



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Minister for Multiculturalism and
Minister for Disability Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL COUNCIL AND PET OWNERS TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON COMPANION ANIMALS REGULATION

Animal welfare and community safety would be improved in the Hills Shire local government area under proposed changes as part of a statutory review of the Companion Animals Regulation, Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said today.

Mr Williams, a patron of the Hills Dog Club, today encouraged The Hills Shire Council and local pet owners to comment on a new draft Companion Animals Regulation which proposes to increase on-the-spot fines for dog attacks and dangerous dog offences and extend discounted registration fees to animals adopted from approved rescue organisations.

The NSW Government has also released a Regulatory Impact Statement which found the existing Companion Animals Regulation had made a positive impact on the welfare and management of dogs and cats.

“These proposed changes will not only help to reduce dog attacks in the Hills Shire local government area but will also increase rehoming rates for dog and cats adopted from local rescue organisations,” Mr Williams said.

“I encourage our local council and dog and cat owners to make a submission on these proposed changes and help protect the welfare of our beloved pet cats and dogs and increase the safety of our local community.”

The proposed changes include:

- Allowing animals adopted from approved rescue organisations to access 50 per cent discounts on registration fees to increase rehoming rates
- Increased on-the-spot fines for dog attacks (from \$550 to \$1320) and for offences relating to control requirements, sale/advertising and acceptance of ownership of dangerous, menacing or restricted dogs (from \$1320 to \$1760)
- A small increase in lifetime pet registration fees from \$53 to \$55 to allow for annual inflation adjustments. Fees are used to fund council ranger services, pound facilities, educational programs and other companion animal related activities to keep the community and dogs and cats safe.

Minister for Local Government Gabrielle Upton said the Government was committed to providing the strongest possible regulatory framework to ensure the responsible care and ownership of pet dogs and cats.

“The NSW Government is determined to keep people and animals in our communities safe and to make sure that we have the best system to reunite lost pets with their



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owners, rehome rescue animals and work to keep them out of pounds and shelters,” Ms Upton said.

The new draft Companion Animals Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement are on public exhibition for comment until 5pm on 22 May 2018.

The documents can be accessed at www.olg.nsw.gov.au. Submissions can be made via the website.

Media: June Belkovskis - 02 8882 9555