

## Inquiry into Puppy Farming in NSW - Post-hearing materials

### Questions on Notice

Question on Notice	Response
<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Can you take it on notice? I think the Committee would like to get a bit of an idea about how much is being spent by the Government. It is probably two pronged. One is how much do you allocate to third parties to undertake education? And how much do you undertake yourselves for education around animal welfare, particularly dogs and cats?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:</b> [...] So if we are talking about education, just to clarify—maybe both of you need</p>	<p>The NSW Government provides funding to the approved charitable organisations relating to education. In 2015, the NSW Government provided \$2 million to RSPCA NSW to support an education centre and education program. In 2016, the NSW Government provided \$200,000 in funding to support a joint education campaign with RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League NSW to raise awareness about responsible pet purchasing and reporting of disreputable breeders.</p> <p>The NSW Government has also provided funding in relation to RSPCA NSW facilities used for educational purposes, including \$12 million in 2019 for the RSPCA NSW Adoption and Education Centre at Yagoona.</p>

<p>to take this on notice—what we are looking for is how much is spent on educating the public about that point of sale for puppies. This is not about whether or not dog owners are responsible.</p>	<p>As the Office of Local Government (OLG) identified in the hearing, 20 per cent of registration fees gathered through the NSW Pet Registry are re-invested in companion animals. Approximately \$1.2 million annually is spent on an education program for pre-school and primary school students, and new parents who have a pet. OLG have brochures providing information to pet owners on how to register a pet. As part of a series of educational webinars, OLG is looking at providing a webinar to breeders by the end of 2022.</p> <p>The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has developed and published on its website educational material relating to animal welfare in NSW. This includes information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation of cats and dogs, including relevant Codes</li> <li>• Buying or adopting a cat or dog</li> <li>• Selling or giving away a cat or dog</li> </ul> <p>NSW DPI is investing a further \$130,000 this year towards a dedicated puppy education and awareness campaign to help potential dog owners to make more informed purchasing decisions and educate breeders about their legislative obligations. This campaign is currently being developed for implementation later in 2022.</p>
<p><b>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:</b> I guess this is a question to Ms Black and Ms Dench. I am happy for you to take this on notice. Could you tell us how many full-time equivalent staff are engaged working in the animal welfare or companion animal space, if I can use that terminology? What is the budget for those functions in each of DPI and OLG?</p>	<p>The Department has 16 full-time equivalent staff dedicated to animal welfare policy, technical advice and administration of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Animal Research Act and Exhibited Animals Protection Act. Additional DPI staff with expertise in policy reform and Parliament also provide support. A further seven DPI compliance staff enforce the Animal Research Act and Exhibited Animals Protection Act. The budget across these teams is \$3.6 million.</p> <p>In addition, a significant number of other staff in the Department in areas such as animal biosecurity, agriculture, policy, communications and research contribute to promoting animal welfare as part of their responsibilities.</p>

**The Hon. MARK BANASIAK:** I go to the puppy task force figures that you listed in your submission. I think you updated them in your—I think it was 66 penalty infringement notices.

[...]

**The CHAIR:** Are you able to provide those figures to the Committee secretariat on notice?

**TARA BLACK:** I can do. I think the RSPCA may have taken a question like that on notice. These are their figures.

[...]

**TARA BLACK:** I have a table here in front of me. It is pretty spread across—there is a range of different—

**The Hon. EMMA HURST:** Are you able to provide that table?

**TARA BLACK:** I think we might have to check. These are the RSPCA's information. But we can certainly check with them.

**The CHAIR:** Take it on notice.

**TARA BLACK:** Yes.

The following table provides an overview of the 19 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued by the RSPCA NSW Puppy Factory Taskforce between October 2021 and April 2022. This data has been provided to the NSW Government by RSPCA NSW.

- 17 PINs relate to failing to meet specific provisions of the Breeding Code
- 2 PINs relate to failing to comply with written directions issued under s24N of POCTAA (highlighted in light grey in the table)

Description	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
Total	5	5	0	1	4	1	3
Failing to provide records required	1	1					
Failing to have a documented evacuation plan		1					
Failing to provide an isolation facility	1						
Failing to provide a pest control program	1	1					
Failing to provide an information package at purchase	1	1					
Failing to provide written guarantees	1	1					
Failing to comply with a S24N Written Direction (records)				1		1	
Failing to comply with 6.1.1.8 – Housing in relation to roof heights being below 1.8m					1		
Failing to keep animals with dependent young separate from other animals – 7.1.1.4					1		
Failing to provide records of animals held at the facility – 5.1.3					1		

	Failing to keep breeding pairs separate/isolated from other animals – 10.1.1.4					1		
	Failing to comply with Section 9.1.1.4 – Failing to Microchip puppies prior to being rehomed							1
	Advertise puppies for sale with an incorrect microchip number (MC# did not exist)							1
	Failing to vaccinate and remove parasites from puppies prior to sale							1