




Speech By
Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.31 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. May I firstly congratulate the member for Gladstone, the chair of the committee, the minister, and all of the other committee members who made a contribution to make this report and this bill possible.

My interest and understanding of puppy farms initiated during my time in the Senate when the former senator from the Australian Capital Territory, Senator Humphries, the current senator from Western Australia, Senator Cash, and other stakeholders such as the RSPCA had a real passion to eliminate the illegal puppy trade, but my real passion began when I became the patron of Whiskey's Wish. Whiskey's Wish is an organisation that trains care dogs for people suffering from PTSD such as returned service men and women and people involved in emergency services, police, fireys and ambos. You can see the real change that having a care dog brings to people who suffer from that terrible disease and how it transforms their lives. I highly commend their organisation and, in particular, Scott and Liz Jackman, the co-founders of Whiskey's Wish.

This bill does deliver on our election commitment to establish a compulsory registration scheme for dog breeders in order to shut down puppy farms. I do not have a dog myself, although I have had over the years. My two daughters have two dogs each, Boston and Charlie and Otis and Lotie, and they are lovely dogs. I am a dog person. A dog is a man's best friend, and that is why I am standing here today to commend this bill to the House.