

30 April 2024

Dear Premier Chris Minns, Treasurer Daniel Mookhey and Minister Ron Hoenig

### **CALL FOR NSW GOVERNMENT TO FUND ANIMAL RESCUE GROUPS**

We, the undersigned, are 65 animal rescue and rehoming groups in NSW.

#### **NSW is facing an animal rehoming crisis.**

Post-covid dumping, the cost-of-living and rental crisis have led to a dramatic increase in surrenders of cats and dogs, and a corresponding drop in the number of adoptions and donations.

Pounds and shelters are full, surrender lists are months or years long, and there are far too many lost and homeless animals needing our help - including animals facing euthanasia in Council pounds.

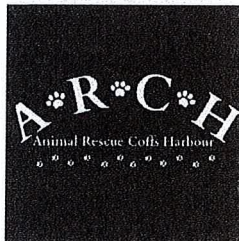
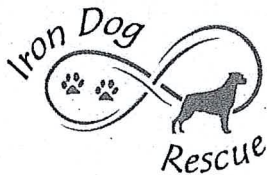
For many years, local and state governments have relied on the generosity and time of rescue groups to do the majority of work rehoming and providing care to animals that are lost or abandoned. The financial burden this has placed on volunteer members of the community has been significant.

We do this work because we love animals - but with the skyrocketing number of animals in need, the situation has reached crisis point, and the mental health of many rescuers is suffering. Ultimately, while rescue groups have filled this gap on behalf of state and local governments for many years, it is not possible to continue to do this vital work uncompensated.

Last year, the NSW Government funded a one-off \$5 million Companion Animal Grants Program. This was vital and much appreciated funding - but it is only a fraction of what is needed to support the rehoming of cats and dogs in NSW.

**We are calling on the NSW Government to renew the \$5 million Companion Animal Grants Program in 2024 and to ensure the work of rescue organisations is funded on an ongoing basis.**





LITTLE LIFE SANCTUARY

Sydney Cats for Adoption  
Urban Cat Alliance  
Community Cat Collective  
Westie Cat Support Services