

Merredin Farms Pty Ltd
A Dunn

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SCANNED

- 6 JUL 2019

ASSET 122443
ANIMAL WELFARE

ID NO: NJ

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

To Whom It May Concern,

A little bit of background on myself, I am working on my own, on a property with a total area of 180 000ha in the Mukinbudin/Westonia area. I am responsible for the care and handling of 40 000 sheep, to handle this many sheep I require a team of well-bred working sheepdogs.

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"

When addressing the drafting of the document, please consider that livestock working dogs on farms are not being bred for profit but to inherent the breeding of high-quality livestock dogs which 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. 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 Sincerely,

[REDACTED]