



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

Our ref: CTS 31962/19

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19 DEC 2019

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,
Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2019 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 3196-19: *Review legislation relating to the breeding of puppies and the failure of the BIN to stop 'puppy farms'*.

The petition calls for amendment of current legislation to limit the number of breeding female dogs that a breeder, or breeding facility, can hold and to nominate and hold accountable agencies responsible for enforcing the mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding.

It should be noted that Ms Helen Weil has previously presented similar petitions to the Queensland Parliament, most recently a petition received by the House on 20 August 2019 (No 3152-19). I can advise that the Palaszczuk Government's position on the issues raised has not changed.

The Palaszczuk Government has implemented a suite of provisions to regulate the welfare of puppy breeding, including registration of dog breeders and the use of supply numbers when advertising, selling or otherwise rehoming dogs; standards and guidelines for the breeding of dogs; and mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding. In addition, Local Governments may set standards for domestic and commercial keeping of dogs within their jurisdictions.

All breeders, irrespective of the size of their enterprise, must meet the mandatory welfare standards, comply with breeder registration obligations and observe Council requirements.

The requirement to provide a unique breeder supply number (Breeder Identification Number) for all advertising and supply of dogs facilitates tracing back to the breeder in the event of a health or welfare incident and is intended to be used as a tool to allow the public to contact the breeder should they wish to seek information about a dog they wish to buy or have purchased. It is not intended to restrict breeder behaviour or opportunity, but does provide a tool to identify a breeder that may fail to meet requirements.

The Palaszczuk Government is not aware of any evidence that larger dog breeding enterprises inherently deliver poorer welfare outcomes. Regardless of size, all breeders are subject to the same compliance of standards, duty of care and cruelty provisions outlined in the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. The mandatory welfare standards for dog breeding are prescribed in the *Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012* under the Act.

The Act provides for inspectors appointed by the Government to enforce compliance using legislated powers to investigate, collect evidence and enforce using a range of compliance tools. Inspectors from Biosecurity Queensland, part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and RSPCA Queensland jointly enforce the standards under an agreement.

While I acknowledge the petitioners and their concern for good welfare outcomes for dog breeding in Queensland, I am not satisfied that the suggested changes in legislation are warranted at this time.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries