



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – CUSTOMER SERVICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE HANDS DOWN ITS REPORT ON ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 June 2022

The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Customer Service and Natural Resources has today handed down its report on the 2020-2021 operations of the charitable organisations responsible for enforcing the State's animal welfare laws – namely, the RSPCA NSW and the Animal Welfare League NSW. The inquiry was initiated in response to a recommendation of the 2020 Upper House Select Committee [inquiry into animal cruelty laws in New South Wales](#). It is intended to be an annual inquiry.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, commented: "The very fact that we need a standing Upper House inquiry into the approved charitable organisations is a sign that there is something wrong with the system. This is a system that delegates to private charities functions and powers normally reserved for agencies within Executive government, but without the built-in checks and balances needed to maintain sufficient levels of transparency and accountability in line with community expectations."

"Equally importantly, the amount of recurrent operational funding the RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League NSW receive from the NSW Government is unacceptably low when you consider the extent and scale of the compliance and enforcement task they are charged with," Mr Banasiak added.

The committee's recommendations focus on significantly increasing funding to the approved charitable organisations' inspectorates. One of the key reforms is that, in order to enhance public confidence in the State's animal welfare system, any future increase in government funding must be accompanied by a much higher degree of public accountability and transparency. The committee also recommended their mobile response capabilities to natural disasters be enhanced.

"Quite separate from the funding issues, the introduction of a standardised reporting format for the organisations' public-facing reports is proposed as a critical first step in improving public visibility of the approved charitable organisations' operations," Mr Banasiak added.

Information about the inquiry is available on the committee's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2851>

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, on 9230 2573.