Claims that the Northern Territory has voted against a ban on animal tail docking is incorrect, Local Government Minister John Ah Kit said today.

This matter was discussed at yesterday’s meeting of Primary Industry Ministers.

The communique from that meeting states:

Ministers considered a proposal for a nationally coordinated State and Territory ban on the routine tail docking of dogs for cosmetic (ie non-therapeutic) purposes. The Ministers noted that some jurisdictions have proceeded, or will proceed, with implementation by 1 December 2003 of the necessary legislative mechanisms to enact a ban. Other jurisdictions are considering their positions. Ministers agreed to seek to finalise a national position on this issue by 30 June 2003.

"In the Northern Territory, the responsibility for animal welfare issues rests with me as the Minister for Local Government," Mr Ah Kit said.

"The final decision on animal tail docking will be made in June.

"The Territory supports a nationally uniform approach to this practice and that position will be supported at the Ministerial meeting in June. Territory stakeholders will be consulted prior to that meeting."

11 April 2003
NT position on tail docking for non therapeutic purposes

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