



15th January, 2020

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Overview of my experience

I initially gained my law enforcement and detection dog experience by attending a Canine College in the USA. This particular establishment was a supplier of working police and narcotics detection dogs to Federal, State and Local Police and Sheriff's Departments as well as private individuals whom contracted to law enforcement agencies. I have had four live-in course experiences in USA to broaden and develop my knowledge over the years. I have been utilized by 4 States Police for both search and rescue and cadaver recovery as a specialist trainer / handler – the most high-profile case I worked on being The Backpacker Murders case at Belanglo NSW. We developed the first operational cadaver dogs within Australia.

Within Australia, I have been developing world first environmental detection dog programs that are National programs that are run by State Governments.

- National Organochlorine Detection Dog Program
- National Red Imported Fire Ant Detection Dog Program
- National Electric Ant Detection Dog Program (Current)

- Qld Yellow Crazy Ant Detection Dog Program (Currently in final stages of validation to prove operationally advantageous)

Feasibility Studies through State Governments to determine if detection dog programs can be developed to cover the following:

- Organophosphates, Synthetic Pyrethroids, Insect Growth Regulators in Wool Production
- *Heliothis Armigera* in cotton crops as the main objective but to be able to broadly detect *Heliothis* in other small cropping situations with other produce
- Phylloxera in both wine grapes and table grapes in the vineyard situation for broad application to be able to eradicate an extremely threatening micro pest

Whilst I have broad knowledge in detection and law enforcement dogs and a myriad of detection dog methodologies used mostly in environmental detection dogs my input is based on having the opinion that there needs to be a standard that is inclusive of both Government trained and privately trained persons to ensure that transparency and inclusion is achieved.

My area of concern, interest and expertise is the detection dogs and general-purpose police patrol dogs for both the adoption of reliable, credible, flexible and transparent standards and how these will be formulated and administered, as well as which body will have enforcement authority.

My interest is in ensuring that not only Government agency trained serving and past serving personnel are utilised in this role but that rather a panel of a balanced number of these persons and privately trained suitable qualified and credible persons form a group that can have a balanced and wholistic approach to both adoption of standards and practical application to training and tasking for operational uses. These same persons can later form the assessment teams to validate the perspective contractors ability to correctly and successfully qualify to compete for any offered contracted services. These same persons can also then be possibly candidates to be drawn upon for actual assessment of successful contractors and testing their performance to pass contract milestones and validation testing adherence. Due to the ever-increasing need for credible detection dogs as the volume of contracted work increases, so too can the persons required to do the assessments, milestones and operational validation testing and then the scheduled in-service quality adherence testing. All these should be done by minimum of 2 testing personnel suitably qualified with relevant practical training experience. This also should be balanced via 1 serving or ex government trained person and 1 person with outside relevant experience and practical training credibility. This type of group consisting of Government qualified and externally qualified persons would give the public, other stake holders and the successful contractors the feeling of a balanced and transparent system that is more inclusive.

Another area of concern is that will the formation of standards encapsulate the inclusion of animal ethics committees to consolidate workable and realistic methodology that has got the balance of animal welfare that is protective but not prohibitive. This needs to be considered for the purpose of practical training application performance and longevity of high-performance criteria. This is an area that both

Government and non-government training entities could lead and set ongoing non emotional realistic standards for future proofing and prosperity.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me this opportunity to express my professional opinion.

Kind Regards

Craig A Murray

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPThlC16yA8&t=5s>

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