



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2296603

3 SEP 2013

Level 18 State Law Building  
50 Ann Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 149 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3247 9068**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3221 4352**  
**Email attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au**

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Bleijie". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name "Dear Mr Laurie".

I refer to Petition No. 2145-13 presented by Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Beaudesert, on behalf of the principal petitioner, Ms Kristy Mills, and received by the Legislative Assembly on 6 August 2013.

The petition requests that I appeal the sentence of Mr Wayne Charles Hartwig, who was convicted of two counts of injuring animals by night and one count of trespass. The offences related to abhorrent acts of cruelty that resulted in the death of two alpacas at Caboolture State High School. Mr Hartwig received a sentence of six months imprisonment and was released on parole immediately.

On 23 May 2013, I lodged an appeal against the sentence on the basis that it was manifestly inadequate, did not meet community expectations and did not provide an adequate deterrent.

My appeal against the sentence is listed for hearing in the Queensland Court of Appeal on 25 September 2013. As the matter is currently before the Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.

The petition also requests the House to look at ways at strengthening the laws regarding sentencing in regards to animal cruelty to ensure perpetrators receive a more relevant sentence to the crime committed.

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACP Act) affords high levels of care and protection to all animals in Queensland and the majority of acts of animal cruelty in Queensland are prosecuted under that Act.

Currently, the maximum penalty for an offence against section 18 (Animal cruelty prohibited) of the ACP Act is 1000 penalty units (\$110,000) or two years imprisonment.

(2)

The Government has recently introduced amendments in the Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 to increase the maximum penalty under section 18 to 2000 (\$220,000) penalty units or three years imprisonment, implementing the Government's election commitment to empower the courts to impose penalties that act as both a punishment and a deterrent.

Despite the amendments to increase the penalties under the ACP Act, I remain concerned about those acts of animal cruelty which involve an intention to inflict severe pain and suffering on the animal in question; in effect, the torture of the animal. I am currently considering the creation of new offence of serious animal cruelty to target such offending.

Yours sincerely



**JARROD BLEIJIE MP**  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice