



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

Our ref: CTS 05486/19
Your ref:

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Services
Parliament House
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2019 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2988-18 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding making shade and shelter mandatory for farm animals raised outdoors in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing legislation and standards that not only protect the reputation of Queensland's animal industries and the welfare of all animals in Queensland, but also meet community expectations.

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) provides high levels of care and protection to all animals in Queensland. The duty of care provisions of the Act require people to provide appropriate accommodation or living conditions for animals. In deciding what is appropriate, regard must be had to:

- a) the species, environment and circumstances of the animal; and
- b) the steps a reasonable person in the circumstances could reasonably be expected to have taken.

The Act adopts Codes of Practice (Codes) as agreed standards of animal welfare and recognises the Codes as the primary references in establishing what appropriate accommodation or living conditions are for each species. In Queensland, the Australian Model Code of Practice for the welfare of animals: cattle (2nd edition, 2004) (Cattle Code) and the Australian Model code of practice for the welfare of animals: sheep (Sheep Code) contain information and guidelines to provide minimum acceptable standards of animal welfare for cattle and sheep, including the provision of shade and shelter. The Codes apply to all ages and types of cattle and sheep, whether kept commercially or as a hobby.

The existing model Codes of Practice for the welfare of animals are being replaced by nationally agreed standards and guidelines. Once adopted under the Act, the Standards are requirements that must be met under law for the particular species. The guidelines are practices recommended to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes.

I can advise that the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for cattle and the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for sheep were agreed by State and Territory Governments in 2016 and are being regulated into law by most State and Territory Governments. Both Standards require that a person in charge must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of cattle and sheep from threats, including extremes of weather, drought, fires, floods, disease, injury and predation.

In Queensland, the Standards are currently being considered for adoption under the Act at which time they would become mandatory in Queensland.

If you require further information, please contact my office on telephone 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely



MARK FURNER MP

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries