

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — PUPPY FARMING

4789. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the proposed legislation to stop puppy farming and ask:

- (a) What evidence does the Minister or his department possess that WA pet shops are selling puppies from puppy farms;
- (b) In each of the years 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19 how many WA pet shops were found to be selling puppies from puppy farms; and
- (c) In each of the years 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19 how many breeders prosecuted for WA animal welfare breaches were found to have provided puppies for sale through pet shops?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a) In 2015, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) New South Wales (NSW) investigated and removed animals from a NSW dog breeder who was described by RSPCA NSW as being a ‘puppy farm’. A Perth pet shop had sourced and supplied dogs from this NSW dog breeder to consumers in WA.
- (b) The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety handles consumer complaints. The Minister responsible is the Minister for Commerce.
- (c) Prosecutions of animal welfare breaches are taken under the Animal Welfare Act 2002. The Minister responsible is the Minister for Agriculture and Food.