




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Animal Welfare, Reforms

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.08 am): Firstly, as a proud and active White Ribbon ambassador I commend my ministerial colleagues for addressing the scourge of domestic and family violence, particularly with respect to coercive control.

This week we will introduce the biggest reforms to animal welfare in this state in more than 20 years. Queensland already has some of the strongest animal welfare laws in the country, but we know that the world has changed. Our attitudes to, and expectations of, animal welfare have changed also.

When we were re-elected in 2020, the Palaszczuk government promised to review the act and we are delivering on our promise. Last year we released a discussion paper asking the public what they thought about animal welfare and how we could amend the act to best serve Queensland and improve animal welfare in our state. Consultation covered a number of areas of animal welfare, including restraining dogs, the scientific use of animals, compliance and enforcement, inspector powers, and penalties and offences to name but a few.

We had a tremendous response. We received over 2,300 responses. Some of the changes to the act will include the banning of pronged collars and the firing of horses' and dogs' legs because these practices are inhumane and are no longer acceptable. The reforms will strengthen some of the powers used by inspectors. For example, an inspector will be allowed to enter a property to provide relief to an animal that is affected by weather events or if they feel that an animal is in danger from another aggressive animal. The Palaszczuk government will deliver on another election commitment, allowing the pregnancy testing of cattle by accredited laypersons. This is something I know graziers will welcome.

Queenslanders love their animals. They are valued members of many families, and I would like to thank the thousands of people across the state who took the time to tell us how they felt about animal welfare and what needed to be improved to ensure the care and protection of animals in Queensland. I would like to thank my department and the teams that have worked on the discussion paper and the amendments to ensure they best reflect our modern Queensland. Whether it is your working dog or horse in Chinchilla or your cavoodle in Cairns or Brisbane, all Queensland animals need to have the care and protection they deserve and legislation that reflects a modern Queensland. I look forward to the introduction of the amendments into the House this week and delivering on our promises.