CANINE DETECTION CERTIFICATION OF AUSTRALIA

29 June 2020

Dr Sean Turner
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: le.committee@aph.gov.au

Re: Enquiry into an Australian Standard for the training and use of privately contracted security and detection dogs.

Dear Dr Turner

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Enquiry into an Australian Standard for the training and use of privately contracted security and detection dogs.

There are many applications for detection dogs in Australia including conservation, biosecurity, medical alert, narcotics, explosives, endangered plants and noxious weeds, water, pathogens and diseases, and search and rescue.

Conservation detection dogs are being utilised to locate diverse odours including locating threatened and native species for conservation programs and detecting feral pests and weeds. Within the conservation detection dog category there are further sectors which have different specific requirements such as biosecurity.

Private operators working within the biosecurity and conservation space have incredibly diverse and unique uses for dogs and the way these dogs are used and handled, vary greatly from job to job.

With an absence of any local, state or national standard for conservation detection dogs, the demand to establish a formal body was strong.

Canine Detection Certification of Australia
Suite 169, 60 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
Telephone: (07) 3040 3040 | 0405 555 959

The Canine Detection Certification of Australia was established with the objective to provide a professional platform for independent detection dog handlers and detection dog users in the conservation detection dog sector.

Dog handlers can now formally verify to a potential client that their dog has been assessed and is trained with the necessary skills to not only locate the species, but to ensure it is not harmed or stressed.

Assessments are open and accessible to all people who wish to work in the conservation detection dog sector or are already working in this field. The dog to be assessed, can be trained by anyone.

Given the broad cross section of working detection dogs it will require substantial effort to focus on each category of detection dogs to ensure all specific factors are considered.

A conservation detection dog cannot operate under the same standard operating procedures as narcotics or explosives or security dogs and therefore must be addressed separately.

If industry standards are developed, we believe it necessary to consult with the detection dog handlers who are affiliated with and working with us to ensure an accurate understanding and insight into this unique detection dog field.

However, in regard to this current enquiry and its form, the establishment of one overall Australian standard for all types of security and detection dogs is not supported.

Robyn Stark
Executive Officer
Canine Detection Certification of Australia

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