

# Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

19 May 2016

## Select Committee into the Operations of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc)

The Select Committee into the Operations of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc) tabled its report in the Legislative Council today.

The Select Committee was established on 13 May 2015, pursuant to an order of Legislative Council, to inquire into the operations of the Western Australian Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and examine the RSPCA WA's funding from the government, objectives, and use of its powers.

Animal protection has been embraced enthusiastically by Western Australians: many of whom engaged with and contributed to this Inquiry. The Committee received 138 submissions, conducted 18 hearings, attended a site visit at RSPCA WA headquarters, and deliberated extensively on the evidence presented to it. The Committee thanks all submitters and witnesses who contributed to the inquiry.

RSPCA WA is the recipient of a \$500,000 per annum government grant. Public confidence in the administration of publicly funded projects is paramount, and there is a strong public interest in the transparency and accountability of agencies that carry out public functions.

The RSPCA WA has achieved much since its inception. The Committee is of the view that with some fine tuning of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* there is much more it can achieve in furthering better animal welfare outcomes for Western Australians. The RSPCA WA itself has no enforcement powers conferred upon it by the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* — only its appointed general inspectors do. The Committee notes that the inspectorate service carried out by the RSPCA WA undoubtedly fills a void that would otherwise go unfilled. Doubtless, in the absence of the RSPCA WA's endeavours, this would fall to government to do, at a considerably greater cost.

The Chair of the Committee, Hon Rick Mazza MLC, said *'the Committee has examined many aspects of the operations of the RSPCA WA. The Committee has focused on gathering the facts, made dispassionate assessments of the evidence and concentrated on achieving constructive outcomes. This Inquiry has been a valid attempt to clear the air and set the record straight'*.

The Committee has made 56 findings and 26 recommendations. The report can be accessed at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au/RSPCA](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/RSPCA).

For media inquiries, contact Hon Rick Mazza MLC, Chair on 0427 168 178.

Other inquiries to Ms Samantha Parsons, Committee Clerk on (08) 9222 7207.

**Hon Rick Mazza MLC**

**Chair**

(A560744)