



The Hon Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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PUPPY BREEDING PRACTICES TO BE INVESTIGATED

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has requested a parliamentary inquiry be conducted into companion animal breeding practices across the state.

Mr Blair said the inquiry would review the current situation in NSW and would investigate measures in other jurisdictions, to inform recommendations provided to the NSW Government.

“The mistreatment of puppies for the sake of a people making a few quick dollars cannot go on – it’s disgraceful and I want to see this type of behaviour eliminated,” Mr Blair said.

“We need to find a solution that doesn’t jeopardise the industry and punish those breeders who are doing the right thing – that’s why I have asked for a parliamentary inquiry to provide recommendations, following extensive consultation with industry and stakeholders.”

In particular, the inquiry would investigate:

- suggestions to limit the amount of breeding dogs allowed to be kept by breeders;
- calls to implement a breeders’ licensing system;
- the implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores; and
- any legislative changes that may be required.

Mr Blair praised RSPCA NSW for its work as one of the enforcement agencies under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

“We will continue to work closely with RSCPA NSW, and welcome their expertise in an inquiry,” Mr Blair said.

RSPCA NSW Chief Executive Officer, Steve Coleman, welcomed the opportunity to contribute to an inquiry into this important issue.

“We are working with the NSW Government on this important issue, an inquiry is an important step towards tangible reform,” Mr Coleman said.

The NSW Government has already announced an easy, one-step online register will replace the paper-based dog and cat registration system.

The new system will assist animal welfare agencies to help prevent illegal animal breeding practices, such as non-compliant puppy farms, due to the centralisation of data linking animals back to breeders.

A Notice of Motion will be given in the NSW Parliament to establish a Joint Select Committee – which would conduct the inquiry.