



Hon John McVeigh MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Reference: CTS No. 15442/13

- 8 JUL 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 2038-12 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 7 June 2013.

Please be assured that the Queensland Government is committed to effective dog control and ensuring public safety through provisions of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 (AMCDA)*.

In February 2012 the discussion paper *Management of dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs in Queensland* was released for public comment. A key issue raised in the discussion paper was the process for destroying dogs that pose an unacceptable risk to the community. Amendments to the AMCDA to streamline this process were recently introduced for Cabinet consideration in the Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.

Two other key issues of the discussion paper were civil liability and penalties for attack offences. From the feedback received there was general support for amending the AMCDA to make dog owners strictly liable for dog attacks, and increasing penalties for offences to encourage dog owners to be more diligent in ensuring their dog does not pose a threat to community safety.

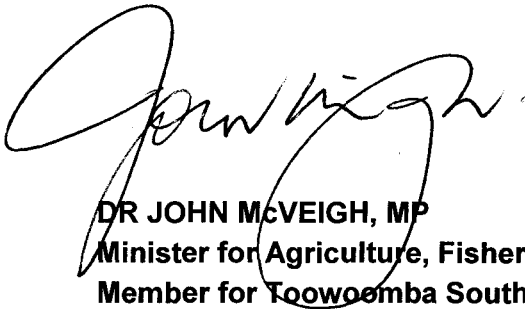
Addressing these issues would require further consultation and policy analysis, particularly with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, as any changes may affect longstanding common law principles.

The AMCDA does not currently provide provisions in relation to powers for local councils to force dog owners to return animals to the jurisdiction where an attack occurred. However, there is provision for local councils to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident to determine whether the dog owner took reasonable steps to ensure the dog did not attack or cause fear to a person. The maximum penalty for an attack that causes bodily harm to a person is \$5,500.00.

Additionally, local councils may still declare a dog as dangerous if it has seriously attacked a person, even though the dog may not be in the local council's jurisdiction. A dangerous dog declaration imposed on a dog owner would require the owner to meet strict permit conditions for identification, enclosure and notice to any local government if it is moved to that local government area. The dog's details would also be placed on the statewide dangerous dog database.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McVeigh', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

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