1. The Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 proposes a number of amendments to portfolio legislation that will ensure the effective administration and operation of the respective Acts, fulfil an election commitment, achieve a reduction in red tape including through the omission of redundant legislation and implement the outcomes of legislative reviews and national proposed arrangements.
2. The Acts being amended by the Bill are the:

* *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*;
* *Agricultural Standards Act 1994*;
* *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*;
* *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*;
* *Forestry Act 1959*;
* *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*;
* *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*; and
* *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936*.

1. The Bill includes amendments to:
   1. implement an election commitment to provide the ability for courts to impose increased penalties for animal cruelty offences to serve as both a punishment and a deterrent to future offences;
   2. omit mandatory state-wide cat registration requirements aimed at reducing the legislative burden on local governments whilst empowering them to decide whether the benefits of cat registration to their constituents warrant its continuation in their area;
   3. enable local governments to make a regulated dog declaration and a destruction order concurrently which will streamline review processes by enabling the declaration and the order to be considered through a single internal review and single external review by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT);
   4. provide for Queensland’s participation in the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration Scheme; and
   5. enhance Queensland’s biosecurity response capability by ensuring that there is a means to contact veterinary surgeons at short notice, especially outside normal business hours, about biosecurity events.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*

* [Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)