

## Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 899  
**Submitted by:** Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC)  
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FNQ REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS



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The Secretariat  
State Development and Regional Industries Committee

Email: [SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

To Whom it May Concern

### **Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022**

While Local Governments are not authorised officers under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2021 through their operations in Local Laws, they interact regularly with animal welfare authorities in RSPCA and Queensland Police Service. Local governments customer services in councils are often the first point of contact for community when reporting animal neglect or welfare issues. Animal Management officers are also highly likely to encounter instances requiring referral when undertaking patrols or compliance. Animal management and animal welfare issues and offences are often cooccurring so the partnership between Local Governments and officers authorised under the Act essential in its implementation.

We welcome the initiative to modernise and update the relevant legislation as outlined in the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill and we do not have a specific submission to make that in that regard.

We would however like to reiterate the concern communicated to Minister Mark Furner in a recent FNQROC Board deputation regarding the level of resourcing for RSPCA officers in the Far North. The current situation of two authorised inspectors to service the area from Daintree South to Cardwell and West to Chillago/Mt Garnet is inadequate to deliver the level of service required for the region. A consequence of this is a compromise of the collaboration with local government; frustration from community when attempting to report instances of cruelty or neglect; and protracted response times due to the vast geographic area to be serviced. This is in addition to the unrealistic workloads placed on staff. We would welcome a review of staffing levels commensurate to the operational needs of the region.

For more information on this submission please contact the convener of the FNQROC Animal Management Technical Committee; Travis Sydes e: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Executive Officer