

Submission
No 196

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am a long-time breeder and have shown dogs for many years and I'm a voter. Over the years I have sold dogs into many loving homes and along with many other registered breeders, into homes with voters. People that have dogs or cats are voters and I don't believe that most of them know about this draft Bill, and I am sure that a lot would be shocked if they knew.

My main concern with this bill in its current form is the potential that I will have to stop breeding, and if I am not the only breeder to do the same, where will the family pet come from, commercial premises I assume. I don't believe that a commercial breeding situation will care as much for the health and soundness of a breed, the nature of a business is to make money. As a hobby breeder, I can tell you that we don't make money. Breeders of purebred dogs, perform DNA testing, do matings based on suitability (this is not the cheapest option) and with day-to-day cost of our dogs, this certainly adds up, especially for a normal family. When breeding, we look to the best sire for our bitch and this means looking across Australia and also overseas, I am sure that a commercial situation would not do this. To ensure our bloodlines are aimed at removing health issues and improve soundness, access to many dogs from afar is paramount, hence the availability of performing surgical AI is essential, cattle and horses was doing this well before dogs. I deeply care for my dogs and their welfare is my absolute concern, and I want to be able to raise pups in a family environment, which is a normal residential property. I would hate to think that Australia is going to stop the breeding and exhibiting of dogs by the hobbyist and families.

As a registered ANKC breeder, I comply with their Code of Ethics and Regulations, and I am confident that this organisation is capable for ensuring our compliance to a new bill.

The Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 is far from supporting the welfare of animals, and if made law, this Bill will:

- Drive a lot of people out of the breeding dogs and cats
- Purebred dogs and cats are likely to disappear, certainly some breeds
- Commercial animal breeding will thrive
- Puppy farmers will fill the gaps left by hobby breeders no longer breeding, and charge outrageous amounts for animals bred without care or concern.

It is difficult for any ordinary person, such as myself, to be expected to understand or comply with the definitions and interpretations that this Bill presents.

The Draft Bill, in parts, is an overreach, definitions and construction are so loose that no ordinary person (including myself) would be able to afford the necessary legal representation to defend themselves as a dog owner/ breeder.

There are no safeguards in this proposal to protect ordinary hobbyists, like myself and no protection to ensure the future of our purebred breeds. God help us.