



# NSW Legislative Council

## Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW



### 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979

Hearing: Thursday, 2 April 2026

#### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW

##### Case Numbers

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Can you give me an understanding of the numbers? I'm happy for you to take this on notice if you don't have the data in front of you, but you talked about a huge increase. I want to know "It went from X number of cases to X number of cases going to the Animal Welfare League."

Answer:

In mid-2024, AWL NSW was averaging around 400 jobs per month. Over the same period in 2025, that monthly average increased to around 1,280 jobs per month. That is approximately 3.2 times the volume, or a 220% increase

##### Funding Agreement

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I've asked the RSPCA for a copy of their funding agreement with the Government, which they're going to provide on notice. Could I ask the same for the Animal Welfare League?

Answer:

It is our understanding that Office of Local Government has provided the relevant AWL NSW funding agreement to the Committee.

##### Charitable Income

The CHAIR: What percentage of your charitable income is going over to the inspectorate? RSPCA's was \$10 million. Would it be in proportion to the level of income you receive versus the level that they do, do you think?

Answer:

AWL NSW allocated approximately \$3.224 million of charity funds toward inspectorate-related activity in 24/25.



#### Capacity Model

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: You mentioned modelling to see what capacity you could handle. Are you able to share that modelling?

Answer:

The comparative model is attached (ATTACHMENT A).

#### Minister Meeting

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: When did you last meet with the Minister?

Answer:

AWL NSW last met with the Minister on 15 July 2024

#### Growth Funding

The CHAIR: Can I just go back to some more financial questions. In your opening statement you talked about expanding into different areas. How much of that growth is backed up by secure funding versus your charitable funding?

Answer:

The growth referred to was supported by funding through the Office of Local Government Rehoming and Enforcement Grant.

#### Holding Costs

The Hon. EMMA HURST: What costings are you looking at to hold these animals for sometimes six months or nine months while the court case is running?

Answer:

AWL NSW's average holding cost is approximately \$6,988.06 per animal over 60 days. Longer matters, including animals held for six to nine months during court proceedings, would increase proportionately depending on care, veterinary and housing needs.

#### Euthanasia

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: Thank you for coming along today. Could we just go back to the euthanasia numbers that we discussed a little bit earlier, and just go through them, if we could, in a little bit of detail? In terms of categories that you referred to in classifying, shall we say, the conditions around all the reasons behind euthanasia, you described it as medical for one category and behavioural as the second category. Are they the only two categories that you classify as the grounds and reasons?

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: What I'm interested in is—I put it in these frank terms—you've got too many animals under care and that they need to be euthanised because you've got them.

STEPHEN ALBIN: No, no.



The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: Please forgive me. I am just explaining it to you because there's been evidence brought to this inquiry and there is commentary in the media, not infrequently, that there's a fair bit of euthanasia going on in New South Wales—I use that in the general sense—of companion animals, namely dogs and cats, because there are too many and particularly the organisations that are funded and resourced by the Government just can't cope. Therefore, they are euthanising animals. Could you respond to that?

Answer

For the year to 30 June 2025, AWL NSW recorded euthanasia in the following categories:

- Medical: 110
- Behavioural: 9

AWL NSW does not euthanise animals because of lack of space or because animals have been in care too long. Euthanasia decisions are made on medical or behavioural grounds, based on animal welfare, safety and veterinary assessment. Medical euthanasia is the reported rate.

Stephen Albin

CEO

11 May 2026

