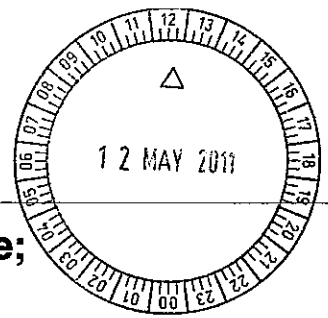


**PUBLIC**



**Minister for Local Government; Heritage;  
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Your ref:  
Our ref: 38-08638/4

Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005.

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your correspondence dated 14 April 2011 concerning Petition No 101 – Funding for the Animal Welfare Unit Inspectorate, to employ six Permanent Full time General Inspectors. You have requested that I provide comment on the petitioners' specific concern that the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* is not being enforced due to inadequate resourcing of the Animal Welfare Unit.

Enforcement of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* is undertaken by general inspectors, of which there are approximately 180, plus every Western Australian police officer. The staff within Animal Welfare Unit's principal focus is on policy development and prosecutions for serious crimes against animals. They work with other agencies and general inspectors throughout the State to ensure the best outcomes for animals.

There are now seven staff in the Animal Welfare Unit, consisting of the Manager who is the Scientific Inspector and a General Inspector, four General Inspectors, one Scientific Advisory Officer and one Administrative Officer. Additional funding was recently made available to boost the number of General Inspectors from three to five through the secondment of two staff from the Department of Agriculture and Food.

This Government continues to investigate ways to ensure the best animal welfare outcomes for this State.

Yours sincerely

G M (John) Castrilli MLA  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;  
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS  
- 9 MAY 2011