

[REDACTED] (D. Littleproud, MP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2023 11:46 PM
To: Littleproud, David (MP)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Attention (impact on Australians) re: Review of rabies virus risk in imported dogs, cats and canine semen from approved countries

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reply to our email. We appreciate the time you have taken to consider the difficult situation the Albanese Government has created for citizens wishing to repatriate to Australia with beloved pets. To date, despite several communications, we are yet to receive any response whatsoever from the Government Ministers themselves, our local MP The Hon Bill Shorten, nor the Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Murray Watt.

It has now been over 4 weeks and we are still completely unclear as to the options available to us, how or even whether the new rules (published after our application submission date) will apply to us. We understand from the UK's APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) that they learned only of the identity check requirement from DAFF on 12 January 2023 and have no mechanism in place even today to complete this. Thus, we would be unable to re-start the 6 month process today even if this were required of us, as this is step 1.

We wish to request that for those applicants with an import permit application submitted before 12 January 2023, the policy in place at the time of that submission should be honoured and the previous rules should apply. This is similar to what has now retrospectively been granted for those who had been issued permits prior to the new policy being published. It is the only reasonable way forward, as the application submission was made on the basis of complying with rules in place at the time of application and cannot have reasonably been made to comply with future rules that are not known nor in place.

This whole matter has been very poorly handled and implemented. It speaks to a significant lack of planning from the agencies within the Albanese Government's Department and there is no apparent accountability for this. We do completely appreciate the importance of Biosecurity and protecting Australia's borders. We simply wish to ask that grace periods and staggered introduction of the new policy be implemented to allow people returning to Australia reasonably sufficient time to plan. We thought we had done so.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter with any further updates you may have.
Thank you again for your time.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 2:47 AM Littleproud, David (MP) <David.Littleproud.MP@aph.gov.au> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the changes in import conditions of cats, and dogs in relation to the risk of rabies.

It is important to reiterate that the Coalition takes biosecurity very seriously and recognises its importance to safeguard Australia's agriculture and environment.