

**Submission
No 86**

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Dogs Australia (ANKC)

Date Received: 28 February 2022

Dogs Australia totally endorses and supports the DOGS NSW submission on the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022. Having observed the evolution of NSW Government Legislative changes in Animal Welfare Regulations for thirty plus years I must firstly congratulate the Government on its initiative in moving to merge the relevant Acts, however there are issues contained in the Draft that are of concern and make me question if the proposed legislation is viable.

My concern is that the draft contains limited details of the proposed Regulations, especially as it seems that stakeholders will not have any opportunity to review them when they are developed after the passage of the Bill, without the opportunity for further consultation, this aspect of the Bill alone, does not motivate me to encourage support for it from Dogs Australia Members. I would urge you to reconsider the legislative process and allow for further consultation when the Regulations are being developed.

Another concern is that the information contained in the discussion paper suggests that Animal Welfare is not the primacy of the proposed bill, the focus is not on the support of animals but on enhancing the powers of the regulatory authorities, as lobbied by minor factions in the NSW Parliament.

If this Bill becomes law, the impact on the caring, regulation observing ethical breeders will be devastating, they will walk away from what for many of them has been a lifelong goal, the provision of healthy, long lived, companions with predictable temperament for the families of New South Wales, they will be replaced by commercial breeding factories who will meet all the Regulations, and the underground puppy farmers, who all the Regulations in the world will not impact, as they operate from a mobile phone and, as has been admitted by the Government appointed Regulators, are impossible to trace.

I trust that when all the submissions on the Draft Bill are examined that the Government will realise that the good intent of consolidating acts, has been hijacked by entities whose published goals are the phasing out of purebred dog breeders in favour of the public obtaining their family pet from a rescue or shelter, which is a commendable position, but what happens when the shelters are empty ?.

Regards,

Hugh Gent OAM



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President and Chairman of the Board

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