

# WHAT IS A WORKING DOG?



## What is a working dog?

As defined under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (the Act),

- (a) Means a dog usually kept or proposed to be kept –
  - i) on rural land; and
  - ii) by an owner who is a primary producer, or a person engaged or employed by a primary producer; and
  - iii) primarily for the purpose of –
    - (A) droving, protecting, tending or working stock; or
    - (B) being trained in droving, protecting, tending, or working, stock; and
- (b) does not include a class of dog prescribed under a regulation.

Being zoned rural land does not automatically qualify you under the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* and the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Regulation 2009*. Rural land for the purpose of the legislation means your land is used for grazing stock or cultivating crops on a commercial basis.

Primary producer –

- (a) Means a person primarily engaged in the occupation of a –
  - (i) dairy farmer; or
  - (ii) wheat, maize, or cereal grower; or
  - (iii) cane grower; or
  - (iv) fruit grower; or
  - (v) grazier; or
  - (vi) farmer, whether engaged in general or mixed farming, cotton, potato, or vegetable growing, or poultry or pig raising; and includes a person engaged in primary production

## Do I need to register my working dog?

No. The State Government has exempted working dogs, as defined under the Act, from the mandatory

registration and microchipping requirements provided your dog/s is usually kept on rural land (as outlined above) and is kept/owned by a primary producer (as outlined above), or a person engaged or employed by a primary producer, and is used primarily for the purpose of droving, protecting (livestock guardian dog), tending or working stock and has not been declared a dangerous or menacing dog prescribed under *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Regulation 2009*. Although not a requirement, some primary producers choose to register their animals with Council in the event their animal may become lost. There is no fee for this service.

## Are pig dogs considered to be working dogs?

No. Under the Act, the definition of a working dog is limited to working dogs kept on rural land for droving, protecting, tending or working stock. For example a maremman sheep dog that lives with a herd of goats. It does not include dogs kept to manage feral animals.

## Can I breed my dogs?

Yes. If you are a primary producer breeding working dogs and supplying puppies to another primary producer to be kept on rural land and used as working dogs, you are not required to provide a supply number of any kind. However, if you are a primary producer and give away, sell or advertise your dogs for purposes other than as working dogs, you must register as a breeder. You need to use that breeder identification number each time you supply a dog other than as a working dog.

(For more information on breeding, visit the Biosecurity Queensland website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au))

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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