

19th July 2022

Ms Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Minister for Planning Victoria

E lizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au

RE: Request to meet the Minister

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to lobby for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

The purpose of this letter is to request a meeting with you to discuss ongoing concerns experienced by our members relating to State Planning Laws and the keeping and breeding of dogs which are currently being impacted.

These concerns are relating to the limiting of the numbers of animals permitted on a property to no more than 5 animals. Local Councils have been implementing these restrictions so as to restrict the numbers of dogs a registered breeder can have, in an attempt to circumnavigate the existing legislation within the Domestic Animals Act. Some residents have been forced by Councils to surrender and even euthanise their dogs because of the blatant mis-use by Councils of the Planning Laws which previously excluded dogs and cats.

These concerns had previously been raised with past Agricultural Minister the Hon Jaala Pulford, who had committed to considering these further with a view to commencing discussions with the relevant Planning Minister, but were then ignored by Minister Richard Wynne, as were our attempts to meet with him.

The matter has now reached an unacceptable impasse where even the Municipal Association Victoria has advised us the matter requires to be addressed by the Planning Minister and changes to the legislation to ensure Councils cannot utilise one legislation to exceed the intent of another.

We respectfully request a meeting with you, and look forward to hearing from you regarding a suitable time to discuss the now urgent matter.

Yours Faithfully

Kylie Gilbert

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Animal Care Australia Dog Representative

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