



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 18754/18
Your ref:

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13 JUL 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2018 regarding a petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 2924–18 "Stop calf roping at Queensland Rodeos".

The Queensland Government is committed to providing legislation and standards that not only protect the reputation of Queensland's animal industries and ensure the welfare of all animals in Queensland, including animals used in rodeos, but also meet community expectations.

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) affords high levels of care and protection to all animals in Queensland. The purpose of the Act is to provide appropriate standards for the care and use of animals that:

- achieve a reasonable balance between the welfare of animals and the interests of persons whose livelihood is dependent on animals and
- allows for changes in community expectations about practices involving animals.

In addition to the cruelty provisions, the Act also places a legal duty of care on all those who own or are in charge of animals. Having this duty of care obligation means people are legally obliged to care for their animals in an appropriate way and that is reasonable for the type, age and circumstances of the animal.

I am advised that the provisions of the Act currently in place ensure the welfare of the calves being used in calf events and provide for action to be taken where there is evidence that their welfare has been compromised. Officers appointed under the Act have powers to investigate reports of alleged cruelty or mistreatment of animals and to take appropriate action, including prosecution where necessary.

The issue of calf events including calf roping was referred to the Animal Welfare Advisory Board for consideration and their advice about the animal welfare impacts and community expectations concerning calf roping.

Late last year, the Board reported their findings and made a number of recommendations to me as the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. This report is now being considered.

If a person is aware of any specific incidents in Queensland where animals are not being cared for properly, they are able to lodge a complaint with the RSPCA on 1300 264 625 or with Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 so that the matter can be investigated.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Greg McDougall, Senior Policy Officer, in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, by email at greg.mcdougall@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries