



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

Our ref: CTS 20055/20

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22 September 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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BRISBANE QLD 4000
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2020 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3353-20: *Strengthen legislation relating to the breeding of puppies to stop 'puppy farms'*.

The petition calls for amendment of the current legislation to introduce a more rigorous and meaningful breeder identification process; limit the number of breeding female dogs; prohibit the sale of puppies online or on social media; and enforce compliance with 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.

It is not considered necessary to prohibit the sale of puppies online. 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. It is intended to be used 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. However, it also provides a tool to identify a breeder that may fail to meet requirements.

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*. The mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding are prescribed in the Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012.

The Act provides for inspectors appointed by the Government to enforce compliance using powers to investigate, evidence collection and a range of other compliance tools. The standards are jointly enforced by inspectors within Biosecurity Queensland of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and officers of the RSPCA Queensland 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.

I have, however, requested the Department consider the elements raised in the petition in any future reviews of the Act.

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