



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 8 – CUSTOMER SERVICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT TABLED**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
18 OCTOBER 2024**

Today, Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer service tabled its report into Pounds in New South Wales.

The committee received evidence about the various drivers channelling companion animals into council pounds, the varying conditions in these facilities, as well as the adequacy of laws, regulations and codes that govern and impact the system. The committee also received evidence relating to animal welfare, with specific concerns raised in connection to behavioural assessments and euthanasia practices. The committee's report contains 4 findings and 24 recommendations to the NSW Government.

The committee found that New South Wales is facing an animal rehoming crisis, which is having a severe impact on council pounds and rescue organisations who are underfunded and operating over capacity. The committee also drew the conclusion that many council pounds are sub-standard, not fit for purpose, and fail to meet community expectations. In addition, it was determined that council pounds have become heavily reliant on rescue and rehoming organisations to rehome impounded animals.

The Hon. Emma Hurst MLC, Chair of the committee, stated: 'The cost-of-living crisis, a lack of animal friendly rental accommodation, and puppy farming and backyard breeding, are key issues driving the large number of animals ending up in NSW pounds. Backyard breeding in particular was identified as a major contributor to the rehoming crisis causing healthy cats and dogs to be killed because of an oversupply of companion animals. The NSW Government must take urgent action to address these issues'.

The Chair continued: 'Most, if not all, council pounds are operating at or over capacity with limited resources to ensure pound infrastructure and services effectively safeguard the welfare of impounded animals. Likewise, rescue and rehoming organisations are operating under similar circumstances with inadequate resources and government funding'.

In response, the committee has made several recommendations to prevent and reduce the number of animals entering the pound system, and to improve conditions and outcomes for impounded animals. These include targeted desexing programs, legislative reforms to address puppy farming and backyard breeding, financial assistance to lower income earners, strengthening legal protections for renters with companion animals, and increased funding and resources for council pounds and rescue and rehoming organisations.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 8 – CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Chair added: 'The committee found that a large number of animals are still being killed in NSW pounds, which is completely unacceptable. The recommendations in the report will go a long way towards getting to zero euthanasia in pounds'.

The government response to the committee's report is due 17 January 2025.

The committee's report and other documents can be found on the [inquiry webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, on 9230 3462*