

Our ref: CTS 04142/26

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2 APR 2026

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Neil.Laurie@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 March 2026 regarding the petition as tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026 (4333-25): *Protect dogs from heat and unsafe ute transport in Queensland*.

I thank the petitioners for their suggestions to strengthen dog welfare requirements. The Crisafulli Government is committed to setting and enforcing strong legislation that safeguards the welfare of all animals in Queensland and meets community expectations. The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) promotes the responsible care and use of animals. The Act places a legal duty of care on people in charge of animals to meet those animals' needs in an appropriate way and prohibits acts of cruelty against animals.

I note that the petitioners have requested that the Act be amended to:

- prohibit the transport of dogs in open ute trays or trailers when the ambient temperature exceeds 23 to 25 degrees Celsius, unless adequate shade, insulated padding and safe restraint is provided
- require that dogs walked on public footpaths or roads be controlled using a harness rather than a neck collar to reduce the risk of neck injuries.

I draw the petitioners' attention to section 18(f) of the Act, which makes it an act of cruelty for a person to confine or transport an animal, including a dog:

- without appropriate preparation; or
- when it is unfit for the confinement or transport; or
- it in a way that is inappropriate for the animal's welfare.

Confining an animal in or on a vehicle in a way that causes heat stress or other pain for the animal is an example of conduct that may constitute a cruelty offence under section 18(f). Additionally, section 18(a) makes it a cruelty offence where someone causes an animal pain that, in the circumstances, is unjustifiable, unnecessary or unreasonable. The inappropriate use of a collar, harness or other handling aid on a dog may constitute an offence under section 18(a) of the Act.

Significant penalties apply to those who fail to comply with the Act, including fines of up to \$333,800 or three years of imprisonment where a person breaches their duty of care or is cruel to an animal. Serious animal cruelty offences under the *Criminal Code Act 1899* carry penalties of up to seven years of imprisonment.

If an individual wishes to report specific concerns about the treatment of an animal, they are encouraged to report it to the Department of Primary Industries on 13 25 23.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Perrett', is written in a cursive style.

TONY PERRETT MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Member for Gympie