



Animal Defenders Office
Using the law to protect animals

ABN: 12837355070 | Member: CLCNSW Inc. | GPO Box 2259 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.ado.org.au | contact@ado.org.au
The Animal Defenders Office Inc. is accredited by the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

10 March 2020

Dear Central Coast Council decision-makers,

Re: DA NO 97/2020/A, 604 Ourimbah Creek Road, Palm Grove, NSW 2258

The ADO wishes to express concern regarding the Development Application (DA) No 97/2020/A for a 'Modification to Existing Approval for Use of Existing Property for the Purpose of an Animal Boarding & Training Facility – Dog Breeding'.

We understand that the facility in question has historically operated without consent of council and that in October 2019, was issued with a notice requiring unlawful use of the site to cease.¹ We also understand that the Central Coast Planning Panel has since granted the facility a 15-month trial period, commencing in December 2020, despite formal objections from the community.²

The ADO strongly urges the Council to reconsider making an exception for this land to be used as a dog breeding facility. We note that a Parliamentary Inquiry into 'puppy farming in New South Wales' is currently underway,³ to consider a Bill⁴ to strengthen regulation around dog breeding facilities in the State. If the Bill is passed by the NSW Parliament, the dog breeding facility that is the subject of the DA could be considerably affected.

Furthermore, we experienced difficulty in accessing relevant and basic DA documents in relation to this application on the Council Website. This hindrance is significant, as it prevents stakeholders from fully informing themselves and lodging a submission. As evidenced by the Parliamentary Inquiry, dog breeding is a matter of substantial public interest and proper community consultation is due and necessary in regard to this DA.

As such, we object to the DA Modification and urge decision-makers to refuse the continued use of this land as a dog breeding facility.

Regards,

Sarah Margo and Tara Ward
Animal Defenders Office

¹ <https://coastcommunitynews.com.au/central-coast/news/2020/10/business-runs-counter-to-shared-values/>;
<https://coastcommunitynews.com.au/central-coast/news/2020/12/unauthorised-activity-and-non-compliance-is-rewarded-yet-again/>;
<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/palm-grove-dog-boarding-and-breeding-da-delayed-by-local-planning-panel/news-story/8eb2d7a2cc749507f49ecb52666171e7>.

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=276#tab-termsofreference>.

⁴ Companion Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms) Bill 2021, <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bill/files/3885/First%20Print.pdf>.