



The Hon Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities

Our ref: CTS 16097/24

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk to the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2024 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 4068-24 on 20 August 2024 - Prohibit the use of choke collars used on dogs.

I note the petition requests to amend the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act) to prohibit the use and possession of choke collars. I thank the petitioners for raising this issue and acknowledge the ongoing interest of the community in this matter. I note the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries responded to petitions in March 2024 (3951-23), August 2022 (2725-22), March 2022 (3686-22), and May 2021 (3531-21) which made identical requests.

The Queensland Government is committed to providing standards and legislation which protect the welfare of all animals in Queensland, and which meet community expectations. The misuse of any collar is adequately covered under Section 18 of the Act, which provides that a person is cruel to an animal if they cause it pain that, in the circumstances, is unjustifiable, unnecessary, or unreasonable.

On 12 December 2022, amendments to the Act commenced that prohibited the use and possession of prong collars and created a head of power in the Act so that other devices may be prohibited by regulation in future. The petitioners should note that prescribing other devices for prohibition involves amending the Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2023 (the Regulation). Any amendments to the Regulation are subject to the requirements of the Queensland Government's Better Regulation Policy, which includes consultation with affected stakeholders and careful consideration of the impacts on the community.

If you require further information, please contact Mr Dan McIntyre in my office on 07 3719 7420.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Furner'.

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities