



THE HON SIMON CREAM MP
Minister for Trade

Mr Stephen Lee / Ms Nichola Donovan
Chairman / Secretary
NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee / Lawyers for Animals Inc
Kindness House
18/288 Brunswick Street
FITZROY VIC 3065

13 MAY 2009

Dear Mr Lee and Ms Donovan

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2009 regarding the import and export of fur products.

Your letter raises a number of relevant issues regarding the trade in fur and fur products. I have taken note of your proposal for an import and export ban in the context of Australia's international trade commitments.

I acknowledge your concerns about the trade in fur and fur products but stress that the Australian Government has a general commitment to addressing such issues in the least trade restrictive manner. Australia aims to work cooperatively with our trading partners to improve animal welfare in line with internationally agreed guidelines developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health. The animal welfare projects that Australia undertakes with our key trading partners exemplify how conditions for animals can be improved without the need for trade restrictive measures.

I am forwarding a copy of your letter and of my reply to my colleague Mr Burke, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, for his information.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Cream', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SIMON CREAM