



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

HEARING – Monday 23 May 2022

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers due – 20 June 2022

Office of Local Government

Q#	Question	Answer
1.	<p>The CHAIR: If a microchip fails to be read and they need to reinsert another microchip, how do they go about changing the microchip details on the Pet Registry? What is the process for that?</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: In 2016 the Pet Registry was adapted so that people can go on and make their own changes. I will take on notice whether you can change the microchip number once it has actually gone in. I have not had a lot of information to date about microchips failing. We will take that on notice, if you do not mind, and find out about that.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Thank you. That would be good. We have also had some information about public education around responsible pet ownership</p>	<p>If a microchip is unable to be read, a new microchip is required to be implanted and then registered via the Pet Owner's Local Council. The old microchip number will remain recorded in the Registry and linked to the new microchip number.</p> <p>If the registration fee has been applied to the original microchip, a nil fee would be applied to the new microchip.</p>
2.	<p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: 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>...</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: OLG?</p> <p>ALLY DENCH: I would like to take that on notice, if I could, to get you the exact figures. But we have approximately about five staff in the OLG in regards to the pet helpline.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: What about the Pet Registry, in that function as well?</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: We do have one dedicated contractor who looks after the Companion Animals Register. She was involved in actually setting up the thing 20 years ago.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: She would know a bit about it.</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: She knows all about it and we are very dependent on her to keep it running. She is full-time on that. But as I say, she is an external contractor. We do use the money that we retain from the registrations to man the helplines: the email and the phone lines. We have between four and six people on that. At the moment we do have a couple of extra contractors on because there has been an increase in the number of calls over the last six to 12 months. That is probably about it. Then we have a couple of regular full-time staff who do work associated with companion animals but it is not their substantive role.</p>	<p>OLG have 4 FTE staff working on the Companion Animal Register and the online NSW Pet Registry with an estimated annual budget of \$360k</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: I might go to the Office of Local Government first. With the Pet Registry details, I have had a stakeholder playing at home and they have told me that they cannot actually update their details on the Pet Registry. It is up to the councils. I know, Ms Bishop, you said that users could do that, but is it the case that they submit the form to council and the councils are the ones that actually do the update?</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: I did actually just get some background check on that. When you first register your animal, I think you do it through the council, but what was set up was the online portal so that people can go in and update details once they are in there. I will take this on notice and clarify it.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: Yes.</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: My understanding is that you can get on the portal and you can update details and things, but whether you initially have to be put in originally through a registered council—I just checked that before.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: And if you can edit, whether there are any locked fields that you cannot, that would be useful.</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: As per the microchip question earlier, yes.</p> <p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: Yes, that would be great.</p> <p>KARIN BISHOP: I am very happy to take that on notice and provide much more detailed and specific information</p>	<p>Companion Animals are required to be implanted with a microchip by an Authorised Identifier. There are then two ways the animal can be identified on the NSW Pet Registry (Registry):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Authorised Identifier can update the identification (microchip) details directly onto the Registry; OR 2. The Authorised Identifier can complete the P1A Permanent Identification form and send to the Local Council to update the details. The Pet Owner is also provided with a copy of the form and can present it to the Council. The Council will then update the identification (microchip) details onto the Registry. <p>Once the identification has been confirmed, pet owners can undertake the following on the Registry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a pet owner profile – (identification is verified through the Document Verification Service) • Link their pets to their profile • Update their contact details • Pay their lifetime registration fees • Pay for an annual permit • And add a photo of their beloved pet • Report their pet as missing • List their pet as deceased • Transfer ownership of their pets <p>The pet owner may also choose to complete the registration process with their Local Council.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The CHAIR: I have one question. I want to finish up with the Government. In the Government's submission—and it is probably a chance to update it since you presented the submission—in response to terms of reference (e), which is the recommendations of the 2015 Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW, it states that, of the 27 recommendations that were supported or supported in part, 20 recommendations have been completed and seven recommendations are partially completed, underway or pending. Can I ask for an update on those seven recommendations and just where they are at, considering it has been a while since the submission came in?</p> <p>SUZANNE ROBINSON: I think in terms of the DPI ones—because some of those are local government related—there were some aspects around consideration by the Animal Welfare Advisory Council. The council had considered and reviewed them, and given</p>	<p>A response to this question is provided by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.</p>

	<p>advice. But, as previously mentioned by Tara, in terms of looking at what we do with the breeding code and updating the breeding code, we would be looking at progressing that through that process. As we have said, we are looking through the reform, with the Act and the regulation first and then picking it up through the standards.</p> <p>The CHAIR: And the OLG?</p> <p>ALLY DENCH: In regard to those recommendations, the majority of them have been completed or nearly.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Nearly?</p> <p>ALLY DENCH: Most, yes. I have a list.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Maybe you could take on notice to provide it to the Committee.</p> <p>ALLY DENCH: I can provide the list with an update of where each of those recommendations are up to.</p> <p>The CHAIR: That would be fantastic, thank you.</p>	
5.	<p>The Hon. WES FANG: We heard testimony earlier today from experiences in other States, for example Victoria, where they have a similar legislative instrument to the bill we are looking at now, although it is not as draconian. It did not go as far as what has been proposed here but has had an outcome that has been achieved. Do you have submissions or representations from groups like Local Government NSW about their support or otherwise for the New South Wales proposed bill or the Victorian legislation? Have they come to you and said, "We need this"?</p> <p>ALLY DENCH: I would need to take that on notice of whether we have formal requests in that regard.</p> <p>The Hon. WES FANG: I raise that because obviously we have this letter that says they support it but then five months later their submission is clearly different to that. Obviously the</p>	<p>The Office of local Government has not received correspondence from Local Government NSW directly regarding this matter.</p>