



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**25 October 2019**

A NSW Upper House committee has commenced an inquiry into animal cruelty laws in New South Wales.

It will consider:

- the effectiveness and ability of charitable organisations currently approved under section 34B of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 to prevent cruelty to animals, and promote the welfare of animals,
- the adequacy of the standard of care and kill rates for stray, surrendered or seized animals under the control or supervision of the approved charitable organisations,
- the effectiveness and appropriateness of non-government charitable organisations to be granted investigative and enforcement powers for criminal prosecutions under the Act, and
- whether the Government should establish a specialist unit to investigate animal cruelty complaints and enforce animal protection laws, either as part of the NSW Police or as a separate statutory enforcement agency.

The Chair, the Hon Mark Pearson MLC, said: "This inquiry will look at the efficacy of the administration of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and whether it is appropriate for the Government to authorise charitable organisations to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty".

"The committee will also be launching an online questionnaire shortly to enable as many interested stakeholders as possible to have their say", added the Chair.

Submissions are open until 29 November 2019 and can be lodged via the committee's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/animalcrueltylaws>. Hearings are anticipated to commence in early December 2019, with the committee due to report by 2 April 2020.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Pearson MLC, on 9230 2445.*