



## Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Our Ref: E1218320

TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CIRCULAR N<sup>o</sup> 06-2012

### INTRODUCTION OF THE DOG AMENDMENT BILL 2012 TO PARLIAMENT

I am pleased to advise that today I introduced into Parliament the *Dog Amendment Bill 2012*.

This Bill proposes important amendments to the Dog Act 1976 to provide greater protection to the community by tightening the provisions relating to dangerous dogs (including restricted breeds), and enabling local governments to more effectively deal with nuisance dog behaviour.

The Bill introduces amendments in the following key areas:

- Improving community safety through increased controls over dangerous dogs (including restricted breeds), and higher penalties encouraging more responsible dog ownership;
- Enabling nuisance dogs, including nuisance barking dogs, to be more effectively dealt with;
- Recognition of assistance dogs as an extension of the guide dog provisions; and
- Meeting changing community expectations in areas such as microchipping, lifetime dog registrations and impounding provisions.

A copy of this Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum are available on the Parliament of Western Australia's website [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au) in the 'Current Bills' section and on the Department of Local Government's website [www.dlg.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlg.wa.gov.au) in the 'Legislation Under Review' section.

Parliamentary consideration of the amendments will commence on or after 11 September.

For any queries regarding or comments on the Bill, please contact Mr Walter Arrow, Principal Policy Officer on (08) 65521587 or [walter.arrow@dlg.wa.gov.au](mailto:walter.arrow@dlg.wa.gov.au).

G M (John) Castrilli MLA

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CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

13 AUG 2012