

**“Dogs Rule!”**

**Dog Bill 2013**



**Legislative Assembly**

**Exercise LAPS**

**(First & Second Reading)**

**Adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office from  
the original text of the Western Australian  
Parliamentary Debates, 2013.**

**“Dogs’ Rule!”****Teacher’s Notes.**

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The purpose of this bill is to introduce a range of measures that will provide greater protection for the community and improve controls on dogs according to current community expectations.

The key amendments provide for:

- Improving community safety through stricter control of dangerous dogs: covering restricted breeds, individuals dogs that have been declared dangerous and commercial security dogs;
- The ban of the sale, transfer and breeding of dangerous dogs (restricted breeds);
- Improvements in the ability for local governments to deal with the nuisance caused by barking dogs;
- New provisions to enable courts to impose a requirement for dog owners to attend and complete a dog training course in place of or in addition to a penalty.
- Expansion of the special provisions for Guide dogs in order to recognise and accommodate the various new types of appropriately trained assistance dogs now commonly utilised by people with a disability;
- New provisions to enable retired racing greyhounds after completing an approved training program, to safely return to the community as household pets and not be required to wear a muzzle;
- Increased penalties for offences under the Act, with minimum penalties stipulated for offences in relation to dangerous dogs. All other listed penalties are maximum that a court can impose;

The text of this scripted debate has been adapted from the Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) record of the first and second readings in the Legislative Assembly (the Lower House). It is designed for use during the class visit to Parliament and aids in explaining the key workings of the Parliament. However, the script and glossary can also be used by the class teacher as a springboard or adjunct to programs aimed at achieving outcomes set out in the Society & Environment Learning Area of the Curriculum Framework.

***Preparation for Scripted Debate***

It is important that the background information contained in the Introduction and the listed glossary terms be discussed with the students. **Roles can be allocated and rehearsed prior to the visit to Parliament so that the students can read their part with confidence and understanding.** This not only avoids potential embarrassment on the part of the reader, but also enables those students who do not have reading roles to better understand and follow the debate. *You are not required to bring copies of this scripted debate on the day of your tour as these will be provided by the Education Presenter and the Parliamentary Education Office.*

## Glossary

(Concepts and vocabulary within the context of this exercise)

Vocabulary	Meaning	Usage
bill	a proposed or draft law.	<i>The bill was debated yesterday.</i>
Commend	to give approval and support - (base word in <i>recommend</i> ).	<i>I commend this film to you all. It's a fantastic thriller.</i>
Adjourn (v)	to close a session of discussion.	<i>We will adjourn the meeting.</i>
Aye	(Pronounced 'eye') the old-fashioned word used for voting "Yes" in Parliament.	<i>All those in favour say "Aye".</i>
Aggressive	ready or likely to attack or confront; characterized by or resulting from aggression.	<i>A breed of dog that is considered aggressive.</i>
Dog House	An expression used to describe the act of being on bad terms with someone.	<i>That comment would leave you in the dog house...</i>
Barking Mad	a spectrum of behaviours characterised by certain mental or behavioural patterns.	<i>That's enough to send someone 'barking mad!'</i>

<i>Hansard</i>	the official written record of the debate speeches from Parliament and so named after the British family who recorded the debates in the House of Commons.
Introduction and First Reading	the House formally grants permission to a Member, usually a Minister, to introduce a bill and the Clerk then reads the long title.
Second Reading <b>Speech</b>	a second reading of the bill at which time the principle or purpose of the bill is summarised and explained by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary introducing it.
Second Reading <b>Debate</b>	the debate of a bill by members of the House where they express their views and may hint at changes or amendments they would like to make.
Consideration in Detail [not occurring in this role play]	a committee stage (and not technically a debate) where the bill is considered clause by clause and changes can be suggested through motion and then voted on.
Third reading [not occurring in this role play]	the formal final reading of the bill's long title by the Clerk in readiness for it to be delivered to the other House of Parliament, with a message seeking agreement and acceptance of the bill.

CAST DATA SHEET  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES EXERCISE

**Dog's Rule!**

(17 reading roles)

<p>Mr Peter McHUGH <b>Clerk</b> of Legislative Assembly</p>	<p>Ms Simone McGURK <b>Member for Fremantle</b> Party Affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Ms Andrea MITCHELL <b>Member for Kingsley</b> Party affiliation: Liberal</p>
<p>Hon. Michael SUTHERLAND <b>SPEAKER</b> Member for Mount Lawley Party affiliation: Liberal <i>(biggest speaking role)</i></p>	<p>Mr Paul PAPALIA <b>Member for Warnbro</b> Party affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Mr Dean NALDER <b>Member for Alfred Cove</b> Party affiliation: Liberal</p>
<p>Hon. Tony SIMPSON <b>Minister for Local Government</b> Member for Darling Range Party affiliation: Liberal <i>(biggest speaking role)</i></p>	<p>Ms Janine FREEMAN <b>Member for Mirrabooka</b> Party affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Mr Roger COOK <b>Member for Kwinana</b> Party affiliation: Labor</p>
<p>Mr David TEMPLEMAN <b>Member for Mandurah</b> Party Affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Mr Peter ABETZ <b>Member for Southern River</b> Party affiliation: Liberal</p>	<p>Mr Dave KELLY <b>Member for Bassendean</b> Party affiliation: Labor <i>(small speaking role, comments only)</i></p>
<p>Ms Margaret QUIRK <b>Member for Girrawheen</b> Party affiliation: Labor <i>(small speaking role, comments only)</i></p>	<p>Mr Chris TALLENTIRE <b>Member for Gosnells</b> Party Affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Ms Wendy Duncan <b>Member for Kalgoorlie</b> Party affiliation: Liberal <i>(small speaking role, comments only)</i></p>
<p>Ms Lisa BAKER <b>Member for Maylands</b> Party affiliation: Labor</p>	<p>Mr Jan NORBERGER <b>Member for Joondalup</b> Party Affiliation: Liberal</p>	<p><b><i>Additional roles allocated on the day:</i></b> 2 Hansard Reporters 1 Sergeant-at-Arms</p>

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## Dog bill

**“Dogs’ Rule!”**

The following role-playing exercise is based on the original text from the Parliamentary Debates of the 39th Parliament of Western Australia, Legislative Assembly 2013. It has been adapted by the Parliamentary Education Office to suit the needs of students.

**Best results occur when the reading roles are allocated and rehearsed beforehand.**

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*First Reading of the Dog bill***CLERK**

*(Mr Peter McHugh)*

*(Stands up, read the title and then sits down)*

Dog Amendment bill 2013. A bill for An Act to amend the Dog Acts 1976 and 2002.

**SPEAKER**

*(Hon. Michael Sutherland) (remains seated)*

**The Minister for Local Government**

***\*Note: If the Speaker selected is a female please refer to her as ‘Madam Speaker’.***

**MINISTER FOR****LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*(Hon. Tony Simpson) (Stands up)*

Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

**The Minister commences the Second Reading speech.****MINISTER FOR****LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

*(remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker,

This bill aims to reduce problems with barking or dangerous dogs in order to improve community safety and promote responsible dog ownership.

It includes new rules, which require an owner to microchip and register their dog, and introduces harsh penalties for owners who do the wrong thing.

This government and I feel strongly about protecting our community by stopping dog attacks, and help local governments deal with bad behaviour.

Mr Speaker, I commend the bill to the House.

**MEMBER for GIRRAWHEEN**

Mr Speaker

**SPEAKER**

The Member for **Girrawheen**

**MEMBER for GIRRAWHEEN**

Mr Speaker, I move that the debate be now adjourned.

**SPEAKER**

The question is that the debate be adjourned?

Those in favour say "Aye" (*most members say "Aye"*).

Those against, "No" (*nobody says "No"*)

I think the "Ayes" have it. The "Ayes" have it.

Debate is adjourned.

***\*All members now have 3 weeks to study the bill and prepare their speeches.***

SECOND READING DEBATE RESUMES 3 WEEKS LATER

**MEMBER for WARNBRO**

*(Mr Paul Papalia)*

**SPEAKER**

**MEMBER for WARNBRO**

*(remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Warnbro**

People in my electorate are worried about restricted breeds of dog that this legislation outlines, such as the pit bull terrier. What if a dog that looks like a pit bull is a loving pet and not dangerous? It is not fair to see owners pay unwanted fees just because they own a certain breed of dog, especially when owners do the right thing. I do support this bill, however I think the Minister should allow all dog breeds.

**MEMBER for GOSNELLS**

*(Mr Chris Tallentire)*

**SPEAKER**

**MEMBER for GOSNELLS**

*(stands and remains standing during interjection)*

Mr Speaker.

The Member for **Gosnells**

I don't like seeing dogs riding in the back of utes without a harness. It is unsafe and if a ute turns a sharp corner the dog could fall out and be seriously injured. The Minister should consider banning dogs from sitting in the back of utes....

**Member for KALGOORLIE**

*Ms Wendy Duncan(interjects stays seated)*

What about sheep dogs on farms? Farmers need them to herd sheep and you would not expect them both to walk from the farmhouse!

**MEMBER for GOSNELLS**

*(remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

I realise that farmers need working dogs but responsible pet ownership is important. I will not oppose the bill but the Minister needs to consider the safety of our canine companions.

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN RIVER**

*(Mr Peter Abetz)*

**SPEAKER**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN RIVER**

*(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker.

The Member for **Southern River**

The person who lived behind us had a dog, which never gave us problems, until he started working night shift. From the moment he left the house, the dog did not stop barking until he returned in the morning.....

**MEMBER for BASSENDEAN***(Mr Dave Kelly) (interjects remains seated)***MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN RIVER***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).***MEMBER for GIRRAWHEEN***(Ms Margaret Quirk) (interjects remains seated)***MEMBER for MANDURAH***(Mr David Templeman)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for MANDURAH***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).***MEMBER FOR FREMANTLE***(Ms Simone McGurk)***SPEAKER****MEMBER FOR FREMANTLE***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).***MEMBER for BASSENDEAN***(Mr Dave Kelly)(interjects remains seated)***SPEAKER**

That would be enough to send anyone **'barking mad'**!

Indeed so, but I spoke to the dog owner, who then kept his dog inside at night. Sometimes a friendly chat to the neighbour can work without involving the local council. I support this bill.

A person in my electorate had problems with their neighbour's dog barking but the neighbour didn't believe it and simply ignored them!

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Mandurah**

We all know that society in WA is changing with higher density living and homes with small rooms and tiny yards, yet many people want a pet dog. I own a golden labrador called Rove who loves kids, and he is much bigger than the kids are. As Rove runs around them, he almost sends them rolling across the lawn. I will not oppose the bill but I think we should consider the best living conditions for our dogs.

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Fremantle**

In regards to dangerous dogs, have you ever noticed that all dangerous dog signs display a picture of a Doberman? I actually own a Doberman called 'Scoobie' who is a gentle pet and not dangerous. Would I have to pay a penalty fee just because I own a, so called, 'dangerous dog?' I don't agree with this bill and I won't support it.

It's certainly a mystery to me. Maybe we should give the Minister a **'Scoobie snack'**.

Thank you Member for Bassendean!

Can we continue with the debate please?

**MEMBER for JOONDALUP***(Mr Jan Norberger)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for JOONDALUP***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Joondalup**

I just wanted to quickly say that I think this is a fantastic piece of legislation that is long overdue and it will certainly encourage responsible dog ownership. I support this bill 100 per cent.

**MEMBER for KINGSLEY***(Ms Andrea Mitchell)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for KINGSLEY***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Kingsley**

I agree with this bill and it is great to see that greyhounds in particular do not need to be muzzled in public anymore. Greyhounds are nice dogs, not aggressive and are trained for racing, which has nothing to do with their genetics. Genetics do not control a dog's behaviour, but owners can.

**MEMBER for MAYLANDS***(Ms Lisa Baker)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for MAYLANDS***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Maylands**

I refer to the section on dangerous dogs. Local rangers in my electorate are concerned about this bill because they are being encouraged to go onto someone's property without their permission to decide whether a dog is likely to attack. The Minister needs to look at this issue before I support the bill.

**MEMBER for ALFRED COVE***(Mr Dean Nalder)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for ALFRED COVE***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).*

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Alfred Cove**

I support this bill. It covers all issues in my electorate, such as supporting work dogs for people with disabilities, such as guide dogs for the blind. Finally, these dogs have some additional support!

**MEMBER for MIRRABOOKA***(Ms Janine Freeman)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for MIRRABOOKA***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).***MEMBER for KALGOORLIE***(interjects remains seated)***MEMBER for MIRRABOOKA****MEMBER for KWINANA***(Mr Roger Cook)***SPEAKER****MEMBER for KWINANA***(Stands and remains standing until speech is finished, then sits down).***MEMBER for KALGOORLIE***(interjects remains seated)***SPEAKER****MINISTER for LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Mirrabooka**

I am not a dog owner, but I know that many owners treat their pets as part of the family. My partner grew up on a farm and he believes that dogs are working animals who belong on farms and not on suburban blocks.

I'd like to see a Chihuahua herding a flock of sheep!

Anything is possible Member for Kalgoorlie. But with a little dog or not, I will support this bill.

Mr Speaker

The Member for **Kwinana**

In Kwinana, we have two purpose-built dog parks where owners come to socialise and exercise their dogs. However, breed legislation is an issue, especially for those who own a breed of dog that is considered aggressive.

Being a cat lover, I believe the solution may lie in the form of a fat Burmese! If we could give aggressive dog owners a fat Burmese to sit on their laps for an evening, I think we could sort out this issue!

That comment could leave you in the **doghouse** Member for Kwinana!

**The Minister for Local Government**

Thank you Mr Speaker,

I would like to thank all the Members who spoke on this bill. We are trying to deal with the issue of barking dogs to reduce tension between neighbours.

We have also come a long way in giving rangers more power. Even a judge in a court can order a bad owner to attend dog training with their pet, which is an

important part of this legislation and I am confident that it will work.

Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

**SPEAKER**

The question is that the bill be read a second time?

Those in favour say “Aye” (*most members say “Aye”*).

Those against, “No” (*nobody says “No”*)

I think the “Ayes” have it. The “Ayes” have it.

**CLERK**

*(Stands up, read the title and then sits down)*

Dog Amendment bill 2013. A bill for An Act to amend the Dog Acts 1976 and 2002.

*This bill has taken 10 years of research to develop with 1500 submissions received from the public with their opinions. The bill went into consideration in detail before it was granted leave to third reading in the Legislative Assembly on motion by the Minister for Local Government.*

*This bill was then transmitted to the Legislative Council for further debate. In the Legislative Council, after debate, it was passed with amendments. A Message was sent to the Legislative Assembly with amendments for concurrence on 23 October 2013. The Legislative Assembly agreed to all amendments put from the Legislative Council.*

*The bill was given Royal Assent by the Governor, His Excellency  
Mr Malcolm McCusker on 29 October, 2013.  
This law will take effect from November 2013 in Western Australia.*