



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

24 April 2018

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

Animal welfare and community safety would be improved across our local government areas under proposed changes as part of a statutory review of the Companion Animals Regulation, Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said today.

Mr Aplin is encouraging Councils 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 locally but will also increase rehoming rates for dog and cats adopted from local rescue organisations,” Mr Aplin said.

“I encourage our local councils 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 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.

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