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Queensland Parliament

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9 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals made in the *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

Council, in principle, supports the objective of the above Bill where amendments to the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* aim is to identify and locate breeders so that existing powers under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* can be used to shut down 'puppy farms' (where breeders place profit ahead of the welfare of dogs) and protect dogs from cruelty.

Our support is based on the following points which have been recognized in explanatory notes and Parliamentary briefings released by the State Government:

1. The administration, resourcing and cost of the Dog Breeder Registration database is managed by the State Government. That is, dog breeders approach the State Government to apply to become a registered breeder. Local governments will have no role in the administration of licensing dog breeders.
2. The role of local governments in the enforcement of any dog breeder provisions is reliant on their involvement in the development of a Compliance Strategy along with the State Government and the RSPCA. The Compliance Strategy will need to have a clearly identified scope and be developed collaboratively between all parties.
3. The development of a State-wide public awareness campaign of the new legislation will be developed with the involvement of local governments but it will be funded entirely by the State Government. The campaign will need to focus on members of the public being responsible pet owners and for them to drive the requirements of any advertisement of a dog for sale must have a registered breeder number included. Just as home owners now look for licenced builders, prospective dog owners should look for licenced breeders.
4. If an organisation is to be given approval as an 'approved entity' and therefore does not require to have their members go through the proposed dog breeder registration process

it is critical that those approved entities are bound to what is proposed under Section 43W of the Bill – that is, those organisations share their membership information with State Government, the RSPCA and local governments to ensure the objectives of the Bill are achieved and the Compliance Strategy is effective.

Additionally the following observations have been made with the drafting:

- Reasonable excuse should be defined.
- If a person has been given a breeder number then they let their registration lapse and then a year later apply again – they should be given the same breeder number so to provide a true history and record of that breeder.
- Third party or possible non-commercial sales/giveaways could be a loop hole, for example, if I am a primary producer and give a working dog to another primary producer, then that primary producer sells the dog to whoever – what breeder number to they use to advertise because there won't be one as they weren't the breeder? All 'exceptions' should be required to have a breeder number either from their own organisation - in the case of an approved entity - or get a breeder number through DAFF if they are a primary producer or 'class of person'. All 'exceptions' must be bound by the same standards and guidelines as a registered breeder.
- It is critical that it is an offence to use someone else's breeder number.

Ipswich City Council is keen to be involved in any committee or reference group responsible for the development of the Compliance Strategy, the Standards and Guidelines and the public awareness/education campaign.

Should you have any queries regarding the above information please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Barbara Dart
STRATEGIC POLICY AND SYSTEMS MANAGER
HEALTH, SECURITY AND REGULATORY SERVICES DEPARTMENT