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Brisbane City Council ABN 72 002 765 795

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Letter date

Mr Glenn Butcher MP
Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Butcher

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 that proposes changes to the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* and *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Council recognises the significant animal welfare issues arising as a result of cruel practices occurring at puppy farms, and supports the Queensland Government's initiative to regulate the commercial breeder industry to eradicate these practices.

As local governments already have significant responsibilities for dog registration and the regulation of domestic animals in the interests of public safety and environmental health, Council does not support any extension of local government responsibilities in the areas of breeder registration or animal welfare. Council sees the objectives of the Bill as falling within the animal welfare field. Accordingly, Council supports the administration and enforcement of the Bill being confined to the Queensland Government and the agencies that administer the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

Council is concerned that two elements of the new breeder obligations have potentially adverse consequences. Firstly, the exceptions do not cover non-commercial domestic litters. Imposing requirements on these accidental births is onerous and may even lead to greater disposal of puppies. Council recommends consideration be given for an exemption from registration for the first litter borne by a domestic dog.

Similarly the requirement for a non-commercial supplier to implant a cat or dog with a prescribed permanent identification device (PPID) is onerous and may result in greater numbers of unwanted animals being given to shelters or dumped. Any measures that may inadvertently lead to greater rates of euthanasia of unwanted animals, especially kittens, should be avoided. Council recommends that greater consideration be given to exemptions for non-commercial supply.

Therefore Council's support for the Bill is conditional on local governments not being responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Bill, and the above considerations are given.

Should you require further information on Council's submission, please contact Mr Blair Clark, Principal Officer City Safety and Legislation, Compliance and Regulatory Services, on 3403 8888.

Yours sincerely



Colin Jensen
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER