

Our ref: R95/0160-09 Out-34520

15 June 2022

The Hon Mick Veitch MLC
Chair
Select Committee on Puppy Farming in NSW

Email: mick.veitch@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Veitch

I refer to your letter of 30 May 2022 requesting Local Government NSW (LGNSW) provide further information on its position on the Companion Animals (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.

With regard to the status of LGNSW's submission that was lodged with the Committee as a draft, this is standard practice where due dates do not allow for the LGNSW Board's consideration before submissions are lodged. The submission has now been endorsed by the LGNSW Board without change and can be considered as final.

The LGNSW submission to the Inquiry does not make comment on the Companion Animals (Puppy Farms) Bill specifically. Only one of the Inquiry's terms of reference (TOR 1a) relates to the draft Bill. LGNSW's submission did not specifically address this TOR but instead focuses on other TOR related to deficiencies in current arrangements including financial implications for councils. The submission outlines the issues councils are facing with respect to puppy farms in NSW and calls for stronger controls on mass breeding facilities (both at approval stage and during operation) so as to place NSW on par with its neighbouring States.

The Bill proposes stronger controls on breeding facilities, and therefore LGNSW's letter on the Bill and its submission to the Inquiry are consistent.

LGNSW's letter indicated in-principle support for the Bill and highlighted that it would increase the role and regulatory burden on councils and that this must be adequately resourced. While the Bill makes provision for councils to set a fixed fee for registrations and renewals, it is often difficult to ensure full cost recovery and this may leave councils out of pocket. In addition, to keep costs low our view is that an upgraded Pet Registry would also be essential to enable streamlined business registration and council reporting to occur. LGNSW's letter of November 2021 sought assurances on these matters, once again to prevent councils being burdened with additional tasks without adequate resources.

I trust this clarifies LGNSW's position on the Companion Animals (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021.

Yours sincerely

Cr Darriea Turley AM
President

Our reference: PS-000280-2022
Your reference: D22/25171

Complaints related to dogs and cats from 1 January 2000 to 2 June 2022 (inclusive)		
Calendar year	Complaints related to dogs	Complaints related to cats
2000	Nil	Nil
2001	Nil	Nil
2002	Nil	Nil
2003	5	2
2004	45	8
2005	54	11
2006	45	9
2007	59	14
2008	49	12
2009	48	10
2010	57	13
2011	63	4
2012	42	9
2013	51	13
2014	61	11
2015	50	13
2016	55	10
2017	56	13
2018	59	3
2019	65	5
2020	74	13
2021	104	15
2022 as at 2 June 2022	17	4
Totals	1,059	192
Combined total	1,251	

Complaints related to dogs and cats from 1 January 2000 to 2 June 2022 (inclusive)		
Point of sale	Complaints related to dogs	Complaints related to cats
Breeder	826	135
Pet shop	178	41
Adoption	55	16
Total	1,059	192