



Inquiry into pounds in New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That Portfolio Committee 8 – Customer Service inquire into and report on pounds in New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) resourcing challenges affecting New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of funding given towards the operation of pounds by local and state governments
 - (b) the adequacy of pound buildings and facilities in New South Wales
 - (c) welfare challenges facing animals in pounds across New South Wales, including the provision of housing, bedding, feeding, exercise, enrichment, veterinary treatment, vaccination and desexing
 - (d) the adequacy of the laws, regulations and codes governing New South Wales pounds, including the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) and the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 – Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments (1996), as well as the adequacy of the current enforcement and compliance regime
 - (e) factors influencing the number of animals ending up in New South Wales pounds, and strategies for reducing these numbers
 - (f) euthanasia rates and practices in New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of reporting of euthanasia rates and other statistics
 - (g) the role and challenges of behavioural assessments in New South Wales pounds
 - (h) the relationship between New South Wales pounds and animal rescue organisations
 - (i) the challenges associated with the number of homeless cats living in New South Wales for both pounds and animal rescue organisations, and strategies for addressing this issue
 - (j) strategies for improving the treatment, care and outcomes for animals in New South Wales pounds
 - (k) any other related matter.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 29 June 2023.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 1 August 2023, p 296.

Committee membership

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Hon Emma Hurst MLC | Animal Justice Party | <i>Chair</i> |
| Ms Abigail Boyd MLC* | The Greens | <i>Deputy Chair</i> |
| Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC | Liberal Party | |
| Hon Rachel Merton MLC** | Liberal Party | |
| Hon Peter Primrose MLC | Australian Labor Party | |
| Hon Emily Suvaal MLC | Australian Labor Party | |

* Ms Abigail Boyd MLC substituted for Dr Amanda Cohn MLC from 29 June 2023 for the duration of the inquiry.

** Hon Rachel Merton MLC substituted for Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC from 13 September 2023 until 16 September 2024. The Hon Rachel Merton MLC substituted for the Hon Scott Barrett MLC from 24 September 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.