

Project P.A.W.S. Incorporated
Response to the *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and
other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015*



9th March 2016

Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Chairman,

We welcome the opportunity to provide a response to the *Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* ('the Bill'). Project P.A.W.S. is a not-for-profit organisation advocating for the reform of animal welfare legislation, for the safety and welfare of both animals and the community. Our board consists of policy and legal experts, an economist and a psychologist which puts us in a unique position to holistically advocate for reform.

Project P.A.W.S. does not support the commercial enterprise of Puppy Farming and demands stronger legislation to end the practice of intensively breeding dogs. Further, Project P.A.W.S. does not support the sale of dogs (or cats) in pet shops, which are stressful environments for young animals and perpetrate the cycle of intensive breeding. Therefore we support a ban on the intensive breeding of dogs through commercial and non-commercial puppy farms, a ban on the sale of pets at pet shops, a compulsory breeder registration system and stronger penalties for animal welfare infringements. Public awareness plays a large role in the removal of puppy farms; therefore we support increased awareness about the existence of puppy farms and how to buy pets from ethical sources. We have developed a position paper which is available on [our website](#).

Project P.A.W.S. is well placed to assist Government with the development of policies and guidelines to support the reform project.

Submissions to the Bill have been lodged by two of our board members through their respective organisations – Bluegreen Economics and PLACE Advocacy. As such, we will not repeat the sentiments

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expressed in their submissions. Rather, we seek to acknowledge and affirm the positions expressed in these two submissions. While we support reform in the animal welfare arena, we do note more needs to be done to adequately place the interests, safety and wellbeing of the animals at the centre of the reform process. This Bill could go a lot further to promote the protection of dogs, and fulfil the Government's aim of eradicating puppy farms from Queensland.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission in support of the submissions provided by Bluegreen Economics and PLACE Advocacy.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Kind Regards,

Samantha King
President
Project P.A.W.S.

