



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT TO HELP RSPCA REBUILD YAGOONA ANIMAL SHELTER

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson today announced the NSW Government would invest \$7.5 million for the rebuilding and refurbishment of the RSPCA Yagoona animal shelter.

"Prior to the March election, the NSW Liberals & Nationals pledged a one-off grant to RSPCA NSW to assist in the rebuilding of the Yagoona animal shelter and this \$7.5 million investment honours our commitment to the dedicated staff and sheltered animals at Yagoona," said Mr O'Farrell, who is the NSW Patron of the RSPCA.

"The NSW Government values the services provided by RSPCA NSW and we are committed to keeping this facility open for the dedicated staff and 18,000 sick, injured and stray animals it cares for each year," he said.

Mr O'Farrell said the investment in the Yagoona facility will see the development of a new veterinary clinic and new animal holding facilities.

"The new veterinary clinic will be of particular importance considering in the last year alone, the staff at the Yagoona shelter performed more than 16,500 consults. It will now become one of the biggest veterinary hospitals in Australia," he said.

Ms Hodgkinson said the RSPCA NSW Sydney Shelter at Yagoona was 40 years old and in need of refurbishment to ensure it meets current animal welfare standards.

"This is an exciting time for staff and the animals big and small that call this shelter home and the NSW Government is looking forward to seeing the many benefits of the refurbishment of this site," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The Yagoona shelter is largest animal holding facility in the southern hemisphere and at any one time can be housing up to 900 dogs and 300 cats, as well as large numbers of livestock, birds and other small animals.

"The NSW Government recognises the importance of facilities such as Yagoona, particularly at this time of year when shelters are commonly full of animals.

"Today's contribution is in addition to the annual contribution of \$424,000 made to RSPCA NSW by the NSW Government to assist the charity organisation carry out its important activities in the care and protection of animals at risk," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The NSW Government's commitment will be paid in two equal instalments this financial year and next.