From:

To: Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee

Subject: Circus animals

Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2014 9:29:22 AM

25/11/2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Dear Sir Or Madam,

I am shocked and disappointed to hear that the Queensland Government is proposing to stop circuses from having some animals.

Australian Circus is family oriented and has a long standing connection with all areas, entertaining and educating generations of the citizens.

Circus is one of the first multicultural, equal opportunity organisations in the world. It matters not where you come from or if you are man, woman, adult or child (or animal) if you can do it, the job is yours. It does not discriminate on basis of race, colour, national or ethnic origin.

Our animals are an important part of our life, their care and welfare is our prime consideration. They live long healthy lives with the best of care, which is well documented. Humans and animals live close, just visit any circus and you will see human and animal habitat side by side, just like another room.

Also we welcome the regular and sometimes unexpected inspections by authorised, qualified personnel. But have to live with the lies and bigotry of the ignorant with an agenda.

Our animals are respected as performers and individuals. We get to know the nature of our animals and learn to read their moods, just like our children or friends.

Circuses are sometimes the only chance children and adults get to see some animals.

Circuses are dedicated to present talented performers whose ambition is to please the people of Australia, giving value for money. We know that our audience is our boss and if we don't deliver on our advertising word soon gets around.

The people of Queensland should continue to have the opportunity to see a circus with animals.

The government should encourage family entertainment not stop it. Australia is a democracy and it's citizens are smart enough to choose to see a circus with animals or not. Just give them the chance.

Our circus family (Ashton's) is in it's 8th generation, so is our audience. People of all ages come up to us and tell of their visits to the circus. How can anyone deny future generations of this opportunity? Hoping common sense will prevail.

Yours sincerely, Lorraine Ashton Grant.

Sent from my iPad