

Media response

DOGS NSW commends the Government on proposing legislation that will strengthen dog and puppy welfare across NSW, and we thank them for the opportunity to have input into formulation of the Bill.

We support the mandate that breeders must, for the first time, obtain a Breeder Identification number, enabling transparency of the sector which, if stringently policed will go a long way to eliminating the unregistered breeders who have no regard to the health or wellbeing of the puppies they breed, and whose main objective in breeding is profit.

We also support the setting of a lifetime litter limit for fertile female adult dogs (those over 6 months old) to five natural litters or up to three caesarean litters, whichever occurs first. This is an important move to protect the health of breeding females.

Establishing a care standard of one staff carer for every 20 adult dogs will also be reflected in the improvement in health care for bitches in intensive breeding facilities.

We are disappointed that the Government has not included legitimate registered breeding businesses that comply with all current legislation. Whilst we recognise the intent to abolish puppy farming in NSW, there will be unintended consequences to those doing the right thing and have met all regulatory requirements (including State and Local governments and ATO).

We are comforted that in our discussions with the Government they have indicated that if, going forward, any aspects of the Bill do not provide the solutions to the decrease in unregulated breeders, and a reduction in overbreeding of bitches, that are expected they will be reviewed.