

**Submission
No 76**

INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: City of Canada Bay

Date Received: 18 August 2023

Inquiry into pounds in New South Wales

The following submission is on behalf of City of Canada Bay (Council). We will address some of the terms of reference as tabled below.

1. That Portfolio Committee 8 – Customer Service inquire into and report on pounds in New South Wales, and in particular:

Terms of reference	Comment	Recommendation
(a) resourcing challenges affecting New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of funding given towards the operation of pounds by local and state governments.	City of Canada Bay has been utilising the Blacktown Council Pound for the past several years to impound companion animals. The pound is no longer available to Council due to capacity limits. City of Canada Bay has now been forced to utilise the services of a local vet for impounding services.	Provision of State funded pounds across NSW to accommodate impounded animals.
(b) the adequacy of pound buildings and facilities in New South Wales.	Inadequate. A number of metropolitan Councils have been forced to utilise private vet facilities for impounding purposes including City of Canada Bay.	As suggested above the provision of State funded pounds across NSW geographically positioned to accommodate impounded animals from Council's.
(c) welfare challenges facing animals in pounds across New South Wales, including the provision of housing, bedding, feeding, exercise, enrichment, veterinary treatment, vaccination and desexing.	Synergised efforts and monitoring can regulate the outcomes therefore providing a more accurate outcome/result. Better education and consideration of increased registration fees and heavier penalties for abandonment.	An increase to registration fees for companion animals to be utilised to subsidise costs of veterinary services for impounded animals that are not collected by owners. An increased penalty applied to owners with impounded animals.
(d) the adequacy of the laws, regulations and codes governing New South Wales pounds, including the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) and the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 – Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments (1996), as well as the adequacy of the current enforcement and compliance regime.	Council would support a review of the laws, codes and regulations as the Act and Reg has not been reviewed for 25 years.	A review of the Act and Reg as they have both been in force for 25 years.
(e) factors influencing the number of animals ending up in New South Wales pounds,	Council attempts to return all animals to all known owners where possible hence a low	Incentive to ensure Animals are identifiable and making it easier for Councils/authorities

and strategies for reducing these numbers.	impound rate. We have kennels and equipment to house animals temporarily if owners are identified.	to locate owner details – ONE database – Country wide or integrated so it reveals details from any search carried out.
(f) euthanasia rates and practices in New South Wales pounds, including the adequacy of reporting of euthanasia rates and other statistics.	Council tries to rehome and source and work with welfare organisations to ensure animals are rehomed.	Ensure mandatory reporting of euthanasia rates of all companion animals.
(j) strategies for improving the treatment, care and outcomes for animals in New South Wales pounds.	Review requirements for kennel sizes and the length of time animals can remain impounded.	Review and mandate kennel sizing and length of time animals can be impounded.

The comments and recommendations made by our Organisation outline our professional opinions & experiences in the day-to-day operation of our core duties in relation to Companion animals.

We thank you for the opportunity to give our opinion and have an input into the possible improvement of Companion Animals/Pounds.

Kind regards,

City of Canada Bay