



**Hon Tim Mulherin MP**  
Member for Mackay



**Queensland  
Government**

Reference: 08/17896

**Minister for Primary Industries  
and Fisheries**

30 SEP 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
**Brisbane Qld 4000**

*Neil*  
Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 28 August 2008 concerning petition No 1012-08 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding the Code of Practice for pigs.

I have written to the principal petitioner, Ms Carmel Loane, and attach a copy of my letter for your information.

Yours sincerely

*Tim Mulherin*

**TIM MULHERIN, MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries**  
**Member for Mackay**

Att

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Hon Tim Mulherin MP  
Member for Mackay

**COPY**



**Queensland  
Government**

Minister for Primary Industries  
and Fisheries

Reference: 08/18624

30 SEP 2008

Ms Carmel Loane  
14 Greenidge Street  
Wishart Qld 4121

Dear Ms Loane

I refer to your petition (No: 1012-08) to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the Code of Practice for pigs which was tabled on 27 August 2008.

A revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Pig Code has recently been published. It provides standards and guidelines to safeguard the welfare of pigs while recognising the need to bring in some of the changes over time so that the impact can be managed by industry.

The revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Pig Code (Primary Industries Report Series 92) is available via <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/22/sid/11.htm>.

Model Codes of Practice provide direction on what is appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* and the codes provide a balance between the welfare of animals, community expectations, and the interests of persons whose livelihood is dependent on these animals.

The codes are developed nationally in extensive consultation with a wide range of groups such as animal industries, animal welfare organisations, governments, universities and specialist organisations such as the Australian Veterinary Association. Revision of the codes is undertaken via a national review process that involves representatives of all these stakeholders. Community feedback on new and revised codes is sought through a public consultation process.

As part of a national process, the key standards arising from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Pig Code will be prepared for inclusion in the *Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2002* and therefore will be enforceable by law. A high level working group is guiding the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Pig Code to provide for national consistency.

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Confinement of sows in stalls during pregnancy is recognised as a significant animal welfare issue. In the future, sows can be confined in sow stalls for only the first six weeks of their pregnancy. This recommendation is consistent with international decisions on the husbandry of pigs and encourages industry to look towards improved production systems in the future. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Pig Code recognises the scientific evidence showing that confining sows during early pregnancy decreases the risk of injury and loss of pregnancy due to aggression from other pigs.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Janine Barrett of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on telephone 07 3239 3233 or email [janine.barrett@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:janine.barrett@dpi.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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