



21 May 2021

Attn: Manager Animal Care and Protection Act Review
Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
Biosecurity Queensland
GPO Box 46
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Animal Medicines Australia
ABN 76 116 948 344 | ACN 116 948 344
18 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600, Australia
P: +61 2 6257 9022
animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au

Submission via email: ACPReview@daf.qld.gov.au

Dear Manager Animal Care and Protection Act Review,

I am pleased to respond to the Queensland Government's review of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) is the peak industry body representing the leading animal health companies in Australia. AMA member companies are the innovators, manufacturers, formulators and registrants of a broad range of veterinary medicines products that prevent, control and cure disease across the companion animal, livestock and equine sectors. Our members represent more than 90% of Australian sales of registered veterinary medicines products.

In light of the Queensland Government's review of the framework for animal welfare, I would like to highlight the important role veterinary medicines play in preserving and protecting both animal health and animal welfare. Animal health products are essential tools used by pet owners, farmers and veterinarians to treat, protect and prevent a broad range of diseases and conditions. Good animal health is an essential precondition to beneficial animal welfare outcomes. These products also support food safety, improve sustainability, and protect human health from zoonotic disease.

In addition to protecting animal health in livestock, veterinary medicines improve productivity in the major commodity groups by an average of 10.6%¹. The use of animal health products creates an additional 9,898 FTE jobs in Australia, generates more than \$578 million in wages and contributes \$2.668 million to the Australian economy. For consumers, average consumption prices for meat, eggs and dairy products are reduced by 12.8% through the use of veterinary medicines.

Innovations in animal health provide solutions to animal health and sustainability challenges. Improving productivity in animals underpins a more sustainable system and animal health products such as pain relief improve animal welfare outcomes for necessary medical procedures.

¹ (ACIL Allen Consulting (2018). [Economic Contribution of Animal Health Products to Australia's livestock Industries, 2015-2016](#), June 2018.

AMA's research has shown that 61% of Australian households have a pet, with an estimated 5.1 million pet dogs and 3.8 million pet cats recorded in 2019. As the Minister for Agriculture Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner MP noted in his Foreword to the Discussion Paper, pet ownership is expected to have increased further since 2019 as Australians have sought comfort during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pets in Australia are predominantly seen as a member of the family and Australians hold high expectations for pet health and welfare. The animal health care available to pets is increasingly sophisticated with diagnostic, preventative and comprehensive health management now an option for pet owners. AMA's 2019 report showed that Australians are investing \$2.6 billion a year on the health of their pets. This investment in pet health plays a crucial role in animal welfare.

Any changes to legislative or regulatory arrangements in Queensland must recognise the appropriate, responsible, and judicious use of animal health products and veterinary medicines as essential to positive animal health, welfare, food safety and human health outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the discussion paper and the review of the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*. Should you have any questions in relation to this submission, please contact me on 02 6257 9022.

Regards,

Unsigned for electronic lodgement

Ben Stapley
Executive Director