Mrs Giulia Jones MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mrs Jones

I write in response to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role) (the Committee) Scrutiny Report No. 27 (the Report), which was released on 18 February 2019. This letter addresses comments made by the Committee on the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018* (the Regulation) made under the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018* (the Act)*.* TheRegulation determines the operating provisions for the purposes of the Act.

The disapplication of section 47 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (the Legislation Act) was mistakenly not addressed in the Explanatory Statement for the Regulation. I apologise for the oversight.

The Committee noted that section 47(6) of the Legislation Act is disapplied under the Regulation, and this affects the publication of external material on which the Regulation relies. The external material referred to are Australian Standards, which are copyright. I agree that the publication of such material provides public access to external material that underpins the law. However, the legal copyright of Australian Standards restricts publication. In this case, the Regulation is directed at a specific occupation that is registered based on professional qualifications. Veterinary practitioners, in practicing veterinary science, must understand and have access, as necessary, to the relevant Australian Standards. In addition, should a member of the public wish to access the relevant standards the Regulation notes where these can be purchased.

I have instructed TCCS to ensure that all future explanatory statements contain suitable discussion and address the consequences of the disapplication of subsection 47(6) where this occurs.

I trust that this addresses the Committee’s comments.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for City Services

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