

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) BILL 2020

190. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020.

- (1) What evidence or method of justification did the government use when making its decision to limit the number of bitches a breeder may have to five, and why was that settled on as an appropriate number?
- (2) The submissions tabled to the government's working group contained extensive expert veterinary evidence against a mandatory blanket sterilisation policy. Evidence has suggested that for larger, later maturing breeds, sterilisation before 24 months of age can cause long-term physical and psychological harm to the animal. Why then has the government chosen to ignore this expert advice and impose a blanket sterilisation policy?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 does not limit the number of bitches that a breeder may have. The member's question relates to the Animal Welfare Act's breeding standards and guidelines, which is a matter for the Minister for Agriculture and Food.
- (2) The government took into consideration the expert advice provided and, as a result, will not require dogs to be sterilised until they are two years of age. Additionally, a dog is exempt from sterilisation if a veterinarian provides a certificate stating that sterilisation would adversely affect the health or welfare of the dog.