The Australian Veterinary Association has got it wrong on the Northern Territory’s position on the docking of dog tails, Local Government Minister John Ah Kit said today.

"They were informed weeks ago of the Northern Territory’s position—that we supported a national approach to legislation protecting dogs from cosmetic tail docking.

"They are just barking up the wrong tree," said Mr Ah Kit.

"The fact that we did not vote at the last primary industry ministerial council meeting was that Animal Welfare legislation comes under the responsibilities of the Local Government minister.

"Quite properly the tail docking issue was referred back to me.

"The Northern Territory’s position is simple, and will be taken back to the June ministerial meeting: we will support nationally consistent legislation banning the cosmetic docking of dog’s tails.

"We will only support such procedures if done by qualified veterinarians, and only for therapeutic purposes."

"Quite simply, if I were I dog I would want to wag my tail."