



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

Our ref: CTS 07664/22
Your ref: A863912

19/05/2022

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

ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2022 regarding petitions No 3673-21 (Subject: Ban the unattended tethering of dogs) and No 3674-21 (Subject: Make suitable shade shelter mandatory for all farmed animals) received by the Legislative Assembly on 10 May 2022.

As you are aware, on 12 May 2022, I introduced the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 to the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly agreed to the motion and referred the Bill to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

Tethering and other types of confinement of dogs is adequately covered under section 18 (Animal cruelty prohibited) which provides that a person is cruel to an animal if they confine it in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare. Treating inappropriate tethering and confinement under section 18 reflects community views about cruelty. While this will not ban the use of tethering, any offences relating to tethering will have a maximum penalty of 2 000 penalty units or three years imprisonment. The Bill will remove a provision on closely confined dogs, which has a lesser penalty and has proven difficult to enforce.

It is considered that the current provisions of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA), and codes of practice made under the ACPA, provide an adequate legal framework for establishing minimum standards for the provision of shade or shelter from extreme weather and climatic conditions. However, the Bill will provide new powers for inspectors to be able to enter a property without the consent of the occupier to provide shelter for an animal. The Bill will also expand the way animal welfare directions can be used in relation to a code of practice, making it easier for inspectors to respond efficiently to a breach of a code of practice.

Stakeholders and the community can provide further feedback on the proposed amendments to the ACPA via the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. Information about how the community can be involved in the committee process will be posted on the Queensland Parliament website at (<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees>).

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**