




Speech By  
**Dale Last**

**MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN**

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## **ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (PROTECTING PUPPIES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill has at its heart the health and welfare of breeding dogs and their offspring. Is it not a terrible indictment on the type of community we live in that we need to legislate here today to ensure illegal puppy farms are shut down? There is no place for the cruel and inhumane treatment of animals in our society and for that reason I fully support the bill before the House.

I have firsthand experience of the horrific conditions that exist at these puppy farms. In my former role as a police officer I had occasion to accompany RSPCA and council staff on searches of premises which were operating as illegal puppy farms. The conditions that existed at many of those premises defied words. The stench, the malnourished animals, the neglect and the outright cruelty all add up to one word, and that is exploitation. There is no place for these puppy farms in our state and for that reason we need to do everything that we possibly can to make sure that they are stamped out permanently.

I support the registration and breeder ID number in ads and the recording of breeder registration ID in dog microchips. I also note that working dogs will be exempt. To take up the point raised by the member for Warrego, I have some concerns that people such as transport contractors, trial dog trainers, retired primary producers and contract musterers and drovers will not be exempt. As the former owner of seven working cattle dogs, if this legislation had been in place at that time I would have been outside of that exemption, so it is something that we will need to consider down the track.

I note that if this legislation is passed it will be reviewed in due course, and I look forward to that process which will gauge the effectiveness of this legislation and the cost. We have to remember that for all intents and purposes many of the people operating these puppy farms are criminals and they will do anything to escape detection. For that reason it will be difficult to catch these people and prosecute them, but I certainly think this is a step in the right direction. The fact that we are giving 48 hours notice is also of some concern to me. Given that these people are engaged in illegal activities, I think we need to treat these people in the same way that we would anyone who is committing an offence, and for that reason I have some concerns about that.

In summary, I think this legislation will be well received in the broader community, I think it is warranted, and I fully support the bill before the House.