

RSPCA ACT

1. Please provide the following information on your group/organisation including the full name of your key contact person:

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Company: - RSPCA ACT

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State/Province: - ACT

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2. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

No

3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT Budget 2013-2014: (there is space available in the next question to expand on this list)

a. - Cat management

b. - Service delivery does not equal funding

c. - Wildlife management

4. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas? (provide details on those items you listed above)

It continues to be a concern for RSPCA ACT that year on year we seek additional funding for management of cats in the ACT yet no further funding is allocated. RSPCA ACT is the sole point of call for all stray, lost and feral cats in the ACT. We have worked tremendously hard in this area and the government still only funds a small portion of the costs of this service delivery. This funding gap feeds into our overall funding gap, which while being recognised by the government seems to not

attract the level of funding required. Government remains adamant in only providing RSPCA with a contribution for our services, when we have undertaken detailed analysis over the last three years which demonstrates a clear shortfall in funding. As a charity we are increasingly concerned that government simply allows RSPCA to make up the shortfall from capital reserves, which at some point will erode below dangerous levels, which could ultimately put our entire service at risk. For the sake of a small increase in our funding base the government is essentially taking a higher risk approach to animal welfare services in the long run. Our third priority area is wildlife management and ensuring that a balanced approach remains in place across the territory as more green field sites are developed for housing. As pressure for land increases the role of RSPCA providing care for injured and displaced wildlife will also increase and government needs to be aware of that issue.

5. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

No

6. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

Yes (go to question 7)

7. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

No

As noted above.

8. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 14 June 2013, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes