



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023**

### **Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Hearing: Thursday 25 August 2022

**Answers due by:** Wednesday 21 September 2022

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

Phone: (02) 9230 3783

[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

#### Central Darling Shire

1. Central Darling Shire Council has been in administration for the last 8 years, the current team have restored most services and brought a limited budget under control. The model for the operation of local Government is challenged by the vast area and limited rate base.
  - (a) Is the Minister in receipt of a report on future options for the Council?
  - (b) Will the Minister broadly outline the options that are being considered?
  - (c) Will the Minister commit to a detailed and broad community consultation on these options before a decision is made on the option taken?
  - (d) Will the Minister commit to releasing a report in the next 4 weeks?

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Questions from the Hon Mark Pearson MLC

#### Developments near koala, glider, and platypus habitat

2. Between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2022 how many developments were approved by NSW Government authorities in areas encompassing or within 10km of:
  - (a) Known koala habitat?
  - (b) Known greater glider habitat? And
  - (c) Known platypus habitat?
3. What total area of land in hectares do these developments cover individually and all together?
4. Please provide the street addresses of each development where possible and the name of the developer.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC *(on behalf of the Opposition)*

#### Office of Local Government

5. How many full time equivalent staff were employed in the Office of Local Government as of 25/08/2022?
- (a) How many of those staff were full time?
  - (b) How many of those staff were part-time?
  - (c) How many redundancies were accepted by Office of Local Government employees during the period 01/07/2021 through to 30/06/2022?
- What was the total cost of those redundancies?
6. How many Office of Local Government employees are currently assigned to – or work within Office of Local Government’s Policy and Sector Group?
- (a) How many Office of Local Government employees were assigned to that group 12 months ago?
7. How many Office of Local Government employees are currently assigned to – or work within the Office of Local Government’s Sector and Performance Intervention Group?
- (a) How many Office of Local Government employees were assigned to that group 12 months ago?
8. How many Office of Local Government employees are currently assigned to – or work within the Office of Local Government’s Legal Group?
- (a) How many Office of Local Government employees were assigned to that group 12 months ago?
9. How many Office of Local Government employees are currently assigned to – or work within the Office of Local Government’s Business Service Group?
- (a) How many Office of Local Government employees were assigned to that group 12 months ago?

10. How many formal complaints were lodged by Office of Local Government staff regarding an issue in the workplace in the 21/22 financial year?
  - (a) How many in the 20/21 financial year?
  - (b) How many in the 19/20 financial year?
11. What was the payout amount for former head of the Office of Local Government, Tim Hurst?
12. Hilltops Council had an Operational Performance Ratio of -21.4 in 19/20. Were any issues regarding Hilltops financial situation – whether they be a negative Operational Performance Ratio or some other financial concern of the council – raised in 2016/17?
  - (a) The Operational Performance Ratio for Hilltops in 16/17 and 17/18 were not reported in the time series data published by the Office of Local Government. Why was that?

### **Councils in administration**

13. Is the Central Darling Shire Council administration period still scheduled to end following the local government elections in September 2024?
  - (a) Will any individuals who served as councillors on the last Central Darling Shire Council be prevented from running for council at the local government elections in 2024?
14. Is Wingecarribee Shire Council's administration period still set to end following the local government elections in 2024?
  - (a) Will any individuals who served as councillors on the last Wingecarribee Shire Council be prevented from running for council at the local government elections in 2024?
15. Is Central Coast Council's administration period still set to end following the local government elections in 2024?
  - (a) Will any individuals who served as councillors on the last Central Coast Council be prevented from running for council at the local government elections in 2024?
16. Is Balranald Shire Council's administration period still set to end following the local government elections in 2024?
  - (a) Will any individuals who served as councillors on the last Balranald Shire Council be prevented from running for council at the local government elections in 2024?
17. In the past 12 months have any other councils been identified as being at risk of being placed in administration?

## **Rehoming Practices Review**

18. What stage is the Rehoming Practices Review up to?
- (a) Was there a tender process regarding who would conduct the consultation process prior to the Centre for International Economics being appointed?
    - i. If yes, how many organisations registered their interest?
  - (b) Were the public able to make submissions into the review?
    - i. If so, when did submissions open and close?
    - ii. How many submissions were made?
  - (c) When is the review expected to be complete?
  - (d) Will the review be made public?

## **Local Government Boundaries Commission**

19. Is there a minimum and maximum set hours, days or weeks that the Local Government Boundaries Commission members must meet to be entitled to their specified remuneration?
- (a) Is there scope to create an additional Local Government Boundaries Commission should the commission's workload dictate it?
  - (b) Is there scope to hire additional Local Government Boundaries Commission members should the workload dictate it?
  - (c) Has the review into the Local Government Boundaries Commission – announced by former Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock MP, been completed yet?
    - i. If not, when is it due to be completed?
    - ii. Will the report be made public?
    - iii. Where is the review up to?
    - iv. Who is conducting the review?
20. Are Local Government Boundaries Commission members provided additional remuneration if they do work beyond the scope for which they signed up?
21. How long did it take for the Local Government Boundaries Commission to complete the examination of the Snowy Valleys Council demerger proposal?

22. Has the Local Government Boundaries Commission been provided any other demerger requests to examine regarding any other councils?

(a) If no, does it expect to receive some in the future?

### **Council investigations**

23. In a letter quoted in a Blue Mountains Gazette article dated 14 April 2022 (later updated on 18 April 2022) to Matthew Bennett, the husband of former Hawkesbury councillor Sarah Richards, the Office of Local Government Executive Director Ally Dench determined that Mr Bennett did not satisfy the definition of a property developer. How was that decision was reached?

(a) A Sydney Morning Herald article by Angus Thompson dated 14 March 2022 stated that Mr Bennett's business (at the time of writing) was called BCM Property Group and that it was a real estate agency that sold and leased properties but was 'not a property development company'. The article reports that in November 2021 the website was titled BCM Real Estate and Development and it offered 'end to end property development services'. Was Ms Dench aware when writing the letter that Mr Bennett's company website was previously reportedly titled BCM Real Estate and Development?

i. Was Ms Dench aware that as of November last year, Mr Bennett's BCM Real Estate and Development company reportedly offered 'end to end property development services'?

ii. If yes, how was the Office of Local Government able to determine that Mr Bennett is not a property developer?

iii. If no to both, given that evidence, would you reassess your decision regarding Mr Bennett?

(b) The Sydney Morning Herald article by Angus Thompson dated 14 March 2022 said that "in late 2017, BCM – named on council documentation as Bennett Cooney Mackman Real Estate – lodged a development application" for a multi-million subdivision in Riverstone for 103 residential lots. Was Ms Dench aware of this when writing the letter?

i. If no to both, given that evidence, would you reassess your decision regarding Mr Bennett?

ii. If yes, how was the Office of Local Government able to justify the decision?

iii. How would a person who lodges a development application for a 103-lot subdivision be defined?

24. Was Mr Matthew Bennett formally interviewed by the Office of Local Government regarding the investigation into whether Mr Bennett was a property developer?
25. Was Ms Sarah Richards formally interviewed by the Office of Local Government regarding the investigation into whether Mr Bennett was a property developer?
26. Was anyone else formally interviewed by the Office of Local Government regarding the investigation into whether Mr Bennett was a property developer?

### **Councillor Conduct Accountability in NSW Local Government Consultation Paper**

27. How many submissions were received in response to the Councillor Conduct Accountability in NSW Local Government consultation paper?
  - (a) How was the opening of submissions advertised to ratepayers throughout the state?
  - (b) Do you believe councils and ratepayers were adequately aware that they could make submissions in response to the consultation paper?

### **Independent Commission Against Corruption findings**

28. Recent findings from the Independent Commission Against Corruption report July 2022 regarding former NSW Liberal Minister John Sidoti made a number of findings regarding the integrity of decision making on council. The report found the model code of conduct 'contains limited specific guidance about local government lobbying practices'. Would you agree with that assessment?
29. Operation Dasha investigated inappropriate lobbying practices at the former Canterbury Council. As a result, in March 2021 the Independent Commission Against Corruption made several recommendations in terms of updating guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act. Did the Office of Local Government ever commit to introducing those guidelines?
  - (a) Have those guidelines been introduced?
    - i. If not, why not?
30. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: 'The nature and frequency of meetings between councillors and interested parties, including the need to ensure transparency around these interactions'. Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?



- (a) If so, when?
  - (b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?
31. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: ‘How and where to report concerns about lobbying practices’. Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?
- (a) If so, when?
  - (b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?
32. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: ‘The receipt of submissions outside formal processes, including the transmission of material to specific councillors in a way that excludes other councillors and staff’. Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?
- (a) If so, when?
  - (b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?
33. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: ‘Councillors’ attendance at staff meetings with parties interested in an outcome’. Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?
- (a) If so, when?
  - (b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?
34. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: ‘Councillor representations to staff arising from lobbying interactions’. Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?
- (a) If so, when?
  - (b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?
35. The Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti recommended updating the guidelines in s-23A of the Local Government Act further to include advice about: ‘The

lobbying of councillors by interested parties with whom they have a pre-existing relationship’.

Will the guidelines be updated to include this advice?

(a) If so, when?

(b) Will the local government sector be consulted about the wording of this particular point?

36. Recommendation 11 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti states “the CCBC (City of Canada Bay Council) adopts a policy regulating interactions between councillors and staff. The policy should cover councillor representations to staff arising from lobbying activities and the attendance of councillors at proponent meetings with staff.’ Is this something the NSW Government would consider developing as a state-wide policy?

(a) If so, when?

(b) If not, why not?

37. Recommendation 12 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti states “The CCBC continues to provide conflict of interest training to councillors, at least on a biennial basis. The training should cover situations where councillors are lobbied by those with whom they have a relationship or association and the circumstances where this would give rise to a conflict of interest’. Would you consider biennial training sufficient or would you rather it occurs annually?

(a) Is this training that should be mandated and overseen by the Office of Local Government, rather than individual councils?

38. Recommendation 13 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti states “The department amends the model code of conduct to generally prohibit councillors’ involvement in matters where they have a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary interest, beyond exercising the general rights afforded to a member of the public. An exception should be made in circumstances where a councillor reallocates or delegates their duties, refers interested parties to the appropriate way of making a representation or makes a complaint due to becoming aware of improper conduct.’ Is this something you will add to the revised model code of conduct once it is complete?

(a) If yes, is that a guarantee?

i. How would ‘significant’ be defined?

ii. Would there be an appeals process for councillors should they be excluded from being involved when they believe they should not have?

iii. Would there be an appeals process for members of the public should there be concerns regarding a councillors involvement?

(b) If no, why not?

39. Recommendation 14 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption report into Mr Sidoti states ‘The department amends the model code to include provisions about the appropriate role of council workshops. In particular it should be made clear that workshops cannot be used to transact council business.’ Will this be included in the updated model code?

### **Rural Fire Service Assets**

40. In a recent letter to Greg Warren MP, Berrigan Shire Mayor Matthew Hannan expressed his concerns with a recent letter from the chief executive officer providing an ultimatum regarding a qualified audit opinion and limiting access to loans and grants funding should they not comply with the directive that councils should be responsible, in terms of accounting and auditing purposes, for Rural Fire Service assets and equipment. Do you believe this is fair?

41. The City of Canada Bay was another council opposed to councils being responsible, in terms of accounting and auditing purposes, for Rural Fire Service assets and equipment. The council wrote in a letter to Greg Warren MP that it resolved to “call on the NSW Government to take immediate action to permanently clear up inequities and inconsistencies around the accounting treatment of RFS assets by acknowledging that rural firefighting equipment is vested in, under the control and the property of the RFS”. Have the NSW Government done this yet?

42. The Auditor General said, ‘the state is of the view that rural firefighting equipment that has been vested to councils under section 119(2) of the Rural Fires Act 1997 is not controlled by the state’ and ‘on the balance it would appear the councils control the rural firefighting equipment’. How can the equipment be vested to councils if they have no control when it comes to disposal or purchasing power?

(a) Have you had discussions with the Minister for Emergency Services regarding this decision?

i. If so, what is the Minister’s position?

ii. Will the NSW Government back down from this position?

### **Cost shifting**

43. Councils across the state of NSW are struggling with the burden of cost shifting, can you advise us as to what the government is doing to alleviate the burden of cost shifting onto local Councils?

## **Veterans on Council**

44. When was the Local Government Rank to Grade Guide developed?
- (a) Have you had any feedback regarding the effectiveness of that guide from the local government sector?
  - (b) Is there any room for improvement in the guide?
45. Is there any assistance or programs linking the loved ones of veterans with employment opportunities in the local government sector?
46. How many councillors are veterans?

## **Time series data**

47. Who at the Office of Local Government is responsible for compiling time series data?
- (a) How long does it take them to compile the data?

## **Councils**

48. How much did the Castlereagh-Macquarie's County Council spend on governance and administration in 20/21?
- (a) 21/22?
49. What was the Upper Hunter County Council's Operational Performance Ratio in 20/21 and 21/22?
- (a) Did this raise any red flags in the Office of Local Government?
    - i. If so, explain.
    - ii. If not, does it now?
50. Central Tablelands County infrastructure backlog ratio in 18/19 and 19/20 was 30.4% and 31.2%, respectively. What has the Office of Local Government done to work with Central Tablelands County to reduce that infrastructure backlog since then?
- (a) What was Central Tablelands County's infrastructure backlog in 20/21?
    - i. 21/22?

## **Demergers**

51. A press release announced that the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council will be demerged. Did the Minister consider allowing the council's ratepayers to have a referendum to ensure the majority ruled?
52. What guarantees will the government make in terms of jobs for existing council employees during the demerger of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council?

## **Murray River Council**

53. The Office of Local Government advised Helen Dalton MP's office on 12 November 2020 that a preliminary enquiry would occur in relation to the activities with Murray River Council and Murray River Energy. On 16th April 2021 the Office of Local Government confirmed in writing that they would be undertaking a Section 430 investigation into the activities of Murray River Energy, Moama Ethanol Plant and Murray River Council and suggested it would take several months to complete. It has now been 16 months and no finalised report. When will the Section 430 investigation be completed?
  - (a) Will the Minister add the dealings with Barham Abattoir to the investigation?

## **Balranald Council**

54. Balranald Council is under administration and there are a number of concerns from community members. Balranald has three sporting grounds within the Balranald Shire that are categorised by the council as unusable. Has the Office of Local Government provided any assistance to get these sporting grounds to an acceptable condition?

## **Third-party contractors or consultancies**

55. For every agency, department, or state-owned corporation within your portfolio, please provide the following:
  - (a) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in communications services, including:
    - i. Contractor name,
    - ii. Contractor ABN,

- iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (b) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in PR services, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (c) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in marketing services, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (d) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in Government relations or lobbying services, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (e) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in industry or peak body membership, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (f) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in policy or strategy development, including:
  - i. Contractor name,

- ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (g) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in project management, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (h) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in accounting and audit, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (i) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in legal services, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid
- (j) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in any other services, including:
  - i. Contractor name,
  - ii. Contractor ABN,
  - iii. Service provided,
  - iv. Total cost paid

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

#### Synthetic turfs Bayside Council

56. Given the lack of conformance with governance provisions within the Local Government Act, how does the Minister intend to address Lane Cove Council's failure to adequately undertake the environmental impact assessments required after significant damage was caused to mangroves in Blackmans Park following installation of a synthetic field?
57. Can the Minister provide justification and reasoning, given the requirements specified within the Local Government Act regarding governance and planning approval, as to why Bayside Council failed to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) as required within the ISEPP planning pathway and Clause 228 of the EPA Act 1979, when undertaking works to install a synthetic turf field at Arncliffe Park?
58. Is the Minister aware that Bayside Council spent over \$440,000 in legal costs and construction adjustments within the Gardiner Park synthetic turf field development, against the concerns of community groups, Friends of Gardiner Park and local residents?
- (a) Can the Minister provide reasoning for this amount, given that council received numerous letters, prior to and within the legal proceedings, indicating that legal action would cease if Council undertook a DA?
59. How many total complaints and letters of concern were received by Bayside Council with regards to the proposed upgrade works to Gardiner Park, prior to, throughout construction and once installed?
- (a) How were these complaints addressed by Bayside Council?
- (b) What actions did Bayside Council undertake to remedy these complaints and concerns?  
Given community concerns for the health, environmental and social impacts, what does the Minister intend to do to address this?



## **Rehoming of Companion Animals in NSW Issues Paper**

60. In May 2022, the Centre for International Economics (CIE) published its Rehoming of Companion Animals in NSW Issues Paper. What is the total cost of the Centre for International Economics review of Companion Animals in NSW Issues Paper and associated work?
61. What was the tender process followed by NSW OLG relating to CIE's contracted work?
62. Why hasn't this review been opened up to broad public consultation?
63. When will CIE's report be finalised and made publicly accessible?

## **Euthanasia in pounds**

64. Is the Minister and Office of Local Government confident that no council pounds or authorised officers are still shooting impounded animals?
  - (a) If yes, what actions have been taken by OLG to confirm this?
  - (b) If euthanasia by shooting is still occurring, at which councils and/or pounds is it occurring?
65. During previous Estimates hearings evidence has been given that data on method of euthanasia is not collected by the Office of Local Government. Has this since changed?
66. How many council pounds are disposing of animals who have either died or been euthanased while impounded, at their local council tips?
  - (a) Which councils dispose of deceased animals in this way?
67. The former Minister for Local Government committed to working with the former Minister for Agriculture to progress the outlawing of shooting of impounded animals. In light of Ministerial changes, has the Minister progressed these discussions?
68. What qualifications are required to perform a euthanasia in a council pound?
  - (a) Which council pounds do not exclusively utilise veterinarians to perform euthanasia?

## **Death in pounds**

69. For financial year 2020-2021:
  - (a) How many animals were impounded?
  - (b) How many animals died of any cause while in the care of a council pound?

- (c) How many animals died as a result of an illness or injury?
  - (d) How many animals who died as a result of an illness or injury were attended to by a vet before their death?
70. For financial year 2021-2022:
- (a) How many animals were impounded?
  - (b) How many animals died of any cause while in the care of a council pound?
  - (c) How many animals died as a result of an illness or injury?
  - (d) How many animals who died as a result of an illness or injury were attended to by a vet before their death?
71. How many dogs have died in NSW council pounds from outbreaks of parvovirus in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 financial years?

### **Exercise yards**

72. At the time of the public exposure about the shooting of dogs and puppies at the Bourke Council, it was understood that, in total breach of the relevant Code of Practice, the Bourke pound had no exercise yard for dogs. Has this been rectified and does the Bourke council pound now have an exercise yard?
73. How many other NSW council pounds are without exercise yards?

### **Rehoming requirements**

74. Following the passing of the Companion Animals Amendment (Rehoming Animals) Act 2022, the NSW OLG issued via Circular 2022/A811129 advice to NSW councils about the changes.
- (a) Has NSW OLG or the Minister's office been contacted by councils or constituents with concerns about the circular content and/or council confusion about the new requirements?
  - (b) How confident are you that NSW councils are adhering to the new requirements?
75. Do all NSW council pounds allow public access to their facilities to promote adoption?

76. Greyhound Racing NSW offers its participants a number of financial rebates to prevent the killing of otherwise healthy and rehomeable greyhounds. Do you support this program? Do you have any plans to establish similar rebates for the general public?

### **Oversight of council pounds**

77. Evidence was provided during the hearing that pound management is undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and the Minister for Agriculture is the responsible Minister.
- (a) On which date did this change occur?
  - (b) Through what mechanism was responsibility for pound management transferred to the Minister for Agriculture?
  - (c) What publicly available notification was made of this change to machinery of government?
78. How many NSW council pounds has the Minister for Local Government personally visited and inspected? Which councils?
79. Under the NSW council's Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements, NSW councils are required to submit to NSW OLG their financial year annual pound data at the end of each financial year. When will the FY 2021-2022 pound data be made public?
80. When will a review, including public consultation, occur into the 1996 NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments?

### **Funding allocation**

81. Previous responses provided in Budget Estimates confirmed an amount of \$900,000 was allocated by NSW OLG to RSPCA NSW for the purposes of the proposed Blue Mountains wildlife facility. Given RSPCA NSW will not be going ahead with this facility, what has happened to these funds?
82. Through various grant opportunities NSW OLG makes available public money to NSW councils to improve welfare outcomes in their pounds.
- (a) What is the total funding allocation to council pounds under these grants for:
    - i. FY 2020-2021?
    - ii. FY 2021-2022?

83. What evidence of direct welfare outcome improvements is required of councils which receive funding through these grants?

### **Greyhounds in council pounds**

84. Is the Minister a member of and/or has the Minister ever participated in the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Greyhound Racing?
85. During the month of August 2022 my office was made aware of at least six greyhounds who ended up in NSW council pounds and not all were microchipped or desexed as required under GRNSW rules and regulations. Is the Minister and the Office of Local Government confident that all pounds and shelters are using the GWIC Retirement Notification form, which requires evidence of both microchipping and desexing?
86. How many greyhounds have been impounded as seized or surrendered in financial years:
- (a) 2018-19?
  - (b) 2019-20?
  - (c) 2020-21?
  - (d) 2021-22?

### **Development applications relating to animal facilities**

87. There is an increasing level of broad community frustration about Central Coast Council's lack of oversight and management of a current DA involving an intensive commercial dog breeding facility, against which over 1,000 public objections have been lodged and numerous breaches of the consent conditions have been documented. What actions will the Minister and OLG take to ensure that Central Coast Council audits and monitors the welfare of the dogs and puppies and undertakes clear compliance responsibilities regarding the numerous breaches with the Applicant's consent conditions?
88. Was there a data breach in relation to personal details contained in a petition and/or a DA objection that was submitted to Muswellbrook Council in relation to the proposed Martindale Greyhounds as Pets facility?
- (a) What action did your office take in relation to this breach?

(b) Have measures now been put in place to ensure this does not happen again?