



Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay



**Minister for Agriculture, Food
and Regional Economies**

Reference: 10912/11

30 DEC 2011

Mr Michael Ries
Acting Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000


Dear Mr Ries

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2011 regarding the Parliament of Queensland petition number 1716-11 concerning the banning of cat traps.

The following wording is provided as the ministerial response for tabling, responding to the principal petitioner and publishing on Parliament's website.

"I note the concerns of petitioners and recognise that the management of feral and abandoned cats, particularly in an urban environment remains a difficult issue to address.

I am advised that local councils use commercially available cage traps and have not reported them as causing injury. However, Biosecurity Queensland, a service of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, will investigate if a specific complaint of injury from a trap is made. The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA) does have the ability to regulate traps where they have been found to cause damage to an animal. Currently there are no animal traps prohibited under the ACPA in Queensland.

Central to the management of feral cat populations is the control of owned and stray cat populations that constitute a source of cats capable of moving into the feral cat population. Promoting responsible cat ownership and limiting food sources for stray cats through actions such as fencing garbage dumps are examples of effective control strategies that assist in feral cat management. The Queensland Government introduced the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* which promotes responsible cat ownership by requiring owners to microchip and register cats.

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I am also advised that Biosecurity Queensland scientists have recently carried out research to enhance feral cat monitoring techniques and they are also actively cooperating with agencies of other states on the development of more effective feral cat control measures including working toward the registration of Para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP), a novel carnivore specific toxin”.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Peter McCabe, Principal Advisor, in my office on telephone 07 3239 3000.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tim Mulherin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Mulherin" clearly distinguishable.

TIM MULHERIN, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food
and Regional Economies
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