



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

Our ref: CTS 10852/20

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17 June 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2020 regarding a petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3233-19.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides tools to respond to the transmission of exotic diseases from animals to humans or animal to animal.

During an emergency exotic disease response, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) may use emergency orders to prohibit the feeding of birds to prevent disease transmission.

Such emergency measures cannot be used in non-emergency situations.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* does not currently impose restrictions on any exotic bird species.

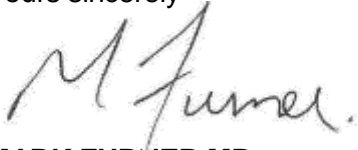
These restrictions cannot be imposed on native wildlife as the *Biosecurity Act 2014* is subject to the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1999* in all matters except emergency powers.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* imposes a general biosecurity obligation on persons undertaking an activity if the persons know or ought to know that the undertaking of the activity poses a biosecurity risk.

There is no established code of practice or general guidance material on persons undertaking bird feeding or education at the present time – and it is not currently proposed to make an amendment to the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to legislate bird feeding as proposed.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact my office on 07 3719 7420

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries