

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION FOR LIVESTOCK WORKING DOGS

The Members of:
The Agriculture and Environment Committee
Queensland Parliament

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to forward a submission commenting on the proposed Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

I am making this submission on behalf of the Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs (AFLWD) in support of our Queensland Member Organisations involved with the breeding, rearing, training and trialling of Livestock Working Dogs (LWDs) and of those involved throughout the wide spectrum of primary production in Queensland, who use these dogs.

The AFLWD is a national group with membership of Livestock Working Dog Organisations throughout Australia.

The members of AFLWD Organisations require LWDs as part of their working team in livestock management and some breed and train LWDs for trials. Some breed high quality LWDs with supplying them to Primary Producers as their goal. Others breed a few pups for themselves and supply puppies and dogs, surplus to their own requirements, to primary producers for use in the livestock industry.

A conservative estimate puts the current contribution of LWDs to the Australian Agricultural economy at \$1 Billion per annum.

Recent research has proven that strains of LWDs are currently bred and maintained with consideration to their welfare and genetics which ensure that, not only do they have amongst them a considerable variety of working styles to suit different conditions and types of livestock, but on average are more athletic, healthy, and live longer than companion dogs. (Estimating the economic value of Australian stock herding dogs, ER Arnott, University of Sydney 2014).

The best outcome for a LWD puppy is: to lead a long, happy and healthy life where it is valued and able to exercise its inherited instincts to move livestock. The opportunity to perform according to its instincts is the greatest reward for the dog.

Breeders committed to breeding from proven dogs and producing pups and dogs of a high standard, will ensure this.

Delegates of these State Organisations and Agforce asked for exemptions for "Livestock Working Dogs" from proposed legislation during consultation in Brisbane last year.

We would like to commend you on the inclusion of the exemptions for "Working Dogs" in the draft of legislation as **per Part 43E, (3) (b) and 43ZA (1) (a)**.

While many of our members will be covered by the listed exemptions a number may not qualify.

They may be:

- an employee of a primary producer

An educated source of reliable information
on behalf of all Australian Livestock Working Dogs, their handlers and breeders.

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- involved in trialling, perhaps live in a semi-rural area, and breed a few dogs for primary producers.
- retired farmers who trial LWDs as a hobby and breed a few to supply primary producers
- training LWDs to supply to primary producers
- providing training in LWD handling to primary producers
- stock handling contractors, livestock trucking companies etc.

The Nationally accepted Definition for a Livestock Working Dog is:

A dog usually kept or proposed to be kept and/or worked:

- On rural land and/or
- By an owner/breeder or lessee who is a Primary Producer, or a person engaged or employed by a Primary Producer and

Primarily for the purpose of:

- Herding, droving, protecting, tending or working stock or
- Being trained in herding, droving, protecting, tending or working stock.

The AFLWD respectfully requests that an appropriate inclusion under both **Division 1 Registration 43E Registration Obligation** and **43ZA (1) (a)** would be:

(3) (b) and (1) (a) a Primary Producer or person engaged or employed by a Primary Producer who has bred the dog from Livestock Working Dogs and/or a person involved with the training of Livestock Working Dogs in herding, droving, protecting, tending or working stock who has bred the dog from Livestock Working Dogs

- to use as a Livestock Working Dog
- to supply the dog to another person to use as a Livestock Working Dog.

As per the statement in **Part 3 of the Bill:**

Amendment of AMCD Act states that:

“Legislation should not, without sufficient justification, unduly restrict ordinary activity LSAs4(2) (a)”

We would like to suggest that, if these people who make a valuable contribution to the supply of LWDs, are not given exemption from the requirements as listed in the current draft of the proposed Legislation, it has the potential to “restrict ordinary activity” and would not only be detrimental to them, but also to the Livestock industry

Yours faithfully,

Mr Gordon Curtis

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