

Media Release

NSW Legislative Council

Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT EXPLORING FURTHER CHANGES TO LAW ENHANCING PET OWNER TENANT'S RIGHTS

The New South Wales Upper House committee inquiring into possible enhancements to pet owner rights has handed down its report. The inquiry came about as the government introduced legislation, the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Protection of Personal Information) Bill 2025, intended to improve the protection of renters' data and privacy. The Upper House referred the bill to Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service to examine the unintended effects on pet owners, and how they may be better protected.

The committee's report includes three recommendations addressing aspects of the Bill's provisions to the keeping of pets in rental properties, including allowing 14 days (instead of 7) after entering into a rental tenancy agreement to apply for consent to keep an animal, increasing community education regarding animals in rentals, and improving data disclosure and collection on applications to keep animals in rentals.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Emma Hurst MLC stated: 'As it is, the Bill has unintended consequences for already vulnerable people, including victim-survivors of domestic violence who may delay leaving violent situations for fear of leaving a much loved pet behind, as well as for people who – for reasons of time constraint, trauma, or a lack of resources – struggle to navigate the NCAT and other legal processes'.

The Chair continued: 'We're recommending that the government address a bias against renters with pets, improve transparency in the process of renting properties, and compel landlords to disclose upfront if a property is unsuitable for pets, thus reducing the chance that tenants would unknowingly enter into leases where their pets might be refused. These are aspects of the Bill that if improved, means everyone wins – renters, landlords and agents'.

The inquiry committee has recommended that the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Residential Tenancies Amendment (Protection of Personal information) Bill 2025. The committee's report and other inquiry documents may be found on the committee's website: [Residential Tenancies Amendment \(Protection of Personal Information\) Bill 2025](#)

For further information please contact:

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