



# David Michael MLA

## MEMBER FOR BALCATT GOVERNMENT WHIP

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Dear Review Committee

I welcome the McGowan Government's hard work in progressing WA Labor's commitment to end Puppy Farming in Western Australia. These are good reforms which will deliver positive outcomes for animal welfare and reduce the number of unwanted and unplanned dogs.

Other jurisdictions which have introduced similar legislation such as Victoria and California have included kittens in the new regulation. Unfortunately in Western Australia this has, so far, not been a part of the discussion.

While many of the proposed changes to the Dog Act, such as mandatory de-sexing and breeder registration, already exist in the Cat Act, other important measures do not. In particular, the Centralised Registration System would provide the same benefits to the welfare of cats and the prevention of kitten mills as they do to the welfare of dogs and the prevention of puppy farms.

Without the inclusion of cats in the Centralised Registration System there is a risk that by eliminating puppy farms we will simply shift the problem to kitten mills. Including cats on the same system would also lessen confusion in pet owners and also the administrative burden on Local Governments who would need to maintain their own systems for cats but transition to a centralised system for dogs.

Stopping puppy farms is a good step, but let's make sure we don't open another door to animal cruelty as we shut the door on puppy farmers.

Yours sincerely

David Michael MLA  
**MEMBER FOR BALCATT**

