



Media Release

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Agriculture and Environment Committee

Chair: Glenn Butcher MP

**Deputy Chair: Stephen Bennett
MP**

Parliamentary inquiry to investigate puppy protection Bill

A Parliamentary committee has called for submissions on legislation introduced to end the cruel and ruthless exploitation of breeding dogs for profit.

The Queensland Parliament's Agriculture and Environment Committee wants to hear the people's views on a Bill which will require people breeding their dogs to register as breeders unless they meet the criteria for exemption.

Committee chair, and Member for Gladstone, Glenn Butcher MP says that it is important that Parliament understands how the Bill is seen in the community.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible, especially people out in the country who sometimes find it difficult to attract the attention of government agencies."

"We know that the drought has hit many regions hard, and that a lot of farmers are turning to dog breeding as a way to bring in some money until conditions improve."

In particular, the committee wants to ensure that breeders who do not mistreat their animals are not overly burdened by the provisions of the Bill.

"It's important to realise that if you're already a member of a breeding association, or if you're breeding your working dogs to make sure you've got pups to replace them when the time comes, then not much will change for you," Mr Butcher said.

"For everyone else, there'll be a requirement to register as a breeder within four weeks of the pups' birth. The idea is that, once the government knows who's breeding dogs, it'll be much easier to make sure they're doing it in a way that treats the animals the way that they ought to be treated."

"But we need to make sure that we go about this in a way that isn't unreasonable to people who make their livelihoods out of breeding, whether by choice or necessity."

The committee will open its inquiry hearing from dog breeders from across the state, as well as animal welfare bodies and vets, at a public hearing tomorrow.

Interested parties should email their submissions to aec@parliament.qld.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions to the committee's review of the Bill is **9 March 2016**. The committee will report its findings to Parliament on 28 April 2016.

For media comment: please contact the committee Chair, Glenn Butcher MP on (07) 4904 1100.

For background information: please contact the committee secretariat on (07) 3553 6662, via email at: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au or visit the committee's webpage at: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/aec.