

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) ACT — IMPLEMENTATION

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government) [9.19 am]: I rise to provide an update on an important election commitment. This government remains committed to ending puppy farming in Western Australia once and for all. We know that the overwhelming majority of the community is behind us and wants to stop this cruel practice. Since passing the landmark Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act in December 2021, we have been getting on with the job to ensure that robust planning and proper consultation takes place in order to implement key new reforms. I acknowledge former Ministers for Local Government for their work on that legislation.

That work includes developing new regulations, as well as the specifications and functions of a new centralised registration system that will bring all local government pet registration data together for the first time. When up and running, the new centralised registration system, or CRS, will improve the transparency of information on the supply of dogs in Western Australia, as well as provide a modern and convenient online system for pet owners and local governments across the state. It is crucial that the new system works well for local governments, vet services, industry groups, rescue organisations and, of course, pet owners. Today, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has launched a three-month public consultation to seek the views of local governments, key stakeholders and the community to help shape the next phase of this implementation.

A consultation paper with a series of questions on key themes has been developed to guide feedback on topics, including the sterilisation of dogs, the supply of dogs by refuges or dog management facilities to approved pet shops, approval to breed, microchipping, and dog and cat registrations. Respondents can visit the DLGSC website from today and provide feedback on the consultation webpage through a series of online surveys. Dogs and cats are beloved family members. That is why we are working hard to protect their welfare. Today marks an important milestone in this government's ongoing commitment to work with the WA community on this issue.

I take this opportunity to thank the member for Maylands for her ongoing advocacy on this matter and for her work on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021. I encourage all local governments and other key stakeholders, including animal welfare groups and pet owners, to make their voices heard and provide meaningful feedback during the consultation period. I would like to table a copy of the *Stop puppy farming consultation paper: Development of dog and cat regulations*.

[See paper [2185](#).]