

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 10 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

I live in the Blue Mtns and have utilised the RSPCA pound many times over several decades to board out our pets, purchase dogs that were to be otherwise euthanised as well as purchasing items for pet care.

In April 2023 the RSPCA NSW announced they would be closing this pound due to various reasons stated by their CEO. Such as declining animal intake numbers, financial loss in local operations, a required refurbishment of the shelter and perceived hostility from the local community in regard to a costly DA to develop the site into a boarding / training establishment. (DA works valued at \$4.4M on the BMCC website)

This has left the local community with no pound/shelter to take stray animals in emergency situations. (nearest other pounds are Yagoona, Hawkesbury and Central West NSW).

There has been a noticeable increase in abandoned domestic dogs in remote BM areas reported by bushwalkers and others since the closure.

A solution in our local region is urgently required before the Blue Mountains National Park fauna becomes under even greater stress from the closure of the Katoomba Pound.