



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE URGES ACTION ON PUPPY FARMS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**25 August 2022**

Today, the Upper House committee conducting an inquiry into puppy farming in New South Wales handed down its report with 18 recommendations to strengthen safeguards against large scale unethical breeding of both dogs and cats.

Committee Chair, the Hon Mick Veitch MLC said, "The idea of puppy and kitten farming evokes strong concerns about animal welfare. There is no doubt that puppy and kitten farming at its worst is an abhorrent practice, with offenders largely operating underground."

"It is clear that community sentiment around the breeding of dogs and cats is changing. Community members want assurance that the companion animals they welcome into their families have been ethically bred, well cared for, and will grow up healthy and happy," commented Mr Veitch.

The inquiry was established in November 2021 following the introduction of the Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021 to NSW Parliament by the Hon Emma Hurst MLC. The bill seeks to tighten the legal requirements around dog and cat breeding in New South Wales.

Mr Veitch stated, "The committee received a wide range of evidence on the measures proposed in the bill, as well as related issues such as animal welfare, consumer protection, and the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework. The inquiry attracted significant public interest, with more than 900 submissions, over 6000 responses to an online questionnaire, and two days of public hearings."

The committee heard that stricter laws now in place in Victoria and Western Australia, and expected to occur in South Australia, are having an impact on New South Wales, with larger breeders relocating across the border to avoid the tighter controls.

"The policy landscape across Australia is changing, and New South Wales communities, especially border towns, are being affected," the Chair stated. "The NSW Government needs to act to address this impact, and to keep up with changed community expectations about animal welfare."

The report's recommendations address breeding practices, licensing, sale of dogs and cats, the NSW Pet Registry, consumer protections, and more.

The NSW Government now has three months to respond to the committee's recommendations. The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Mick Veitch MLC, on 02 9230 2714.*