



New South Wales

Animal Research Amendment (Right to Release) Bill 2022

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Animal Research Act 1985* and the *Animal Research Regulation 2021* to make provision for the rehoming of dogs and cats that have been used in animal research, and for related purposes.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Animal Research Act 1985 No 123

Schedule 1[3] inserts proposed Part 6A into the *Animal Research Act 1985* (*the Act*). Proposed section 54A contains definitions. Proposed section 54B requires a person who keeps dogs and cats for animal research to take reasonable steps to prepare those animals for rehoming, including by providing appropriate exercise, socialisation and training. Proposed section 54C requires a person who keeps dogs and cats for animal research purposes to take reasonable steps to rehome those animals after the research concludes or 3 years have passed, whichever comes first. Proposed section 54D prohibits a person who receives a rehomed animal from disclosing identifying information about the person who kept the animal for animal research. Proposed section 54E exempts a person from the requirement to rehome an animal that is certified by a veterinary practitioner as unsuitable for rehoming. Proposed section 54F requires the keeping of certain

records. Proposed section 54G makes compliance with proposed Part 6A a condition of a person's accreditation or authorisation under the Act.

Schedule 1[1] and [2] are consequential to proposed section 54G and provide that a complaint may be made that an accredited research establishment or an authorised person has failed to comply with proposed Part 6A.

Schedule 1[4] makes a consequential amendment to clarify the regulation making powers under the Act.

Schedule 1[5] inserts a transitional provision.

Schedule 2 Amendment of Animal Research Regulation 2021

Schedule 2[1] makes an amendment to the *Animal Research Regulation 2021 (the Regulation)* to require that the annual report provided to the Secretary by an accredited research establishment or the holder of an animal research authority must include information about the rehoming of animals under the Act, proposed Part 6A.

Schedule 2[2] makes an amendment to the Regulation to clarify that a dog or cat rehomed under the Act, proposed Part 6A cannot be rehomed with a licensed animal supplier.