

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **OVER TEN THOUSAND PETITIONERS CALL ON PARLIAMENTARIANS TO REJECT CLOVER MOORE'S ANIMAL (REGULATION OF SALE) BILL**

The Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA) will this week present to NSW Parliamentarians the signatures of over ten thousand citizens calling on the Government to reject Clover Moore's Private Members' Bill, the *Animal (Regulation of Sale) Bill*.

Chief Executive Officer of the PIAA, Mr Colin Bransgrove, said that Ms Moore's Bill was "unnecessary and unwarranted" and that further consultation with industry was required.

The PIAA is the peak industry body for Australia's \$4.62 billion pet industry.

"Ms Moore needs to realise that pet shop owners care about their animals – that's why we got into this industry in the first place," Mr Bransgrove said.

"It is deeply offensive to our members that this politician would completely fail to consult with us before seeking to impose a blanket ban over our industry.

"The facts are that pet shops account for less than 10 percent of pet sales in Australia – while unregulated internet, classified and market pet sales continue to flourish.

"Ms Moore should do her homework before rushing to single out our businesses for this heavy handed treatment," Mr Bransgrove said.

Mr Bransgrove said that groups such as the Australian Veterinary Association have also attacked Ms Moore's Bill, stating that there is no evidence that pet shops are responsible for "impulse purchases" or the dumping of animals after the Christmas season.

"The pet industry has conducted the consultation that Ms Moore failed to do before drafting her one-sided, politically-loaded Bill," Mr Bransgrove said.

"It is clear that the public have seen through her tactics and the response to our petition has been overwhelming – we have over ten thousand signatures and counting.

"These are ordinary Australian families who understand that pet shop owners are already working in partnership with the Government to protect their animals and to make sure they find good homes," Mr Bransgrove said.

Mr Bransgrove said that key features of the Bill which concerned his members included:

- Failure of the Bill to acknowledge the good work of industry to forge strong Codes of Practice for retailers and to working with the NSW Government Animal Welfare Unit to stamp out rogue traders;
- Failure of the Bill to tackle internet sales and the largely unregulated market for trading animals; and
- Delegating policing functions in the Bill to animal activist organisation *Animal Liberation* – a group already responsible for terrorising farming organisations.

“Our organisation is committed to responsible pet ownership,” Mr Bransgrove said.

“That’s why we are leading the way as part of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, with development of agreed pet care information to be distributed at the point of sale,” Mr Bransgrove said.

For Further information about the Pet Industry Association of Australia please go to our web site on [www.piaa.net.au](http://www.piaa.net.au)