

## NSW Government Response

### 2021 Inquiry into the Approved Charitable Organisations under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*

#	Recommendation	NSW Government response
1	<p>That the NSW Government urgently review funding for the two approved charitable organisations, as recently committed to by the Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, to give consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>covering the costs of the compliance and enforcement operations of these organisations without reliance on charitable donations, including conducting regular proactive inspections, sending inspectors to call-outs in pairs and operating a staffed animal cruelty response team 24/7</li> <li>establishing a dedicated stream specifically tied to the compliance and enforcement activities of the approved charitable organisations – the inspectorates – as well as the associated services that support those activities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Supported in principle</b></p> <p>The NSW Department of Primary Industries is currently undertaking a review of the funding provided to the two approved charitable organisations.</p>
2	<p>That, contingent on the adoption of Recommendation 1, the NSW Government implement more formal arrangements to introduce rigour around its recurrent grants to the approved charitable organisations, including clear reporting and acquittal obligations, performance indicators, expectations around service levels and measurement of outcomes.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b></p> <p>These matters are being considered as part of the review of funding provided to the two approved charitable organisations (see response to Recommendation 1).</p> <p>There are existing stringent reporting requirements included in the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i> and <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Regulation 2012</i>.</p> <p>Memoranda of understanding are also in place with both approved charitable organisations - RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League NSW.</p>
3	<p>That, in consultation with the approved charitable organisations, the NSW Government develop and mandate a standardised reporting format, with prescribed categories of information, for the</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>The <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i> contains provisions requiring an enforcement report to be provided to the Minister on an annual basis. These enforcement reports are</p>

	<p>approved charitable organisations' annual and financial reports.</p>	<p>separate from any annual and financial reporting requirements that are placed on charities at either the state or Commonwealth level.</p> <p>The Draft Animal Welfare Bill proposes that the enforcement reports are to be tabled in both houses of the NSW Parliament. This is consistent with Recommendation 11 of the final report of the inquiry into animal cruelty laws in NSW.</p> <p>The details of what must be included in the enforcement reports are currently prescribed in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012 and will be subject to review as part of the development of regulations to support the Draft Animal Welfare Bill.</p> <p>The NSW Government intends to consult with stakeholders and the community in developing the details of those regulations.</p>
4	<p>That as a matter of priority, the NSW Government implement Recommendation 11 of the 2020 Select Committee report on animal cruelty laws in New South Wales.</p>	<p><b>Supported in principle</b></p> <p>The Draft Animal Welfare Bill proposes a requirement for the enforcement reports of the approved charitable organisations to be tabled in NSW Parliament and includes amendments to clarify that the approved charitable organisations are subject to the requirements of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> in respect of their animal welfare law enforcement functions.</p> <p>The Government is currently considering all feedback received on the Draft Animal Welfare Bill.</p>
5	<p>That the NSW Government fund the procurement of additional mobile veterinary clinics and consider funding the ongoing costs of running the mobile veterinary clinics, for both of the approved charitable organisations in recognition of the vital roles these clinics play in disaster relief efforts and in improving animal welfare outcomes in rural and regional New South Wales.</p>	<p><b>Supported in principle</b></p> <p>The NSW Government is considering options to support availability of mobile animal care services in rural and regional NSW to provide assistance during disaster relief efforts.</p>