

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — STOP PUPPY FARMING CONSULTATION

3324. Mr A. Krsticevic to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the small writing group which was established to write standards, as part of the Stop Puppy Farming Consultation held by the department, and ask:

- (a) what associations/groups/bodies are represented in the group;
- (b) was a representative of Dogs West included and if not, why not; and
- (c) if minutes are kept for meetings of the group, can the minister table the minutes?

**Mr D.A. Templeman replied:**

- (a) A writing group has been established to develop the Western Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of dogs. Membership comprises:
  - two employees of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) – a veterinarian and specialist in animal welfare, and an animal welfare policy officer who provides the secretariat;
  - a veterinarian and specialist in animal welfare employed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (RSPCA);
  - a veterinarian and specialist in animal welfare employed by Murdoch University College of Veterinary Medicine, and;
  - a veterinarian and specialist in animal welfare representing the Australian Veterinary Association, Western Australia.
- (b) The Writing Group was established to ensure the appropriate skills, knowledge and expertise in the health and welfare of dogs, rather than selecting members representing the interests or views of stakeholders.

A nominated representative from Dogs West has been invited to join the Writing Group to review the final feedback from public consultation, prior to the Standards being finalised for consideration by the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Group.
- (c) The Writing Group does not keep formal minutes of meetings.