



Hon Michaela Settle MP

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture

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Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Via email: council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr McDonald,

Thank you for your letter notifying me of the petition tabled in the Legislative Council on 2 April 2026, requesting that the Government introduce the *Animal Care and Protection Bill* ('the Bill').

This reform program has been a significant undertaking, requiring extensive consultation to get right. Work to scope and draft new legislation has included three rounds of public consultation, including the release of a draft Bill on the Engage Victoria website.

Since the draft Bill was released for public consultation, extensive work has been undertaken to consider all feedback received. Government acknowledges and thanks the many stakeholders and community members who have contributed valuable input to this process.

Victoria's existing animal welfare framework remains in place. The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* continues to safeguard the welfare of animals in Victoria, and the Government will continue to investigate all alleged breaches of existing animal welfare laws.

Where necessary, important updates to animal welfare legislation can also be progressed in the context of the current *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and its regulations.

Thank you once again for raising these important matters with me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Michaela Settle MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture
08/06/2026

