

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) ACT — IMPLEMENTATION

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government) [9.27 am]: I am pleased to provide an update to the house on the state government's progress with new dog and cat regulations to end puppy farming in Western Australia. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries recently held a three-month public consultation, seeking input on new regulations to implement the reforms made in the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021. A discussion paper was released to seek feedback on topics including: the sterilisation of dogs, pet shop approvals, approvals to breed, microchipping, cat and dog registrations and the new centralised registration system for dogs and cats.

I am pleased to inform the house that a total of 273 responses were received from 122 individual respondents including 51 local community members, 31 local government administrations, 20 breeders or breeders' associations, 10 animal refuge or welfare organisations, five interest groups—including the Australian Veterinary Association—and three pet shops. The consultation was promoted by the department via its website, social media, the local government alert mailing list and the stop puppy farming mailing list. The department also undertook targeted engagement during the consultation period. This included meetings with local governments, state government agencies, the WA Rangers Association and a breeder association, a public information stall at the City of Stirling's Pawsome Day Out event in October and direct emails to stakeholders encouraging them to participate in the consultation. I would also like to thank the member for Maylands who hosted an event, bringing together a number of interested stakeholders to review the discussion paper and have their questions answered.

Submissions will inform the development of new regulations; associated training and information resources, including guidance for local governments; and the establishment of the new centralised registration system for all pet cats and dogs across our state. Delivering a new, online CRS is a huge undertaking. The CRS will replace all the cat and dog registers currently maintained by each local government. I can confirm that we have had a very successful tender process for the development of the CRS with a preferred respondent now in the discovery and design phase. It is expected that a proposed model for the CRS will be presented to government for consideration in early 2024. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries continues to hold outreach and engagement workshops on the CRS across metropolitan and regional Western Australia to help local governments and key stakeholder groups prepare for its implementation. There is overwhelming support to stamp out puppy farming in Western Australia, and to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs in our community. We are getting on with the job, while making sure that these changes are implemented with proper care and consultation.