



## PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

### Election Costing Request Form

Details of request	
Party:	Liberals / Nationals
Name of Policy:	Overhauling the companion animal registration system for cats and dogs
Date of request:	16 March

Description of policy	
Summary of policy (please attach copies of relevant policy documents):	Refer to Attachment A
What is the purpose or intention of the policy?	To promote responsible pet ownership and responsible breeding practices
Has the policy been publicly released yet?	

Your estimated costing of the policy <sup>1</sup>						
	2014/15 \$'000	2015/16 \$'000	2016/17 \$'000	2017/18 \$'000	4 Yr Total \$'000	Other years <sup>2</sup> \$'000
Impact on General Government Sector (GGS) net operating result <sup>3</sup>		984	1,048	1,113	3,144	
Impact on GGS capital expenditure <sup>4</sup>						
If different from above, impact on total State Sector net financial liabilities <sup>5</sup>						

<sup>1</sup> Amounts should be expressed in nominal dollars. GGS - General Government Sector.

<sup>2</sup> Please provide information on other years if spending occurs outside the forward estimate years and will be required to cost the policy.

<sup>3</sup> Negative for a saving that reduces expenditure

<sup>4</sup> Negative for a reduction in capital expenditure.

<sup>5</sup> Only required if proposal is outside GGS. Negative for a reduction in net financial liabilities.

**Note:** Has the policy been costed by a third party?  
If yes, can you provide a copy of this costing and its assumptions?

<b>Key assumptions made in the policy</b>	
Does the policy relate to a previous announcement? If yes, which announcement?	-
What assumptions have been made in deriving the financial impacts in your estimated costing? <i>(See checklist)</i>	Refer to Attachment B
Is there a range for the costing or any sensitivity analysis that you have undertaken?	Refer to Attachment B
Are there associated savings, offsets or expenses? If yes, please provide details.	Refer to Attachment B

<b>Administration of policy</b>	
Intended date of implementation:	1 July 2015
Intended duration of policy:	Ongoing
Who will administer the policy (e.g. Government entity, non-government organisation, etc.)?	Office of Local Government
Are there any specific administrative arrangements for the policy that need to be taken into account?	Refer to Attachment B
Are there transitional arrangements associated with policy implementation?	Refer to Attachment B

<b>If the policy is mainly an expenditure<sup>6</sup> commitment</b>	
Demand driven or a capped amount:	Demand
Eligibility criteria or thresholds:	Refer to Attachment B

<b>If the policy is mainly a revenue commitment</b>	
Transaction based or capped:	-
Thresholds and/or exemptions:	-
Collection method:	-
Additional expenditure associated with collection:	-

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<sup>6</sup> Expenditure is operating expenses, e.g. salaries, interest cost and grants. Expenditures are fully included in the impact on operating balance.

<b>If the policy is mainly a capital costs<sup>7</sup> commitment</b>	
Type of work, size and capacity:	-
Proposed start and completion date of work:	-
Intended construction schedule/cashflow:	-
Offsetting expenditure savings:	-
Associated asset sell off (if any):	-
On-going maintenance, depreciation and operational expenses:	-
Third party funding involvement:	-

**Checklist for key assumptions** (please be comprehensive and include all relevant assumptions). Assumptions could include, but are not limited to, questions such as:

- What is the expected community impact?
- How many people will be affected by the policy?
- What is the likely take up or other behavioural response you expect?
- Is there a cap on total spending proposed, a funding formula, resource agreement or other mechanism of this nature associated with the policy?
- Will third parties have a role in funding or delivering the policy (e.g. Commonwealth Government)?
- Will funding/program cost require indexation?
  - If yes, do you have any assumptions about the index that should be applied?
- What assumptions have you made about costs of administering the policy?
  - For example, will additional staff be needed in the agency responsible for the policy?
  - If you have assumptions on this, how many and at what approximate levels?
  - Are there other administrative resources required?
  - Alternatively, are you assuming administrative costs will be absorbed within the agency?

**Please note that:**

- The costing will be on the basis of information provided in this costing request.
- The PBO is not bound to accept the assumptions provided by the requester. If there is a material difference in the assumptions used by the PBO, the PBO will consult with the requester in advance of the costing being completed.
- Where the details of the policy costing request differ from the announced policy, the costing will be on the basis of the information provided in the costing request.
- These guidelines are intended to facilitate requests for costing election policies. Persons preparing such requests who wish further assistance are invited to contact the staff of the Parliamentary Budget Office.

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<sup>7</sup> Capital costs differ from expenditure in that only depreciation will be included in the impact on operating balance. The capital cost of the asset to be acquired will however be included in net financial liabilities.

# A re-elected Baird Government will give discount pet registration for pound animals and provide an additional \$2 million to the RSPCA



**The Baird Government is committed to responsible pet ownership and promoting animal welfare.**

The Baird Government recognises the importance of pets to families in NSW. The Government is committed to responsible pet ownership because it enhances animal welfare and the safety of communities.

Unfortunately, too many pets are abandoned and euthanasia rates are too high. Furthermore, there are significant animal welfare issues associated with unethical and irresponsible breeding practices, known as puppy and kitten farms.

The Baird Government supports the invaluable work the RSPCA undertakes in providing training to the community to further promote responsible pet ownership and responsible breeding practices.

Our reforms will:

- Introduce a new online registration system to replace the current paper-based two stage process which has resulted in low registration numbers and frustrated owners who struggled to locate their pet when lost. Under the new system, dogs and cats will be added to the register at the time of micro-chipping. Registration fees will be payable by the time the pet is six months old, maintaining the price differential to incentivise owners to de-sex their pets. The streamlined system will operate in real time, making it easier for NSW families to transfer registration at time of purchase, as well as update contact details and search for lost pets. This streamlined information system will reduce abandonment and euthanasia rates.
- Improve animal welfare by cracking down on unethical animal breeding practices through the utilisation of

### A re-elected Baird Government will:

- ✓ Streamline the registration system for dogs and cats in NSW by creating a one-step 'real time' online register
- ✓ Introduce 50% discounted registration fees for dogs and cats obtained from eligible pounds or animal shelters
- ✓ Provide \$2 million for the RSPCA NSW Education Centre - a multi functional training hub which will be home to the RSPCA Academy in Western Sydney

better and more coordinated information relating to breeders and the registration process.

- Encourage the purchase and rehoming of dogs and cats from pounds and shelters which will reduce the number of dogs and cats euthanized in NSW.
- Promote responsible pet ownership through training and community awareness programs. The new RSPCA Education Centre in Western Sydney will promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare in the community by using the dedicated facility for training programs targeting pet owners and the animal industry. The RSPCA Education Centre will also be a hub for school children K-12 offering a variety of learning experiences designed to educate them about approaching animals, keeping them safe and giving them the skills to become responsible pet owners. The Centre will underpin the RSPCA NSW's long-term strategy of helping people help animals.

## Back The Baird Plan and keep NSW working.

## 2015 Election Policy Costing

**Proposal Title:** Overhauling the companion animal registration system for dogs and cats

**Lead Agency:** Office of Local Government

### General Government Sector Impacts

	2014-15 \$'000	2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	4 Year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. Depreciation)	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Less: Agency Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Revenue	0	-984	-1,048	-1,113	-3,144
<b>Net Operating Result:</b>	0	-984	-1,048	-1,113	-3,144
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Offsets	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Capital Expenditure:</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Lending/Borrowing:</b>	0	-984	-1,048	-1,113	-3,144
<b>Net Financial Liabilities:</b>	0	-984	-2,032	-3,144	

### Notes and costing assumptions used:

1. 50 per cent reduction in registration fees under the companion animal registration system from 1 July 2015. Budget funding required from 2015-16 onwards to compensate for revenue forgone which funds council animal management activities (75%) and Companion Animals Fund (25%).
2. The reduction in revenue from the proposal will have a net operating result impact of \$3.1 million between 2015-16 and 2017-18. This assumes that the revenue reductions will not be offset by reductions in funding to councils.

#### Cost Estimate

\* The cost estimate is based on 50 per cent reduction in registration fees for 37,167 animals (based on data obtained by Office of Local Government from pounds/shelters in years 2011-13). Current and forecast registration fees are \$53 for 2015-16, \$55 in 2016-17 and \$57 in 2017-18 per animal.