



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

Our ref: CTS 25256/20

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

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2020 regarding E - Petition number 3430-20 entitled "End animal experimentation in Queensland" which was received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing legislation and standards that protect the reputation of Queensland's animal industries and ensure the welfare of all animals in Queensland, including animals used for scientific purposes.

Queensland's animal welfare law, the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act), affords high levels of care and protection to all animals in Queensland. One of the purposes of the Act is to ensure the use of animals for scientific purposes is accountable, open and responsible. Under the Act, the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (8th edition, 2013) (the Code) has been adopted as a mandatory code in Queensland.

Any person or organisation wishing to use animals for scientific purposes must be registered with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF); have their proposed animal use approved by an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC); and comply with the requirements of the Code.

The details of each person/organisation currently registered to use animals for scientific purposes are entered into a register of persons registered to use animals for scientific purposes, which can be accessed by the public.

It is an offence under the Act, if any person using animals for scientific purposes fails to register with the department or fails to have their proposed animal use approved by the AEC and comply with any Code and AEC requirements associated with that approval.

Besides medical research, using an animal for scientific purposes encompasses a broad range of scientific activities including, but not limited to, animal based research aimed at better understanding and improving the health and welfare of animals; environmental studies; diagnosis and teaching.

Animals being used for scientific purposes are not all kept in laboratories. While laboratory animals live in facilities which maintain a high level of biosecurity and controlled environmental conditions, many animals used for scientific purposes and teaching are kept on farms and other properties and live within their natural terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Researchers (including teachers) and animal care staff have responsibilities under the Code to ensure that the health and wellbeing of the animals being used for scientific purposes is in accordance with the Code's requirements. If an animal develops a health condition or is injured, then it must be diagnosed and treated appropriately as part of the program of veterinary care for the animals. Animal carers ensure that the animals in their care have appropriate social interaction with their own species; are provided with environmental enrichment; and have appropriate positive psychological interactions with humans.

Finally, the petition seeks to ban animal experimentation and extend legal personhood to animals. Banning the use of animals for scientific purposes would have major consequences for our ongoing knowledge and discovery of ways to improve human and animal health and wellbeing, to better understand human and animal biology, animal management and production and the natural environment.

I thank the petitioners for their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP

**Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities**