

THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP

Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party
State Member for Bulleen

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Dr David Middleton
President
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd (Victorian Division)
Email: david@mountmary.com.au

Dear Dr Middleton,

Thank you for putting forward AVA Victoria's priorities for the 2018 Victorian election.

The Liberal Nationals have a strong history of strengthening Victoria's animal welfare laws and ensuring Victoria has a strong biosecurity capability. In our time in government between 2010 and 2014 the Liberal Nationals amended the Domestic Animals Act to introduce a 'fit and proper person test', improved animal traceability through better record keeping and compulsory microchipping and enacted legislation giving effect to National Recognition of Veterinary Registration.

An elected Liberal Nationals Government will, in consultation with the Animal Welfare Committee:

- initiate a process to systematically transition Victoria's animal welfare codes of practice from voluntary to mandatory;
- reform the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTAA) to modernise Victoria's animal welfare legislation and put good animal welfare outcomes at the centre of Victoria's regulatory regime. All stakeholders and community members will have an opportunity to have input into the reform process, including on important issues, such as legislating a 'duty of care';
- amend the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to allow veterinarians and animal shelters to reunite registered animals without a 84Y agreement;
- amend the Veterinary Practice Act 1997 to define restricted acts of veterinary science, including dental procedures on cats and dogs; and
- consider the need for Brachycephalic breeds to be recognised under the Code of practice for breeding animals with heritable defects that cause disease.

Note that while the Liberal Nationals support improved monitoring and training in abattoirs, we do not support the introduction of mandatory CCTV. The Liberal Nationals look forward to working with the AVA to continue to improve Victoria's animal welfare regulatory regime and biosecurity capabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Guy MP
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party



Peter Walsh MP
Leader of the Nationals



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