



By your side

17th August 2014

Hon. Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

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| Rec'd | 25 AUG 2014 |
| Reg. No. | 1452C |
| File No. | |
| Ack. | |
| Action Officers | MM / LM |
| Response due | |

Re: Dog and Cat Management Board (DCMB)

Dear Minister,

In response to the announcement by the Premier that all government boards will be abolished the Animal Welfare League of South Australia (AWL) is concerned about the risks to the future management of dogs and cats in South Australia if the DCMB is abolished.

We appreciate the government's responsibility to encourage effective decision making and prudent budgeting; however the function of the DCMB is already an efficient way of administering the Dog and Cat Management Act. Most animal welfare organisations, including the AWL, receive very little if any financial support from any level of government for the vital role they play in reconnecting and rehoming lost and abandoned companion animals. The support of the DCMB is therefore crucial in the process of coordinating activities across local government that promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership, protection against dog attacks and reducing the numbers of dogs and cats that end up in shelters.

Much has been accomplished in progressive companion animal management over the past decades, a lot of it due to the collaborative input of members of the DCMB. There is still much to do that directly impacts on people's lives when it comes to managing the human-companion animal bond and DCMB is a most effective way of advising your office on these issues.

We strongly recommend that the DCMB be maintained and look forward to offering constructive input to DCMB in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

Richard Mussell
CEO