



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

Our ref: CTS 08592/21

13 MAY 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 April 2021 regarding petition number 3484-21 entitled "End dolphin captivity" which was presented to the Queensland Parliament.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring a high level of welfare, care and husbandry for exhibited animals through the *Exhibited Animals Act 2015* that regulates animal species used for exhibit.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for regulating the exhibition and dealing of non-indigenous animals and native wildlife to ensure that relevant risks and adverse effects associated with exhibiting and dealing of species is prevented or minimised.

In 2016, the Queensland Government introduced new and more comprehensive legislation through the Act to safeguard the welfare of animals used for exhibit. A licence holder granted a licence under the Act must address all relevant risks and adverse effects associated with the welfare of the animal, safety of the person and risks to biosecurity of their proposed activities. This includes the breeding of a species.

I am advised that the required legislative and standard requirements in the Act are sufficient for the care and management of dolphins for exhibition purposes, including the breeding of dolphins in captivity held for the purposes of exhibit.

Exhibition Licence holders granted a licence under the Act must comply with all relevant requirements including licence conditions and standards for exhibiting and dealing with an animal of a species, including dolphins and all other authorised cetaceans. On applying for a licence to exhibit and deal with dolphins and other species of animal, Queensland licence holders must stipulate details relevant to the skills, knowledge and experience of staff managing species exhibits, the proposed care and husbandry of the species and any associated activities, including breeding.

I am satisfied that the requirements for exhibiting and dealing with dolphins and other cetacean species in captivity address all relevant risks and adverse effects associated with captivity, including animal welfare standards. I note the community interest in this matter and petition efforts for the banning of dolphins in captivity, however the proposed action will not be considered at this time.

If you require further information, please 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 and
Minister for Rural Communities**