



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

Our ref: CTS 16763/19  
Your ref: A454795

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- 3 JUL 2019

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 2019 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3109-19: *Legislation relating to the breeding of puppies and 'puppy farms'*.

The petition calls for amendment of current legislation to limit the number of breeding female dogs (bitches) that a breeder, or breeding facility, can hold and to nominate and hold accountable agencies responsible for enforcing the mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding.

The Palaszczuk Government has implemented a suite of provisions to regulate the welfare of puppy breeding, including registration of dog breeders and the use of supply numbers when advertising, selling or otherwise rehoming dogs; standards and guidelines for the breeding of dogs; and mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding. In addition, Local Governments may set standards for domestic and commercial keeping of dogs within their jurisdictions.

All breeders, irrespective of the size of their enterprises, must meet the mandatory welfare standards, comply with breeder registration obligations and observe Council requirements.

The requirement to provide a unique breeder supply number (Breeder Identification Number) for all advertising and supply of dogs facilitates tracing back to the breeder in the event of a health or welfare incident; and is intended to be used as a tool to allow the public to contact the breeder should they wish to seek information about a dog they wish to buy or have purchased. It is not intended to restrict breeder behaviour or opportunity, but does provide a tool to identify a breeder that may fail to meet requirements.

The Palaszczuk Government is not aware of any evidence that larger dog breeding enterprises inherently deliver poorer welfare outcomes. Regardless of size, all breeders are subject to the same compliance standards, duty of care and cruelty provisions outlined in the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Act). The mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding are prescribed in the Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012 under the Act.

The Act also provides for inspectors appointed by the Government to enforce compliance using legislated powers to investigate, collect evidence and enforce using a range of compliance tools. The standards are jointly enforced by inspectors within Biosecurity Queensland of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and by officers of the RSPCA under a joint agreement.

While I commend the concerns of the petitioners for good welfare outcomes for dog breeding in Queensland, I am not satisfied that the suggested changes in legislation are warranted at this time.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact my office on 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely



**MARK FURNER MP**

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries**