



**animal rights
advocates inc.**
www.ara.org.au

ANIMAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MARCH IN MAY

Animal Rights Advocates (ARA) supports the March in May. This march expresses a vote of no confidence in Tony Abbott's government. ARA opposes the human rights, animal rights and environmental abuses of the Abbott government.

We take an [intersectional](#) approach to animal advocacy, meaning that we do not just oppose animal oppression but all forms of oppression. We seek to find intersections between harm to animals and other forms of oppression, while we build coalitions with other organisations and individuals concerned about social justice.

Like other animal advocacy groups such as [The Institute for Critical Animal Studies \(Oceania\)](#), we condemn the human rights violations of the Abbott government. According to [Human Rights Watch](#), 'Australia has tainted its human rights record because of its failure to uphold international obligations and implementing "draconian" policies on asylum seekers'.

Citing shark culling, dredging spoil being dumped on the Great Barrier Reef and ancient forests in Tasmania being stripped of their World Heritage, an article in *The Independent* [asks](#) if Abbott's government 'is the most conservation-hostile in living memory'.

As an animal rights group, we are not just concerned about the damage these policies cause to ecosystems as a whole, but also the individual animals who are inevitably displaced, injured and killed when their habitats are destroyed.

A clear example of this is the killing of sharks in Western Australia, which was implemented by the Liberal state government and [exempted](#) from national environmental laws by federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt. Over 100 sharks were [killed](#) as a result of this policy, which is devastating to the marine ecosystem and also violates the rights of the individuals who were killed for the "crime" of living in *their* habitat.

While ARA strongly condemns the killing of sharks by the Liberal government, we also acknowledge that the vast majority of animals killed by humans are not killed through specific government policies like this. An [overwhelming majority](#) are killed for food in animal agriculture.

This slaughter will continue regardless of which political party is in power, which is why we put a lot of our efforts into promoting veganism. Through cutting out animal products, individuals can reduce the demand for animal slaughter, regardless of who is in government. For practical advice on living vegan, visit our website www.veganperth.org.au

While we can take actions for animals in our lives, the government in power still makes a big difference for humans, other animals and the environment. We encourage people to oppose the human rights, animal rights and environmental abuses of the Abbott government by supporting the March in May.

March in May Perth takes place on the 18th of May from 12-4pm at Russell Square Park – Cnr Shenton & James St, Northbridge. You can find more details about the Perth march [here](#) and if you're outside of Perth, you can find a march near you [here](#).