

**Submission
No 46**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Murrumbidgee Council

Date Received: 16 August 2023



SC271

16 August 2023

The Director
Portfolio Committee 8
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: PortfolioCommittee8@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Inquiry into Pounds in NSW

Murrumbidgee Council was formed in 2016 following the amalgamation of the previous Murrumbidgee Shire and Jerilderie Shire Councils, and includes the towns of Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie. The Council covers an area of 6,885km² with a population of 4,000.

Council undertakes companion animal management across its area and maintains pounds in each of the three towns. Council does not employ dedicated rangers due to resourcing constraints, but instead utilises trained on call staff from its Parks and Gardens, Biosecurity or Roads divisions to respond to companion animal issues and maintenance of the pounds.

Further, Council has established and maintains relationships with two local approved Rehoming Organisations and aims to minimise and avoid the euthanasia of companion animals.

Council believes that these resources effectively and efficiently provide a level of companion animal management that is commensurate to community expectations and animal welfare standards.

Given this context, Council would be completely opposed to the introduction of any mandated requirements which results in an increase or demand on Council resources relating to the construction or operation of pounds.



Council is aware, and was opposed to, previous attempts in the mid 2010's to introduce mandated pound standards and management practises that would have resulted in most rural council pounds being closed due to the extreme increase in resource needs from both construction and management costs of these changes.

In conclusion any changes to the minimum construction and management standards of pounds must not only meet animal welfare standards but also be realistic, achievable and not have any negative outcomes for rural communities, councils or companion animals.

Council has no objection to the inclusion of this submission on the website.

Yours faithfully

Garry Stoll
Director of Planning, Community & Development

