



Hon Tim Mulherin MP  
Member for Mackay



Queensland  
Government

Minister for Primary Industries  
and Fisheries

Reference: 06/18895

29 JAN 2007

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2006 concerning the petitions received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly Nos 763-06, 726-06.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) is currently working with the Department of Local Government, Planning and Sport and the Local Government Association of Queensland to consider ways in which the complex matters outlined in the petitions can be further addressed. Currently, local governments can develop laws that provide for the regulation of animals within their jurisdictions. This includes the de-sexing of companion animals.

The DPI&F administers the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*, which deals with the welfare of animals. From an animal welfare perspective, the breeding of healthy animals is not an issue. However, there is an animal welfare issue if animals are not appropriately cared for.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Catherine Dunne, Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 07 3239 3000.

Yours sincerely

**TIM MULHERIN, MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries**  
**Member for Mackay**

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