these ecological communities are now considered Matters of National Environmental Significance and will immediately receive legislative protection from development, with the prioritising of funding for rehabilitation and stewardship to assist in their recovery.

This is life-saving for the threatened species that call these areas 'home', including green and golden bell frogs, regent honeyeaters, and brush-tailed rock wallabies.

Please write to the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt congratulating him on the EPBC Act listing of four HSI-nominated ecological communities, and expressing your support for:

- a) the listing of the 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt;
- and
- b) the inclusion of 'Woodland and Heathland Bird Community of the Murray Mallee Bioregion' and 'Ridged Plains Mallee Community' on the 2015 Finalised Priority Assessment List.

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

or email: [greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au)

## ACTION NEEDED

Please send any replies to us

## How can I help them when I no longer share their world?

Leave a bequest to HSI and you'll leave a lasting impression. By naming HSI in your will you'll strengthen our capabilities and show your commitment to protecting animals.

Please send me information about leaving a bequest to HSI.

TITLE: FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

ADDRESS:

STATE: POSTCODE PHONE: ( )

EMAIL:

Please mail to: Humane Society International, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107.

## Conservation and Animal Welfare Ministers

### Victoria

#### VIC Premier

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP  
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place  
MELBOURNE VIC 3002  
Tel: (03) 9548 5644  
Fax: (03) 9548 5634  
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

#### Minister for Agriculture\*

The Honourable Jaala Pulford MP  
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3002  
Tel: (03) 5332 2405  
Fax: (03) 5333 3109  
jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

#### Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

The Honourable Lisa Neville MP  
Level 17, 8 Nicholson Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3002  
Tel: (03) 9637 9654  
lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au

#### Minister for Energy and Resources

The Hon. Liana (Lily) DiAmbrosio MLA  
Level 36, 121 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
Tel: (03) 9938 5963  
Fax: (03) 9938 5962  
lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

### New South Wales

#### NSW Premier\*\*

The Honourable Mike Baird MP  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Tel: (02) 9228 5239  
Fax: (02) 9228 3935  
<http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au/contact-premier-new-south-wales>

#### Minister for Primary Industries\*

The Honourable Niall Blair MLC  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Tel: (02) 8574 7190  
Fax: (02) 9339 5560  
office@blair.minister.nsw.gov.au

#### Minister for Environment & Heritage

The Honourable Mark Speakman MP  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Tel: (02) 8574 6390  
Fax: (02) 9339 5542  
office@speakman.minister.nsw.gov.au

### Queensland

#### QLD Premier

The Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
Tel: (07) 3719 7000  
thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

#### Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

The Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham MP  
PO Box 15216  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
Tel: (07) 3719 7360  
statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

#### Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry\*

The Hon. William (Bill) Byrne MP  
GPO Box 46  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Tel: (07) 3719 7560  
agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

#### Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and Great Barrier Reef

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP  
GPO Box 2454  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Tel: (07) 3719 7330  
environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

### Western Australia

#### WA Premier

The Honourable Colin Barnett MLA  
1 Parliament Place  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
Tel: (08) 6552 5000  
Fax: (08) 6552 5001  
wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

#### Minister for Agriculture and Food

The Honourable Ken Baston MLC  
7th Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
Tel: (08) 6552 5400  
Fax: (08) 6552 5401  
Minister.Baston@dpc.wa.gov.au

#### Minister for Forestry/Water

The Honourable Mia Davies MLA  
9th Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
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Tel: (08) 6552 5500  
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#### Minister for the Environment and Heritage

The Honourable Albert Jacob MLA  
12th Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
Tel: (08) 6552 5800  
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#### Minister for Mines and Petroleum

The Honourable Bill Marmion MLA  
29th Floor, Allendale Square,  
77 St George's Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000  
Tel: (08) 6552 6800  
Fax: (08) 6552 6801  
Minister.Marmion@dpc.wa.gov.au

#### Minister for Local Government\*

The Honourable Tony Simpson MLA  
8th Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005  
Tel: (08) 6552 6600  
Fax: (08) 6552 6601  
Minister.Simpson@dpc.wa.gov.au

### South Australia

#### SA Premier

The Honourable Jay Weatherill MP  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Tel: (08) 8463 3166  
Fax: (08) 8463 3168  
cheltenham@parliament.sa.gov.au

#### Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries\*, Minister for Forests

The Honourable Leon Bignall MLC  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Tel: (08) 8226 1210  
Fax: (08) 8226 0844  
ministerleonbignall@sa.gov.au

#### Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

The Honourable Ian Hunter MLC  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Tel: (08) 8463 5680  
Fax: (08) 8463 5681  
minister.hunter@sa.gov.au

### Northern Territory

#### NT Chief Minister

The Honourable Adam Giles MLA  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Tel: (08) 8928 6500  
Fax: (08) 8928 6621  
Chief.Minister@nt.gov.au

#### Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

The Honourable  
Willem Westra van Holthe MLA  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Tel: (08) 8928 6540  
Fax: (08) 8928 6644  
Minister.Westravanholthe@nt.gov.au

#### Minister for the Environment

The Honourable Garry Higgins MLA  
GPO Box 3146  
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Minister.Higgins@nt.gov.au

#### Minister for Parks, Wildlife and Local Government

The Honourable Bess Price MLA  
GPO Box 3146  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Tel: (08) 8928 6587  
minister.price@nt.gov.au

#### Minister for Mines and Energy

The Honourable David Tollner MLA  
GPO Box 3146  
Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: (08) 8999 7540  
Facsimile: (08) 8928 6613  
Minister.Tollner@nt.gov.au

### Tasmania

#### TAS Premier

The Honourable Will Hodgman MP  
11th Floor, Executive Building  
15 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6165 7650  
Fax: (03) 6234 1572  
will.hodgman@parliament.tas.gov.au

#### Minister for Primary Industries and Water

The Honourable Jeremy Rockliffe MP  
10th Floor, Executive Building  
15 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6165 7754  
jeremy.rockliffe@parliament.tas.gov.au

#### Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage\*

The Honourable Matthew Groom MP  
10th Floor, Ministerial Office  
10 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
Tel: (03) 6165 7724  
matthew.groom@parliament.tas.gov.au

### Australian Capital Territory

#### ACT Chief Minister

The Honourable Andrew Barr MLA  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6205 0011  
Fax: (02) 6205 0157  
barr@act.gov.au

#### Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development

The Honourable Simon Corbell MLA  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6205 0000  
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corbell@act.gov.au

### Federal

#### Prime Minister

The Honourable Tony Abbott MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 7700  
Fax: (02) 6273 4100  
Visit [www.pm.gov.au](http://www.pm.gov.au) and use the 'Contact Your PM' facility.

#### Minister for the Environment

The Honourable Greg Hunt MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 7920  
Fax: (02) 6273 7330  
greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au

#### Minister for Agriculture

The Honourable Barnaby Joyce  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 7520  
Fax: (02) 6273 4120  
barnaby.joyce@aph.gov.au

#### Leader of the Opposition

The Honourable Bill Shorten MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 4022  
Fax: (02) 6277 8562  
bill.shorten.mp@aph.gov.au

#### Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator Richard Di Natale  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 3170  
Fax: (02) 6277 3185  
senator.dinatale@aph.gov.au

\* Animal welfare minister

\*\*Climate change issues now fall under the responsibility of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

## HSI "Vets in Nepal"

# How a huge commitment bought even bigger comfort

I had travelled most of the first world but the aid work with HSI was my introduction to Nepal and, after just 24 hours, I had seen how devastated a country can get. But also how unbelievably resilient people can be.

These people hold their animals as family, not beasts of burden, and I tried hard to see them the same way. They stood in the ruins of villages, and did their best for injured cattle, goats and buffalo. And not just for economic reasons or for food and milk, but because they are family.

It was extra rewarding to help these people and their animals, knowing that without us, there was no-one. *Don Hudson, vet.*

Being a livestock vet, I was fortunate to be supported by HSI to help with animal recovery efforts after the Nepalese earthquakes.

Arriving in villages (often as the first aid seen in the five weeks since the earthquakes) the destruction was immense and the stories were heart wrenching. Amazingly however, the people remained positive and their resilience showed in many already starting to rebuild.

Many animals' fractures had started to heal (some in not ideal positions) but the incredible care given by their owners was inspiring. They were being hand-fed, had new shelters built over and around them and were treated like the injured 'family member' they are.

This care goes far beyond what we could imagine in Australia. And, grateful for any help, villagers always offered tea or a meal at the end of a treatment, despite it using up the last of their food supplies.

There were also testing times in a country where it is illegal (and against cultural and religious beliefs) to euthanase cows. Fortunately, our supply of pain medications was boundless with no animal being left to suffer and many showing surprising recoveries.

Mother Nature has won this round but the Nepalese will rebuild their beautiful nation and I can't wait to return with my family to see the results. My time there was life-changing and my most professionally-rewarding experience; I will gladly volunteer for future disaster work, particularly in poorer countries. *Cate Sutton, vet.*



Cate going wherever needed



Don comforts a family member



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