



Wednesday 27th June

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION TO AFFECT EVERY PET OWNER IN NSW, WITH MANY MORE LIVES AT STAKE

Sunday 1st July marks the end date for submissions in response to the release of the *Companion Animals Taskforce Discussion Paper (CATDP)*.

The Taskforce was established by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page MP, and the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, to **provide advice on key companion animal issues and reduce the rates of euthanasia- currently 50,000 per year in NSW.**

This taskforce included groups such as the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and Pet Industry Association Australia, but would not accept No Kill rescue organisations. The CATDP as it stands, **will NOT effectively reduce euthanasia rates in NSW and will affect many responsible pet owners negatively.**

Monika's Doggie Rescue is one of the NSW No Kill shelters who have prepared a submission which will be presented this week. Concerns revolve around:

- The CATDP's FIRST aim is to reduce the shocking kill rate of cats and dogs in NSW pounds, yet gives no practical demonstration of how this can be achieved- a devastating result given the many hours of time and effort. Instead it looks at cost and revenue raising options.
- It features a multiple choice questionnaire which has clearly been designed to tailor outcomes rather than encourage viewpoints and discussion.
- It does not reference any of the literature or research on effective methods that are being undertaken overseas and interstate, which have been proven to reduce the kill rate in pounds. This causes us to question the agenda behind the Task Force and their lack of consideration of positive changes.
- Many questions are geared to justifying revenue raising – hitting hard the responsible cat and dog owner paying more registration fees, as well as indexing to inflation, fees for registration agents, bringing forward the age of the pet for life rego and so on. Therefore, penalising responsible pet owners.
- There is an emphasis on collecting funds for research on cats and dogs – why allocate desperately needed funds for research when so many practical, effective methodologies are readily available from experience elsewhere?

Indeed, by the time this report & submissions are finalised, 12 months have passed and another 50,000 animals have died.

Our aim is to **make pounds and shelters the FIRST place to look for a new family pet, help members of the community keep their existing animals and return animals to their owners.** Our submission details how this can happen.

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