

PUPPY FARMING

**779. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Local Government:**

When I started, this question was going to be about puppies. It is now about pensioner pooches.

I refer to Western Australia's high abandonment and kill rate for dogs and the oversupply of puppies, and to the McGowan government's commitment to stop puppy farming and the supply chain that feeds it in WA. Can the minister outline to the house what role the implementation group, which met for the first time a couple of weeks ago, will play in delivering on this commitment?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I thank the member for Maylands for her tenacity and for her perseverance. Before I answer, I would like to acknowledge representatives from the Mandurah Mums' Cottage in the Speaker's gallery. Kaye Seeber and her team are here and I welcome them to Parliament.

First of all, I want to acknowledge the respect that is held for the member for Maylands for her advocacy for animal welfare in this state. She is recognised by a very large number of stakeholder groups, organisations and individuals for her capacity and forthright advocacy for animal welfare. I think that should be acknowledged because it is well respected by many people in Western Australia.

As members will be aware, before the election the now Premier, the member for Maylands and others did a lot of research into the cruel practice of puppy farming in Australia and the fact that in Western Australia large numbers of puppies arrive in our state or are bred in our state cruelly. There is no other word for it. The practice is purely for profit. The welfare of the pups and, indeed, the mothers of those pups is secondary to profit. On coming to power in March this year, one of the McGowan government's election commitments was to ensure that this state puts an end to puppy farming because of the view held by many about the abhorrent practice and what it does to animal welfare. I am pleased that I can report to the house that we are progressing the implementation of this policy initiative—this election commitment. The member for Maylands has been appointed as chair of the working party, which includes various stakeholder groups that have a direct interest in the welfare of canines in the state. They have already met and are already forming the consultation paper, which I will seek to release as soon as is practicable and as soon as it is ready to be released. We want to release that document so that the community at large can make comment on it. It needs to be recognised that our commitment seeks to do a number of things. To stop puppy farming, it includes the introduction of mandatory sterilisation, the introduction of a breeder registration system, and transitioning pet shops to adoption centres. This is a very important aspect. We want to make sure that it is verified that puppies that are sold in pet shops across the state have been bred appropriately, safely and, indeed, humanely and are not from puppy farms. I commend the work of the member for Maylands. I assure the house that we are working very closely with the stakeholders to deliver on our election commitment to stop puppy farming in Western Australia.