

Question on Notice

No. 1626

Asked on Thursday, 30 November 2023

MS C MCMILLAN asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what the current arrangements are regarding dangerous dogs in Queensland and how can Queenslanders have their say on any proposed changes?

ANSWER:

Dangerous or menacing dogs

Under the current *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*, a dog may be proposed then declared as a dangerous or menacing dog by a Local Government if the dog:

- seriously attacked, or acted in a way to cause fear to a person or animal; or
- may, in the opinion of an authorised person based on the way the dog behaved towards a person or another animal, seriously attack, or act in a way that causes fear to, the person or animal.

When a dog is declared as dangerous or menacing, the owner of the dog or person responsible for the dog must ensure a range of conditions are kept. Such conditions include:

- erect and maintain a standalone, escape proof enclosure at the relevant place for the dog;
- erect and maintain a public facing notice, warning of a dangerous or menacing dog on the property;
- requirement for a distinctive collar and identifying tag;
- requirement for the dog to be desexed (dangerous dogs only); and
- requirement for the dog to be muzzled (dangerous dogs only) and under effective control in a place that is not the relevant place by someone who has control of one dog only.

An individual affected by a declaration may seek an internal review of the decision to the Local Government, and then may seek an external review of the decision via the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

Following an attack, the owner or person responsible for the dog may be subject to prosecution by Local Government for failing to take reasonable steps to prevent their dog attacking a person or animal.

Restricted dogs

A restricted dog is a breed prohibited from importation into Australia under the *Customs Act 1901* (Cwlth). A permit is required from a Local Government for the ownership of a restricted dog.

If the Local Government issues a permit, the owner of the dog must comply with the same conditions as if the dog was a declared dangerous dog.

How Queenslanders can have their say on the proposed changes

On 16 November 2023, I introduced the *Agriculture and Fisheries and Other legislation Amendment Bill 2023* (the Bill). Among other things, the Bill seeks to strengthen dog laws in Queensland and address community concerns following the recent spate of serious dog attacks. The Bill has been referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee) for detailed consideration. The Committee invited submissions on any aspect of the Bill from all interested parties. Written submissions close on Friday, 15 December 2023.