

**Submission
No 153**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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1) This Bill potentially means that I will have limited choices in purchasing a pure bred dog and will be obliged to look for re-homing from an animal shelter, if there are any dogs up for re-homing. This severely limits the access to dog bred for particular traits and characteristics (ie size, shape, coat etc) and has been well screened for potential genetic problems prior to being bred.

2) There is no definition of what a "Puppy Farm" is. It could be a person who breeds multiple pure bred dogs per year or breeds multiple mixed breeds. It could be someone who is simply breeding multiple puppies and selling them as soon as possible for cash with no thought to the puppies care or health prior to or during whelping and raising.

In my opinion the problem puppy farmers are those breeding dogs with no prior health checks on the breeding pair, no health checks on the puppies and poor living conditions for all their stock. NSW dog breeders are bound by a code of ethics to breed genetically tested health stock and keep records of their sales. They are required to pass prior education on animal husbandry particularly in regards to dogs prior to being given a breeders prefix. They are required to provide papers and education to the new puppy owner at sale and most pups are sold on contract to be returned to breeder if there is ever a problem. A puppy farmer has no interest having stock returned and contributes to the stock of the animal shelters due to not screening their potential puppy owners effectively. If this law is allowed to pass it will also limit the supply of highly sought after dogs used in agriculture ie herding and protection dogs and the supply of companion dogs for the disabled (not including the blind dogs program)

3) If a DOGS NSW registered breeder, breeds in their own home, they are non-compliant. Many breeders are selectively breeding one or less litters per year. They often only breed to continue the blood line they have worked hard to develop and keep their animals as companions in their home. To insist on the bitches being forced to whelp in kennel type environments when used to living in the house with the owner is likely to cause extreme stress the animal. This would be contrary to ideals of the concept of limiting puppy farming where the health and safety of the animal is purported to be paramount. While it is true there are many breeders who keep multiple animals and should indeed have sanitary and safe environments for them all there needs to be allowance for those who only keep one or two dogs as household pets and very occasionally breeds them. In view of this there cannot be one blanket approach to all registered breeders. It would seem more intelligent to monitor the registered breeders through Dogs NSW and allow the rangers to monitor other breeders not so registered. Most local rangers know exactly where the multiple numbers of unwanted puppies are coming from and could actively police these through RSPCA if given the power to do so.