



10 February 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## INQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO EXPLORE FURTHER CHANGES TO LAW TO ENHANCE PET OWNER TENANTS' RIGHTS

The New South Wales Upper House has established an inquiry that will explore possible enhancements to pet owner rights. The inquiry has come about as the government introduced legislation, the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2025, intended to improve protection of renters' data and privacy. The Upper House referred the bill to a committee to examine unintended effects on pet owners, and how they may be better protected.

Chair of the committee, Hon Emma Hurst MLC, said 'On the face of it, the bill appears to contain sensible reforms that will make it easier for renters with animals to live in rental properties. But Parliament has heard that may not be what happens.'

'The proposed changes include that tenants applying for a new rental don't have to disclose that they have a pet. But once the lease is signed and they've moved in with their pet, that's the point when they can be declined by their landlord because of their animal and find themselves in breach of their tenancy agreement,' Ms Hurst explained.

The Chair continued, 'We have heard that leaves the renter and the animal very vulnerable. It is not good for animal welfare, it is not good for tenants, but it is also not good for landlords.'

'In light of those concerns, Parliament has charged the committee with exploring these matters in an inquiry that will allow members to hear directly from stakeholders, who will inform the Government about how the bill can be improved,' Ms Hurst concluded.

The inquiry will address two reforms proposed in the bill related to animals in rentals, including:

- regulations to prescribe the information that can be collected from tenants when they apply for a rental
- provisions that give a tenant seven days after entering into a residential tenancy agreement to apply for consent to keep an animal, during which time they can keep their pet on the premises.

The committee will hold a hearing on 16 March 2026, then report to the Parliament in time for consideration of the legislation by the end of March.

For more information about this inquiry, including the committee membership and the terms of reference, see the inquiry [webpage](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

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