

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

To the Puppy Farming Bill Submissions Panel

As a lover of dogs for all my 60+years and a member of Dogs NSW for over 34yrs I emphatically OPPOSE the Animal Justice Party (Puppy Farming Bill 2021) for the following reasons:

1. Your restriction on the number of entire or breeding bitches (61E Meaning of “companion animal breeding business”):

1.1 Takes away my right and desire to participate in my hobby of showing my dogs. Just because I have entire bitches living with me does not mean I will necessarily breed any or all of them. I have a right to a hobby like any other person who has a desired hobby but my hobby requires me to have entire dogs and bitches to meet the requirements of the discipline. Due to my past career requirements and personal circumstances I elected not to breed any of my purebred bitches. I bought and showed dogs bred by other Australian breeders and imported 2 dogs from the USA. I only commenced breeding once I retired after 39yrs of working so I could dedicate my entire time to raising dogs primarily for my personal enjoyment and to pursue my hobby. I have only bred on a very limited basis when my personal circumstances have been right, the health of the girl to be bred has been vet checked extensively and adding a new puppy to the house does not impact on the well-being of my other house dogs. The very small number of puppies I have bred have certainly cost me far, far more to breed and raise than what I received in total for them and they have been placed in homes of impeccable backgrounds on strict requirements governing their lives till they pass away.

My dogs are first and foremost my companions I actually enjoy the company of my dogs in preference to people as I can trust them more so than people who impose their own views and requirements to upset lives of people like myself. I certainly don't impose my personal beliefs and expectations on people such as Ms Hurst like she is doing to me. My dogs live in the very best of environments and want for nothing. They actually enjoy attending shows with me and find the environment very stimulating. Contrary to Ms Hurst's personal views of exhibiting dogs I do not place them under undue stress or make their lives miserable in actual fact they enjoy attending dog shows and find the time away from home meeting other people and dogs exciting.

1.2 Restricts the ability to breed responsibly with high quality health and DNA checked dogs actually diminishes our duty as caretakers of our pure bred dogs to preserve the breed as established by our forefathers wished.

1.3 The Bill removes the right of families to consider a suitable breed of dog based on the dog's temperament and other factors. Under this Bill families potentially will only have the chance to buy from commercial concerns or re-home dogs from an animal shelter in order to have a companion. This Bill will drive out small time, low scale, responsible breeders like myself. Whilst I believe it is a privilege to own a dog, especially one of mine, it is a right of families and me to choose which dog is the best for our circumstances. Families need pets emotionally and physically bought from good, responsible, registered Dogs NSW breeders who will provide loving homes for the puppies. I myself and members of DOGS NSW oppose Puppy Farms and indiscriminate breeders only look at breeding to increase their bank accounts and have no vested long-term interest in the dog once it leaves their facility. How will they know if the puppy they have bred has a genetic defect when they don't stay in touch with their puppy people as they breed so many litters and have high turnover of their

breeding stock that they don't really care about the complaints they receive from disappointed owners after their dog has died prematurely. I like to stay in touch with my puppy people to see how their dog is progressing – Puppy Farms and backyard breeders don't care after the dog is sold.

1.4 Buying a crossbred or designer puppy from a rehoming /rescue facility doesn't guarantee the long-term health and sound temperament of the dog. Embark Canine Health (USA) actually state that 75% of all dogs (ie crossbreds, designer dogs, pure bred dogs) contain health issues detected by DNA testing. This Bill does not necessarily address this has the intent to prevent normal families from getting their family pet from a caring, reputable responsible breeder operating under the strict Code Of Ethics governed by Dogs NSW and Dogs Australia, that is bred in a loving family home environment from a caring breeder not in a sterile shed by people who only look at the puppy as a commercial item.

2. Under Section 61T (Animal rescues, microbreeders and other sellers to apply for source numbers)

you will never be able to stop the indiscriminate breeding of dogs by backyard breeders who have had the "mistake" breeding of a dog. It does not address the actual "Puppy Farmers" or indiscriminate backyard breeders who currently and will continue to fly under the radar of authorities and sell their puppies to whoever wants a puppy. Have a look on shop windows or community boards and you will see an array of adverts for puppies bred by these entities with no breeder or source numbers. These types of "producers" are not reputable or respected breeders governed by a strict Code Of Ethics by Dogs NSW like myself who carefully vets all puppy enquirers and let's them know it is privilege, not a right, to own one of my puppies. Puppy farmers and backyard breeders just place a puppy with whoever wants one without the due diligence of vetting prospective puppy owners

This requirement is not new and the government or local councils have not to date been able to monitor this and eradicate it. This Puppy Farm Bill FAILS to have a method of educating the broader public about breeding and selling puppies. You will observe a much higher incidence of puppy litters being dumped and a possible escalation of wild animals in National and State parks through your draconian requirements. A person with an unexpected litter of puppies will not go through the rigours of obtaining a source number, having puppies microchipped or registered. I hear of this now how people avoid the current legislation and this proposed Bill will not change those people who think it is their right to breed a litter because it is good for the bitch – there is no provision for any form of public education – this Bill only punishes- therefore you will change nothing except eliminate the people who are reputable breeders because of your very narrow, ignorant view.

3. 61ZG Proprietors of companion animal breeding businesses must ensure ratio of staff to companion animals kept on registered premises: this requirement is ridiculous as the number of 1 attendant to 5 dogs is onerous and does to include those people who enjoy having a large number dogs who don't breed. There is no difference to between small time breeders and those who have multiple desexed dogs at home for their pleasure. The same amount of time is required to look after 10 breeding dogs as it is to look after 10 desexed family pets.

4. 61ZK Breeding males MUST be desexed at 6 years old – this is absurd as I have owned and shown an entire dog up to the age of 9 years before I had him subsequently neutered for the sake his ongoing health and then continued to show him as a neutered dog until 10.5 yrs old. To have a very viable purebred stud dog desexed before it is necessary ie health issues, as this Bill requires takes away the ability of a healthy stud dog to sire future selective litters to ensure the viability of a high quality pure breed. I also object the necessity of rehoming a dog which has ceased breeding and subsequently retired. This may be applicable to mass producing Puppy Farms but not for people such as myself. My dogs, whether they are entire or neutered, have a home and stay with me till they die. They are my companions and not items that have a use by date to be disposed of readily. I will never rehome a dog that has been neutered unless it is a very desirable home with people who can provide the dog with all the comforts I provide that dog currently.

4.1. It's unhealthy for the animal to neuter or spay before they are at least 12 months to help with hormonal development and long-term health ie poor bone development leading to hip / elbow dysplasia, early onset cancer, incontinence etc. If the AJP are so concerned about animals then they would be concerned about the long term effects of early desexing on the dog.

5. In my opinion if there were responsible breeders like those registered by Dogs NSW then there should not be an excessive number of rehomed dogs as they should be placed in forever homes and never surrendered unless in very extreme circumstances or the death of an owner. Have a look at your own statistics and I'm sure you will see that the number of purebred dogs in pounds and rehoming facilities is minimal to the number of cross bred dogs bred by back yard breeders and puppy farms. The hide of this proponent of this Bill to take away the right of NSW people to choose the dog they wish to have in their families. How dare you impose on people to only source their next family member from a rehoming facility. Who knows what "baggage" the dog comes with and these facilities don't vet prospective owners as intensively as most registered purebred Dogs NSW breeders.

The future of hobby breeders, breed custodians, future dog owners and more importantly the Purebred Dog such as my dogs rests in your hands. Please think would you prefer to get your next dog from a registered responsible Dogs NSW breeder who has devoted all their waking hours and love checking pedigrees, health backgrounds of the sire and dam, raising the litter in a comforting environment, provided with documentation to verify the background of the puppy and that breeder will be there to support the new puppy owner throughout the life of your dog OR.... would you prefer to get your puppy quickly handed to you at the door or over a counter as you hand over your money with no knowledge of its parents, raising conditions or a support puppy pack. I know where I would prefer to get my puppy from most definitely from a registered Dogs NSW breeder. This Bill only helps to support and promote the commercial producers of dogs with little care and concern.

I hope after reading this submission you will see that I'm a very passionate owner of a number of beautiful dogs, both entire and desexed, which are my companions, "family" and guardian protectors but with a desire to occasionally breed my own high quality dogs to **continue in my one and only chosen hobby of conformation showing and obedience**, and maybe provide a puppy to a few very select and deserving people wanting a purebred dog to fulfill their lives and not have imposed on them a poorly bred purebred, designer or cross bred dog with an unknown background.

I believe this Bill effectively:

- Drives decent and caring people out of the animal sector

- Will have a long-term impact on veterinarians and a vast array of pet goods and services suppliers such as food, dog goods, remedial dog massage therapists
- Create a niche for truly commercial companion animal breeding factories to thrive breeding puppies in unfriendly environments on mass
- Provide an environment in which puppy farmers will continue as usual to fill the market gaps and charge outrageous amounts for animals bred without care or concern.

Please I beg you do not impose this Puppy Farm Bill on the likes of myself who does the right thing by being a responsible breeder. I am not a Puppy Farmer and object to the connotation of being classified as one as per this Puppy Farm Bill proposed by the Animal Justice Party.

Regards