

PUPPY FARMING

30. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the media release of 26 November 2018, titled “Don’t support puppy farmers this Christmas”, in which the government proposes to introduce mandatory dog desexing and breeding standards, a centralised registration system to track dogs and the transitioning of pet shops into adoption centres.

- (1) How many puppy farms have been investigated by the state government in the last five years?
- (2) Of those investigated, how many resulted in prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) As previously advised by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, the responsibility for the Animal Welfare Act was transferred to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, formerly the Department of Agriculture and Food. Under a memorandum of understanding between the department and the RSPCA, the RSPCA is the primary responder to reports of cruelty to dogs and other companion animals, including investigating and prosecuting cases of cruelty for puppy farmers. The department has therefore not directly undertaken investigations during this period. To date, I am advised the RSPCA has prosecuted two cases for harm to animals relating to conditions from puppy farming activity.