



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Economy and Infrastructure Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Community views sought on the laws relating to dangerous dogs

A Victorian parliamentary inquiry is seeking community views on the adequacy of the current laws relating to dangerous and restricted breed dogs in Victoria.

The Victorian Parliament's Economy and Infrastructure Committee is calling for public submissions on the laws related to dangerous dogs. The committee will be considering whether the current laws encourage responsible dog ownership and protect both the community and the environment.

In addition to canvassing community concerns about the management of dangerous dogs, the inquiry will inform proposed changes to the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* with regards to the current moratorium on the destruction of restricted breed dogs.

Committee Chair, Joshua Morris, said that the inquiry addresses an area of long-standing community concern.

"The issue of dangerous dogs, and in particular restricted breed dogs, invokes strong views in the community. There have been well documented cases of serious, and occasionally fatal, dog attacks which have led to calls for stronger action from government."

Mr Morris said that the inquiry will hear from a wide range of people and will make recommendations aimed at strengthening both community safety and fairness to the dogs and dog owners at the centre of the inquiry.

"The tragic death of four-year-old Ayen Chol from a dog attack in 2011, as well as other serious attacks, highlights the need for laws that ensure public safety. It is the committee's intention to find a balance between ensuring that such tragedies are not repeated and protecting the rights of responsible dog owners," Mr Morris said.

The committee wants to hear from organisations and individuals interested in the issue. The terms of reference can be found at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/eic and the committee will be taking submissions until 10 July 2015.

Enquiries: Michael Baker, Committee Secretary - 03 8682 2817 or 0404 848 896.

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