

Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

Response to the Report by the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Recommendation 1: *The Committee recommends that the Bill be passed.*

Government position: Agree.

Recommendation 2: *The Committee recommends that provisions in the Bill that relate to new offences or amend existing offences commence on a date fixed by proclamation.*

Government position: Agree in principle. The Government proposes to amend the Bill to commence these provisions on a date stated in the Bill rather than fixed by proclamation.

Recommendation 3: *The Committee recommends that the Minister clarify in this second reading speech how clause 132 will operate.*

Government position: Agree. The Government proposes to amend the Bill to clarify how clause 132 is intended to operate.

Recommendation 4: *The Committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries consider increasing the amount of public information available on animal welfare breaches.*

Government position: Agree. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will work collaboratively with the RSPCA Queensland to enhance the level of detail provided on animal welfare monitoring and enforcement in Queensland through the Department's annual report and the departmental website.

Recommendation 5: *The Committee recommends the Queensland Government work with the Australian Government on coordination of animal welfare policy.*

Government position: Agree in principle. The Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, through their involvement in the Agriculture Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) and the Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) respectively, ensure consistent implementation of animal welfare standards in Queensland production systems. AGMIN and AGSOC are currently considering reform options for the national governance framework and implementation of standards for farm animal welfare, to ensure continuous improvement.