



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Economy and Infrastructure Committee

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Committee recommends withdrawal of Domestic Animals Bill**

The Victorian Parliament's Economy and Infrastructure Committee has recommended the withdrawal of proposed legislation to further regulate the breeding and sale of dogs and cats in Victoria.

To take its place, the Committee has recommended that the Victorian Government immediately establish a stakeholder group of industry, municipal and community representatives to consult on the drafting of a new Bill.

The Committee's [report](#) tabled in Parliament today makes 18 recommendations on the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016.

The Committee found that consultation with relevant stakeholders was inadequate and the Bill reflects this.

"While there was agreement amongst all stakeholders that unethical breeders should be shut down, the significant lack of consultation undermined the development of the Bill," Committee Chair Joshua Morris said.

"If implemented, the Bill will lead to a reduction in the supply of pet dogs in Victoria, particularly popular cross-breed dogs," Mr Morris said.

"It may also lead to a significant reduction in the supply of livestock working dogs, with consequences for farmers and the agriculture industry."

Another key recommendation is that the government establish a more robust standards based approach to the health and welfare of dogs in commercial breeding establishments.

The Committee's report follows a series of public hearings with key stakeholders.

"The message is clear that a new Bill is needed and that it must address the inadequacies of the existing Bill," Mr Morris said.

"There are significant concerns that provisions in the existing Bill will lead to the decline of the industry in Victoria and will have unintended consequences that will be detrimental to animal welfare.

"A proper consultation process for a new Bill can help to address the concerns that were raised with the Committee during its inquiry."

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

**Media queries**

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