



**D.E & K.E Buller**

Re: Comment on the draft copy "Health and Welfare of Dogs in Western Australia"

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the draft document as currently written. I believe you have addressed the basic requirements for giving our working livestock dogs and dogs in general good health and welfare standards.

I do have a concern however with Part 3 – Additional requirements for domestic dog operations, five or more fertile bitches being classed as a "Domestic Dog Operation". Farmers may have five or more female dogs, but they have these as livestock working dogs and not for the domestic pet market. Owning five female livestock working dogs should not classify us as a domestic breeder as these female dogs, give us the choose of genetics. Each female carries an individual working trait (paddock, yard, truck etc). I am calling for an exemption for livestock working dogs classed in part 3- "Domestic Dog Operation"

Livestock working dogs have been valued at \$40,000 each for their contribution towards a farming enterprise, during their working lifetime. My working dogs are essential to handle our 17,000 sheep with minimal stress: while training is an important factor in this, the instinct inherent in high quality livestock dogs cannot be overstated. We MUST NOT risk losing the benefits of hundred years plus of selection for good health and working ability by narrowing the gene pool.

When addressing the drafting of the document, please consider that livestock working dogs on farms are not being bred for profit, as pets or to look pretty in the show ring. They are an essential and irreplaceable tool in the efficiency of running and raising livestock.

I am also aware at the present time the Department of Local Government, Sport and Culture Industries is working on a paper "Stop Puppy Farming", I feel that the department is trying to deal with the above issues which is doubling up on the same issues.

Yours faithfully

