



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Hon Dr John McVeigh MP

Reference: CTS No. 22311/13

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2122-13 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 10 September 2013.

In Queensland, the legislation relevant to the management of cats and dogs is the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (AMCDA). The purpose of the AMCDA is to:

- provide for the identification and registration of cats and dogs
- provide for the effective management of regulated dogs
- promote the responsible ownership of cats and dogs.

The AMCDA aims to reduce the numbers of unwanted cats and dogs by providing for procedures which allow animals to be reunited with their owners.

When the AMCDA was drafted, it did not include mandatory de-sexing of cats and dogs because the evidence at the time indicated it would not be effective in reducing the number of unwanted animals. The ability to enforce such provisions was also considered impractical. The AMCDA does, however, promote de-sexing through offering incentives such as reduced registration fees for de-sexed animals.

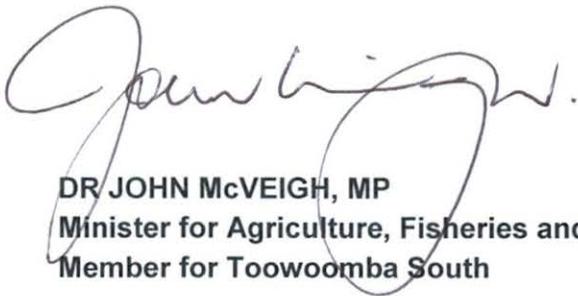
These incentives aim to reduce the breeding population of dogs in the community and reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs being euthanased by shelters and pounds.

From an animal welfare perspective, the breeding and raising of animals on a large scale does not represent a breach of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA) provided the animals are healthy and cared for properly.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that all animals in Queensland have appropriate standards of welfare, including cats and dogs used for breeding. Sufficient powers exist under the ACPA to adequately address animal welfare issues associated with puppy and kitten farms and backyard breeding.

The Queensland Government will not be introducing state-wide cat or dog breeder registration schemes as many Queensland councils have local animal management laws and/or development planning requirements that regulate the keeping and control of animals including those used for breeding. The Queensland Government is committed to empowering local governments to make decisions at the local level on issues that impact local communities and will not introduce schemes which may overlap or override council arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McVeigh', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

DR JOHN McVEIGH, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Member for Toowoomba South