



Minister for Agriculture

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Ms Elly Maynard
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Dear Ms Maynard,

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2007 to the former Premier of Victoria, the Hon Steve Bracks, seeking support for your submission to have dogs removed from the human food chain. As the consumption of animals is within my portfolio, I am responding on his behalf.

The human consumption of cats and dogs is prohibited in Victoria. It is an offence under Section 35(6) of the *Meat Industry Act 1993* for a person to slaughter for human consumption, an animal that is not defined as a consumable animal. Cats and dogs are not considered to be consumable animals under the *Meat Industry Act 1993*. These regulations were developed in response to community attitudes regarding which animals are suitable for human consumption.

The Victorian Government supports the humane treatment of all animals, including the humane slaughter of animals for human consumption. However, it is not appropriate for me to provide comment regarding the removal of dogs from the human food chain on an international basis.

Yours Sincerely,

Joe Helper, MP
Minister for Agriculture