



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

Our ref: CTS 15191/22
Your ref: A937121

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7420
Email agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

14 September 2022

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 31 August 2022 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3735-22 on 30 August 2022: *Prohibit the use of choke collars in Queensland*.

The petition requests to amend the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) to prohibit the use and possession of choke collars.

I thank the petitioners for raising this issue and acknowledge the ongoing interest of the community on this matter, having responded to petitions in March 2022 (3686-22) and May 2021 (3531-21) which made identical requests.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing standards and legislation which protect the welfare of all animals in Queensland and which meet community expectations.

The misuse of any collar is adequately covered under section 18 of the Act, which provides that a person is cruel to an animal if they cause it pain that, in the circumstances, is unjustifiable, unnecessary or unreasonable.

As you are aware, on 12 May 2022, I introduced the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) to the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly referred the Bill to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, which has since recommended the Bill be passed. The Legislative Assembly will debate the Bill in due course.

The Bill will prohibit the use and possession of prong collars, and create a head of power in the Act so that other devices may be prohibited by regulation in future. Please note that prescribing other devices involves an amendment to subordinate legislation and would be subject to the Queensland Government's better practice regulation requirements, which includes consultation with affected stakeholders and careful consideration of the impacts.

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**