



**Submission to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**

## **Animal Care and Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012**

**Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd  
27 June 2012**

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association setup solely to serve councils and their individuals' needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting and representing local councils since 1896, allowing them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places that count; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and delivering them the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

## 1. Introduction

The LGAQ understands that on 19 June 2012 the Honourable John McVeigh, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry introduced the Animal Care and Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (the Bill). The Bill has now been provided to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee for examination with a reporting deadline of 2 July 2012.

## 2. Consultation

This submission has been prepared in response to the process taken for the Bill to reach the relevant parliamentary committee. Specifically, the LGAQ is very concerned with the lack of consultation associated with the Bill and the apparent need for the State Government to expedite these legislative amendments.

The LNP policy statement identifies the State Government will “properly empower local government . . . and give local people a real say on the future direction of their community.” The Association suggests that expediting the parliamentary committee and reporting timeframe for the Bill is not in-line with this commitment. Further, the establishment of a *Partners in Government* agreement with the LGAQ was expected to ensure the interest of local communities were represented through maintaining “adequate prior consultation on impacts of State legislative changes”. However, in this instance, no consultation has occurred let alone prior consultation with sufficient opportunity to comment.

## 3. Detailed Comments on the Bill

Animal welfare is not normally identified as a core business of local government. As such, comments in regard to the proposed legislation and State Government policy position itself have not been included by the LGAQ in this submission. However, Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island local governments are responsible for a wide range of public administration functions and community leadership roles, which are unique to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures and outside of the standard operations of other local governments. It is the understanding of the Association that through the establishment of a *Partners in Government* agreement identified above, provision would be made for these unique functions. The Association supports early, open discussion and consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island representatives themselves, identified as key stakeholders and the most appropriate stakeholders to comment on the impact the Bill may have.

## 4. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to outline the LGAQ perspective relevant to the Animal Care and Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The LGAQ anticipates that adequate prior consultation about the impacts of future State legislative changes will occur.

Should you have any questions or concerns in relation to the comments provided in this response, please feel free to contact Tracy Haynes, Principal Advisor Planning & Development via telephone on (07) 3000 2291 or email at [tracy\\_haynes@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:tracy_haynes@lgaq.asn.au).