

**Submission
No 513**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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The laws and regulations governing puppy and kitten farms are woefully inadequate. 'Puppy farms' have long operated with virtually no effective regulation across NSW. Thousands of dogs and cats are kept in appalling conditions and are used as lifelong breeding machines purely for the sake of profit. These businesses thrive on shielding the suffering that underpins their operations. They are deprived of everything that makes their life worth living. Investigations have uncovered dogs living in barren and putrid pens without adequate food, water, exercise, vet care or socialization - their only 'purpose' is to produce puppies and kittens for breeders to sell. They are forced to produce litter after litter and may be disposed of when their exhausted bodies slow down and produce fewer puppies. Beyond the direct cruelty involved in using animals in these facilities, puppy and kitten farms contribute to the constantly growing issue of companion animal overpopulation and abandonment. Each year in Australia, thousands of healthy dogs and cats are euthanised in pounds and shelters, simply because there aren't enough homes for them. Consumer demand for buying companion animals rather than rescuing strengthens a market for unscrupulous operators and the cycle of suffering continues. Victoria was the first state to take a stand against these large-scale breeding operations in 2017, and Western Australia followed in 2021. Although a huge win for animals within the borders of those states, many breeders simply relocated, capitalizing on the lack of laws in NSW. NSW needs to urgently follow Victoria and Western Australia's lead. Caring people across NSW want to protect companion animals and end intensive breeding cruelty. It is long overdue.