

6<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

The Members of The Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Queensland Parliament

Dear Members,

We wish to make a submission on the proposed Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

**We make this submission as Primary Producers, Livestock Working Dog Breeders and Working Cattle Dog Triallers.**

We are members of Qld Working Cattle Dog Trial Association (QWCDAI) and The Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs (AFLWD). Our livelihood is very much dependant on Livestock Working Dogs (LWDs) to run our cattle breeding and fattening property. These LWDs are a specialist breed dog vital to the herding & welfare of livestock so that a sound, safe welfare outcome can be obtained at all times in the management of the livestock herd.

**A conservative estimate puts the current contribution of LWDs to the Australian Agricultural economy at \$1 billion per annum. (Estimating the economic value of Australian Stock Herding Dogs-ER Arnott, University of Sydney, 2014)**

**We would like to commend you for adding the exemptions for Working Dogs to the legislation as per Chapter 2, Part 2, Div 1, 43E,(3) (b) and 43ZA,(1) (a).** These exemptions were sought by QWCDAI, AFLWD & Agforce reps at the previous public hearing. However these exemptions do not cover all that they should as there are breeders of LWDs who are not primary producers or employed by primary producers who form a very important part in the breeding of and the supply of LWDs to Primary Producers.

Examples could be described by the following categories of people:

- Involved in trialling
- Live in a semi rural area on small acreage
- Retired farmers who trial LWDs as a hobby and breed a few replacement dogs
- Train LWDs to supply to primary producers
- Livestock handling contractors and livestock trucking companies

**We would request that these categories be included in the Legislation Chapter 2, Part 2, Div 1, 43E (3) (b) and 43ZA (1) (a), exceptions for supply of dog with an additional clause that would read as follows:**

**43E (3) (b) 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 in 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 working dog or
- To supply the dog to another primary producer to use as a working dog

We would suggest that these additional people make a valuable contribution by supplying high quality livestock working dogs to the livestock industry.

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)."

**By disallowing these categories of people an exemption, we believe the Legislation would restrict ordinary activity thus restricting the supply of these specialist livestock herding dogs. (i.e Continuing to breed Proven Bloodlines)**

**This exemption would not include "puppy farms" as this could not be seen as an "ordinary activity".**

Thank you for accepting this submission

Barrie and Elizabeth Hughes