

Key Finding and Recommendations

2 Provisions of the Bill

FINDING 1: That consultation with relevant stakeholders with regard to this Bill was inadequate. 7

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the government withdraw the current Bill and immediately establish a stakeholder group of industry, municipal and community representatives to consult on the drafting of a new Bill. 7

3 Municipal Councils

RECOMMENDATION 2: That the State Government provide additional funding to local government to appropriately enforce current legislation. 13

RECOMMENDATION 3: That a new enforcement and compliance strategy be developed alongside the new Bill detailing the roles of the RSPCA and local councils in these areas. 19

RECOMMENDATION 4: That a compliance and enforcement unit be established within the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. The unit would be responsible for domestic animal business registrations, maintenance of the proposed central registration database and compliance assessments ensuring consistent application of the proposed legislation. 23

RECOMMENDATION 5: That longer timeframes for transitioning to the new Bill should be implemented to allow local councils sufficient time to manage the transition appropriately. 24

RECOMMENDATION 6: Requirements for domestic animal bill registrations should be more clearly standardised and avenues for grievance processes other than through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal be explored. 26

4 Dog breeder and rescue organisations

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the government abandon the 10 fertile female limit proposed in the Domestic Animals (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Amendment Bill 2016. 35

RECOMMENDATION 8: That the government exempt certain domestic animal hobby breeders from compliance with the proposed legislation. 41

RECOMMENDATION 9: That the government allow pet shops to continue to sell domestic animals from ethical domestic animal breeders. 46

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the government establish a more robust standards based approach to the health and welfare of dogs in commercial breeding establishments. 54

5 Other stakeholder groups

RECOMMENDATION 11: That the government, in a new Bill, specifically address the unique requirements for breeding, rearing, and selling cats. 60

RECOMMENDATION 12: The government undertake a full consultation with relevant stakeholders involved in cat breeding before redrafting a new Bill to specifically address the unique requirements for breeding rearing and selling cats. 60

RECOMMENDATION 13: That the government include provisions in the Bill addressing unregulated backyard breeding and trading of cats, particularly of non-desexed pets. 64

RECOMMENDATION 14: That the Cat Breeding and Rearing code be reassessed, with greater emphasis on breeder input for housing and taking the needs of different breeds into account. 65

RECOMMENDATION 15: That the government remove the words 'caged birds' from the definition of a pet shop in the Act. 71

RECOMMENDATION 16: That the government consult with stakeholders to determine where the Bill may need amending to ensure that there is not a negative impact upon aviculture in Victoria. 71

RECOMMENDATION 17: That Victorian Aviculture approved events be allowed to continue to sell non-native birds. 71

RECOMMENDATION 18: That the government provide an exemption for all bird clubs from section 96, *Domestic Animals Act 1994* in the interim period while the Bill is being reformulated to allow them to continue current sales practices. 71