




Speech By  
**Shane King**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

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

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise today to make a brief contribution to this debate on the Animal Management (Protecting Puppies) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Indeed, who does not love a puppy? I agree with the member for Broadwater: I am pretty sure that every person in this place loves puppies and dogs, going by the uptake of the opportunity to hold the puppies and pose with them when the RSPCA brought them in earlier this year and the genuine concern in this House for Johnny Depp's dogs, Pistol and Boo, at the time they were in trouble.

This bill delivers on yet another one of the Palaszczuk government's election commitments, and that is to protect dogs which are used for breeding and to shut down cruel puppy farms. Dogs are an important part of many families including my own canine pals, Cristal and Buddy. In fact, roughly 40 per cent of Queensland households have a dog. While most dog breeders love dogs as much as I am sure—and has been mentioned—we all do in this place, sadly, some breeders place the value of the dollar over the welfare of their dogs.

In the consultation we undertook while reviewing this bill, it came out loud and clear from the community that there is an expectation that the dog breeders will care for their dogs properly. No family wants to purchase a puppy or dog that has been treated cruelly and the compulsory registration scheme that this bill will require will give unethical puppy farms nowhere to hide. I believe the added regulation of breeder registration being displayed on adverts and in microchips will help to keep unscrupulous breeders in check. There will be an exemption for genuine breeders of working dogs. These dogs are usually kept in rural areas for the purposes of working with and protecting livestock, and the usual problems of dogs kept in urban areas are virtually non-existent. The unnecessary burden this regulation would place on already struggling graziers was taken into account for the purposes of this bill.

This bill will also help support the restoration of public confidence in our greyhound racing industry by making a change to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 which will clarify that keeping an animal to kill or lure for blooding or coursing is an offence, whether a first time or not.

This bill will also recognise that different types of birds may pose different risks of disease. Birds kept for producing eggs for human consumption or for consumption themselves are obviously going to be considered to pose a greater disease threat than birds kept in cages as pets such as finches, softbills or parrots as their interaction with wild birds is generally restricted. Therefore, this bill will require entities which keep over a hundred birds and produce food from those birds to be registered but will allow members of the community with aviary birds to continue keeping them without unnecessary regulatory requirements. I commend this bill to the House.