Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera

Dear Mr Crandon,

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed amendments to the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.*

My name is **Example**, I have been a member of the local dog training community for 4 years, involved in areas including but not limited to, training Search and Rescue K9's, assistance dogs, sporting clubs, responsible breeding and rehoming. I am completing accreditation under the National Dog Trainers Federation and am also starting my own small business offering dog behaviour consultations and wellness services.

As a key community stakeholder, I believe that the process that was undertaken by the Queensland Government in developing the proposed amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, <u>did not allow an adequate or thorough consultation process to be carried out.</u>

SUBJECT MATTER

I refer to the "REVIEW OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION ACT 2001 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES REPORT", prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and published in October 2021.

I refer to page 37 of the report, section titled "Relevant E-Petitions". It is acknowledged that "there were six animal welfare related e-petitions that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the consultation period. Issues raised in these e-petitions (listed below) are also being considered as part of the ACPA review process".

Of these six petitions, the relevant subject matter of three of these petitions was also included as part of the initial discussion paper; as such, stakeholders and the community were provided the opportunity to give feedback on these matters. I have included the 3 relevant petitions below:

- Make suitable shelter mandatory for all farmed animals (Petition no. 3499-21)
- Tethering of dogs must be prohibited (Petition no. 3501-21)
- Continue the use of all methods, including dogs, to control feral pigs (Petition no. 3515-21)

There remains three relevant e-petitions, for which there was no correlating subject matter in the initial discussion paper:

- Ban the use of shock collars on dogs (Petition no. 3526-21)
- Illegal to import Prohibit the use of prong collars in Queensland (Petition no. 3530- 21)

• Prohibit the use of choke collars in Queensland (Petition no. 3531-21)

STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS

These three petitions were made to the Hon. Mark Furner, with closing dates in May 2021 and a response due date in June 2021. I wish to note that, since the closing of these petitions, there has been <u>no opportunity provided</u> to relevant stakeholders or the community to be surveyed on these matters. All three petitions listed above closed on 23rd May 2021. The closing date for feedback on the review of the Animal Protection and Care Act (2001), as detailed in the Outcomes Report, was 21st May 2021.

It is my belief that by not conducting a thorough consultation with key community stakeholders, that the broader impacts and possible repercussions of a blanket ban on training tools and restraints, have not been considered, and these impacts may negatively affect the welfare of dogs and the industry within our community.

Not only do these amendments detailed in Division 5, Section 37A, Subsection (1) of the act directly impact my capacity in the work that I do within organisations and the community, but also impact stakeholders and clients I work with by limiting rehabilitation outcomes with a concerning potential to impact canine welfare.

As a member of your electorate, I'm asking that I be heard and that mine, along with other key community stakeholders' concerns are addressed. Specifically, <u>I ask that you vote</u> against these amendments until a proper and thorough community consultation has been conducted.

I leave you with an excerpt from section 1.2 of Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation.

"The depth of analysis and consultation undertaken for a proposal should be proportional to the complexity and significance of the problem and the size of the potential impacts."

Considering the potential impacts have not been considered, I do not believe 'best practice' has been followed. I encourage the Queensland Government to consult stakeholders like myself to properly analyse the complexity of the issue and it's potential impacts.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I welcome further discussion should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,