

**Submission
No 84**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr Rachael Brown

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Animal protection associated with puppy farming is virtually non-existent, hence the need for 'The Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021'.

The current framework regulating dog breeders in NSW is flawed. There is no limit on the number of litters a dog can be forced to endure, no limit on the number of female dogs a breeder can have, and no mandatory vet checks or need to ensure animals receive proper care or adequate living conditions. This unfortunately allows intensive dog factory farming, with no care or consideration given to those animals. It is similar to factory farming we have for those animals bred for human consumption.

In addition, there is no restriction on pet shops or online avenues from selling dogs sourced from puppy farms, no law that states they must disclose where these animals came from, and there is little to no traceability. In the majority of incidents consumers are misled.

Laws to ban puppy farming in NSW should follow the same laws that are in place in Vic and ensure that there are strict penalties in place for breach of these laws:

- * limit the number of fertile female dogs breeders can keep
- * restrict pet shops to selling dogs sourced from shelters, pounds or enrolled foster carers
- * clarify the role of foster carers
- * define 'recreational breeders' and 'microbreeders'
- * confirm the definition of 'farm working dogs'
- * introduce the animal sale permit system
- * improve traceability of dogs through the establishment of the Pet Exchange Register
- * strengthen pet advertisement offences

There should also be an independent organisation with the power to enforce the proposed laws.

The Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021 will ensure accountability and traceability of dog breeders, which is long overdue. It will ensure that those dogs used for breeding are appropriately cared for and not abused for the sake of human greed. It will also ensure the public are not misled when purchasing a puppy from a breeder. This Bill will ensure long overdue transparency in this industry.

The Government must act now to ensure the protection of these dogs abused for the sake of human greed. The Government must stop dragging its feet and put a stop to this cruel industry. It must listen to the public it is there to serve and adopt all changes needed to ensure the traceability and accountability of this industry. Far too often, the Government refuses to make decisions needed to stop animal cruelty. Victoria has done the right thing by amending their 'Domestic Animals Act', so it is time the NSW Government stop lagging behind. There is no need for an inquiry, just pass the legislation to protect these vulnerable animals.