

PUPPY FARMS

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [9.08 am]: I rise today to provide an update to the house on the Labor Party's election commitment to stop puppy farming. As members of the house will be aware, a key election commitment of the McGowan government is to stop puppy farming and the supply chain that supports this industry. Dog breeding is currently an unregulated industry. Earlier this year, we consulted on the introduction of provisions to stop puppy farming. The response from the community to the consultation was overwhelming, with over 4 700 submissions received. The number of submissions highlights the interest and concern many Western Australians have in regard to this important issue.

I am pleased to inform members of the house that the Western Australian community expressed strong support for the McGowan government's proposals, which include the introduction of mandatory dog desexing, a centralised dog registration system, mandatory standards for dog breeding and the transition of pet shops into adoption centres. I have released a consultation summary document to provide a snapshot of the consultation results, which show the support of the WA community. I would like to thank everyone who made a submission and contributed to the conversation on how we ensure the health and welfare of our dogs. I would also like to thank our partners, who generously gave up their time and effort to assist us with the consultation process: the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Dogs Refuge Home WA; the Australian Veterinary Association; DogsWest; the WA Local Government Association; Local Government Professionals Australia WA; the WA Rangers Association; the Pet Industry Association of Australia; Oscar's Law; the Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs; the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; Consumer Protection WA—Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety—and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. We are continuing to work alongside our partners to bring about meaningful change and address the concerns the community has expressed around the breeding and welfare of dogs. I look forward to keeping the house informed as this important election commitment progresses.