

# Meegan Fitzharris MLA



Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

*Tom,*

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2017 regarding petition No 24-17 lodged by the late Mr Steve Doszpot MLA, regarding the ineffective management of dangerous dogs and dog attacks.

On 29 November 2017, amendments to the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* were passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly and came into effect on 14 December 2017. These amendments provide increased enforcement powers, giving authorised officers the ability to take action in regard to nuisance, harassing or dangerous dogs in a greater range of circumstances, particularly where the dog poses a potential or actual threat to public safety. They also include increased fines and penalties, with new offences for provoking a dog to attack and for not having effective control of a dog in a public place, on or off a leash. The amendments impose greater restrictions on keepers of dangerous dogs, with public safety being the paramount consideration.

These provisions enable firm and prompt action on dog management, improving the ability for Domestic Animal Services (DAS) to take effective compliance action. In addition, an additional eight rangers are being recruited to DAS, which will significantly increase the resources available to respond to incidents and take a proactive approach to compliance and education of pet owners.

The amended legislation underpins the Government's ongoing commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership as the cornerstone of our approach to ensuring that dogs in the ACT are properly managed to ensure public safety.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust the information provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services

*31/1/2018*

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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