

Submission
No 215

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

I am a member of the Royal Canine Council of Australia, I have been showing dogs for 45 years . It is a family sport which does not discriminate , all types of people can participate including children , the aged and people with various disabilities.

I occasionally breed a litter to continue my hobby of exhibiting dogs. My dogs are my passion and I am dedicated to breeding healthy happy dogs that meet the written breed standard . As a member of Dogs Australia we are guided by a code of ethics . The code requires us to health screen breeding stock by way I'd DNA testing , hip xrays. Eye testing by canine ophthalmologist and other breed specific specialist tests . This is done to in an effort to eliminate genetic issues. We are also required to screen puppy buyers and guarantee that we take back any puppy or dog that we bred and sold , should the new owners circumstance change and they can no longer keep their pet. We do this in order to re-home the pet in a suitable permanent family home ensuring our dogs don't end up in shelters . Members of Dogs Australia usually rear their pups in the family home ensuring that pups are properly socialised amongst children , other pets and household noises . We are animal lovers and our dogs are family.

Unfortunately , our members are being unfairly targeted by new legislation intended to reduce dogs in shelters . Opportunistic breeders of unregistered dogs labelling mixed breeds(mongrels) as Designer dogs and breeders of unscreened purebred dogs ie not health tested in the fashion Dogs Australia members are obliged to screen., continue to flood the market with mixed breeds of unsuitable temperament , creating health issues with no regard for the compounding of 2 different breeds ipossible health problems, advertise dogs for ridiculously high prices on gumtree and the like , and contribute to the resulting number of dogs in Shelters . Puppy buyers are not being held responsible for treating these purchased pets as disposable commodities, all blame is being attributed to the breeders.

The proposed changes to the DPI does not address these opportunistic breeders and could also encourage the commercial breeding of dogs like factory hens .

Dog breeding taken away from the family raised environment could in fact contribute to poorly socialised pups with temperament issues which eventually end up in the shelters .

Breeding dogs in puppy farms is not done with passion and love for the dogs but rather with love for the bank account.

Also some of the proposals are vague and we are being asked to agree to rules being made up after the event of passing the legislation.

I feel the choices of Australian people to buy purebred pedigreed dogs that are appropriately health screened, from carefully selected mating pairs , pups raised in family homes exposed to family noise ,, reared with correct worming and vaccination schedules and healthy premium diets , this choice will be denied .

The proposed bill does not protect the welfare of carefully planned litters of popular established breeds , it does not target the opportunistic breeders, it may in fact support puppy farms which feed the animal.shelters , there could be a liaison between the puppy farms and shelters which becomes purely a profiteering arrangement .

I am very concerned that my chosen sport , which involves my entire family and 3 generations Including children with disability, AND our dogs, plus the carefully planned breeding of happy healthy, well adjusted pedigreed dogs as part of my hobby will become obsolete. Dog sports involve our treasured furry family members , they are stimulating for our pets , please consider the opinion of the thousands of registered Dogs Australia members who vote with heavy hearts should the proposed bill not be given further consideration. Dog Welfare is of utmost importance but the proposed changes and ambiguous points could well have the opposite result