




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Dog Baiting; Ferries and CityCats, Pet Dogs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.40 pm): The residents of the McConnel electorate have been shocked by recent reports of dog baiting in their community. The deliberate poisoning of beloved family pets is simply unacceptable and, as a community, we need to work together to protect our canine friends from this heinous behaviour.

In response to this dog baiting, I have organised a community meeting this Sunday where officers from Fortitude Valley Police Station and local veterinarian, Dr Nic, will be on hand to talk about the issue and answer any questions that people may have. The meeting will take place this Sunday, 8 September—and, by the way, it is my wedding anniversary; 34 years of marriage—from 9 am to 10 am at Waterfront Park in Newstead. I urge residents to come along. This is an opportunity for dog lovers to come together and support each other and be made aware of what can be done to prevent dog baiting in their community and what to do should such baits be found.

While I am on the topic of human's best friend, I want to encourage residents in Brisbane's inner-city suburbs to have their say about an upcoming trial to allow pet dogs on ferries and City Cats. TransLink's customer survey is now open until 30 September, asking for feedback on how the trial should run. I have listened to many people in my community at the Teneriffe Festival, which had its 10th anniversary in July, who want to take their dogs with them when they hop on the ferry or the CityCat. They really want to do this. This is their chance to contribute to the trial.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the advocacy of Paul Liddy, Annie Boxall and Michael Hawke of the *Village News* who support dogs on ferries and have advocated strongly for us to trial this in Brisbane. Minister Farmer and member for Bulimba and I got together, because I want the Bulimba people to come over to Teneriffe and the Teneriffe people want to go over to Bulimba. We lobbied the transport minister, Mark Bailey, and to his credit he listened and he is going to give this a go. I am glad that we will get to trial the idea and see how it is received by the travelling public.

Options being considered are that pet dogs will be allowed on ferries and CityCats on the condition that they travel only during off-peak times; be in a carrier, or on a lead and wear a muzzle; and remain under the control of their handler at all times. Obviously, there are other options that the travelling public may wish to trial, or have their say on, and I encourage them to do so because I appreciate that there will be different views on this issue. That is why we are asking customers about the rules and boundaries of this trial.

The survey is now available. It is open until 30 September. We want to see dogs on ferries. I urge all the dog lovers to come to Waterfront Park and to have their say.