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**Hon John Carey MLA**  
**Minister for Housing; Local Government**

Our Ref: 78-02302  
Your Ref: A907710; Petition No. 020

The Hon Peter Foster MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Email: [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Foster

**PETITION NO. 020 – DOG ACT 1976**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 11 August 2021 regarding a petition received in relation to dog attacks.

The *Dog Act 1976* (the Act) currently provides significant penalties for offences relating to dog attacks. Standard dog attacks causing injury can be punished by fines of up to \$10,000; the amount of which can be doubled in circumstances involving restricted breeds or dogs with a known history of committing attacks. The Act also provides a maximum jail sentence of 10 years in situations where an attacking dog kills a person or threatens their life. This penalty is comparable to those penalties applicable to accidental death or manslaughter.

In addition to potential fines and imprisonment, the Act also provides a variety of powers which can be used to manage situations involving dog attacks. The primary mechanism available under the Act is the “dangerous dog” order, which if made the attacking dog would be subject to a variety of additional restrictions.

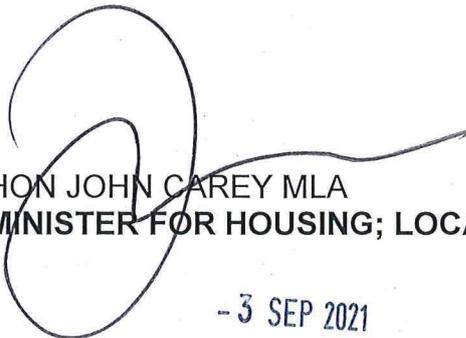
These restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- mandatory muzzling and leashing in public at all times;
- fencing and warning signs on the property where the dog is kept;
- significant penalties if the dog ever escapes confinement; and
- an obligation to notify the local government if the dog is involved in another attack, goes missing or is moved to another district.

The Act also provides the courts with the power to order an attacking dog to be destroyed, to order the owner to attend mandatory training courses, or to ban the owner from owning dogs either for a set period or permanently.

Local governments also have a supplementary power to order the destruction of a dog if the dog was already subject to a “dangerous dog” order and has gone on to commit further attacks.

Yours sincerely



HON JOHN CAREY MLA  
MINISTER FOR HOUSING; LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 3 SEP 2021