

9.4 REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Information Only - No Decision Required

Report To: Environment and Planning Committee
Meeting Date: 16 July 2015
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Report Number: REP15-07-04
File Reference:

1 Summary

- 1.1 The Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA) Section 10A requires territorial authorities to publicly report on dog control policies and practices for each financial year. This report contains the information required under the DCA for the year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. A copy of this report must be made publicly available and sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

2 Draft Resolution

That the Environment and Planning Committee receives the Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices REP15-07-04 and approves its public release and transmission to the Secretary for Local Government.

REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES**3 Purpose of the Report**

- 3.1 This report constitutes the annual report that the Council has to prepare in administering its obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA).

4 Dog Control Policy and Enforcement Practices

- 4.1 The Council reviewed its Dog Control Policy and Bylaw in 2014 adopting the Dog Control Policy 2014 and Dog Control Bylaw 2014 on the 18 September 2014.

- 4.2 The objectives of the Dog Control Policy are:

- To promote responsible dog ownership
- To minimise any; danger, distress or nuisance created by dogs
- To have regard to the welfare, exercise and recreational needs of dogs, and
- To identify required means of dog control in all public places.

- 4.3 Control Services (Nelson) Ltd is contracted to implement the Council's dog control policy and bylaw. Compliance is achieved by:

- Responding to dog related incidents
- Targeted property visits and patrols of areas with specific issues
- Close liaison and cooperation with external agencies
- Conducting dog safety and bite prevention programs

- 4.4 The Council uses various media to inform the public of dog related issues. The Council's website provides dog related information, online forms and links to relevant legislation and other websites of interest.

5 Dog Registration and Enforcement Statistics for July 2014 to June 2015

5.1	Number of dog owners in the district	6778
	• Probationary owners	1
	• Disqualified owners	0
5.2	Number of registered dogs in the district	10,391
	• Rural dogs	5663
	• Urban dogs	4728
5.3	Number of dogs classified as Dangerous under DCA Section 31	
	• Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	1
	• Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	8

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•	Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admission	1
5.4 Number of dogs classified as Menacing under DCA Section 33		
•	Sec 33A (Observed or Reported Behavior)	44
•	Sec 33C (By Breed)	24
5.5 Infringement Notices Issued		
•	Failure to comply with effects of classification	2
•	Failing to register dog	107
•	Failure to keep dog under control	4
•	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	1
•	Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	1
•	Failure to comply with bylaw	1
5.6 Prosecutions.		
▪	Dog attack human incident Upper Takaka 05 October 2014	
•	Charge; DCA Section 57 dog attack persons or animal.	
•	Dog destroyed by Court Order	
•	Fined \$500.	
•	Reparation \$400.00 Costs \$470.	
▪	Dog attack human incident Murchison 22 October 2014.	
•	Dog destroyed by owner prior to hearing.	
•	Two charges; DCA Section 57 dog attack persons or animal	
•	Reparation \$1,412, Costs \$216.50.	
5.7 Complaints		
•	Unfenced property	2
•	Unregistered dog	8
•	Attack domestic pet	46
•	Attack stock	28
•	Attack human	39
•	Barking	376
•	Fouling	14
•	Rushing	56
•	Wandering	339

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- Welfare 112
- Dog in restricted area 7
- Dog not on leash 6
- Dog not under control 25

6 Strategic Challenges / Risks

- 6.1 The Dog Control activity is a function of high visibility to the public and providing for the care and control of dogs contributes to achieving the community outcomes which promote safe and healthy communities.

7 Policy / Legal Requirements / Plan

- 7.1 This report achieves compliance with the DCA.

8 Consideration of Financial or Budgetary Implications

- 8.1 This report incurs no financial burden that is not already covered under the Dog Control budget and which is separately reported on through the Annual Report.

9 Significance and Consultation

- 9.1 This statistical report is of low significance and is prepared in accordance with an obligation under the DCA. There is no obligation to consult although the availability of the report must be publicly notified.

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 The Council's current level of enforcement meets the requirements of DCA and the expectations of the public.

11 Next Steps / Timeline

- 11.1 On adoption, give public notice of Report REP15-07-05.
- 11.2 Within one month of adoption provide a copy of Report REP15-07-05 to the Secretary for Local Government.

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- **Attachments**

Nil