



**Hon Andrew Fraser MP**  
Member for Mt Coot-tha



**Queensland  
Government**

MC06.6807-LAA9236

**Minister for Local Government,  
Planning and Sport**

9 FEB 2007

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

*Dear Mr Laurie*

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petition number 758-06, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, requesting the abolition of legislation restricting certain dog breeds.

Local governments have autonomous responsibility for the good rule and government of their areas. This includes jurisdiction to make local laws on the control and management of dogs that threaten public safety. Such laws may declare dogs that attack, threaten to attack, or exhibit behaviour that threatens public safety, as dangerous and apply conditions on the keeping of such dogs, irrespective of their breed. These local laws provide the primary means for managing threats to public safety from potential dog attacks.

A model local law, Model Local Law No 4 (Keeping and Control of Animals) 2000, was developed by the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation to facilitate local government regulation of dogs identified as dangerous on the basis of their behaviour or breed. As all local governments have adopted a local law on animal management and control, which is either the Model Local Law, or is substantially similar in terms to the Model Local Law, considerable regulatory consistency is practised across the State.

The purpose of the provisions, Chapter 17A Regulation of restricted dogs, inserted into the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA) in 2001, is not to focus on breeds of dogs most represented in attack data, but to regulate the breeds of fighting dogs banned from importation by Commonwealth legislation (*Customs Act 1901*). While the Commonwealth legislation is intended to prevent new dogs of these breeds from being brought into Australia, the purpose of the State legislation is to regulate dogs of these breeds that are already here. It does not impose an outright ban on these breeds.

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While the LGA provides a minimum standard for the keeping and control of these restricted dogs, local governments can, by local law, prescribe higher standards of control, including prohibiting certain breeds from their area. The decision whether to ban restricted dog breeds by local law is a matter for each local government to decide.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you require further information in relation to this matter please contact Mr Michael Dart, Senior Advisor of my office on telephone number 3227 8820.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW FRASER