

## 8.1 DOG CONTROL ACT SECTION 10A REPORT

**Report To:** Regulatory Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 7 September 2023  
**Report Author:** Shannon Green, Regulatory Support Officer  
**Report Number:**

### 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 2022 to 30 June 2023. It is a requirement of the DCA that a copy of this report be made publicly available once adopted.
- 1.2 Dog numbers have increased prominently in urban areas.
- 1.3 Three more people were disqualified from dog ownership.
- 1.4 Complaint numbers have fallen, notably those related to wandering/found.
- 1.5 Customer satisfaction with dog control is still remarkably high at 92%.

### 2 Draft Resolution

**That the Regulatory Committee:**

1. **receives the Dog Control Act Section 10A Report.**

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**3 Purpose of the Report**

- 3.1 This report constitutes the annual report that the Council is required to prepare in administering its obligations under the DCA.

**4 Background and Discussion**

- 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 18 September 2014. A partial review was made of the Dog Control Bylaw in November 2020 - specifically of two areas covered in Schedule 3 – dog prohibited areas. These were Takaka central business area and Tata Beach. The full Bylaw is due for review before September 2024.
- 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 (Tasman) 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 programmes
  - Education programmes delivered to schools.
- 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 2022 to June 2023**

- 5.1 Number of dog owners in the district.

	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Number of dog owners in the district	8,063	8,308	8,584
Probationary owners	1	1	2

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Disqualified owners	3	5	8
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## 5.2 Number of registered dogs in the district

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Number of registered dogs in the district	11,860	12,160	12,439
Rural dogs	5,964	5,948	6,036
Urban dogs	5,896	6,212	6,403

## 5.3 Dogs classified Dangerous DCA Section 31

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	0	1	2
Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	8	6	6
Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admission	0	0	0

## 5.4 Number of dogs classified as Menacing under DCA Section 33

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Sec 33A (Observed or Reported Behavior)	24	18	20
Sec 33C (By Breed)	10	6	5

## 5.5 Infringement Notices Issued

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Failure to comply with effects of classification	3	3	2
Failure/refusal to supply information	1	1	0
Failing to register dog	188	85	149
Failure to keep dog under control	19	10	6
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	3	7	25
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	4	1	6
Failure to comply with Bylaw	0	1	9

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Failure to implant microchip transponder	1	3	4
Wilful obstruction of Officer	2	0	0
Failure to comply with dangerous dog classification	0	3	4
Allowing unmuzzled dangerous dog	0	1	0

**Prosecutions**

5.6 Tasman District Council v L Burke & J Gage, dog attack human twice on separate occasions & wilful obstruction, Burke \$1600 fine, Gage \$800 fine, \$150ea emotional harm, Burke \$150 reparation, \$113ea costs.

**Complaints**

5.7 The following complaints were received:

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Unregistered dog	14	5	18
Attack domestic pet	36	16	35
Attack stock	14	21	18
Attack human	62	46	33
Barking	474	394	407
Fouling	9	4	2
Rushing	45	41	32
Wandering/found	712	732	665
Welfare	19	16	14
Dog in restricted area	6	6	5
Dog not on leash	5	3	4
Dog not under control	16	17	6
Unfenced property	0	3	3
Excess number of dogs	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1413</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>1243</b>

**6 Strategy and Risks**

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- 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.
- 6.2 Dog numbers continue to increase in the district, urban dogs continue to outnumber rural, and this will bring new challenges.
- 6.3 Failure to provide an effective dog control service would be incompatible with our values of Kawenga and Manaakitanga.

**7 Legal Requirements**

- 7.1 Provision of this report to the DIA and general public achieves compliance with the requirements of the DCA.

**8 Significance and Engagement**

- 8.1 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

**9 Conclusion**

- 9.1 The Council's current level of enforcement meets the requirements of DCA and the expectations of the public, this is shown by the customer satisfaction results i.e., the recent consents and licenses survey found that the community was 92% satisfied or very satisfied with our performance in dog control.

**10 Next Steps / Timeline**

- 10.1 Once received by Council, we will provide public notice of this report on the internet and in a public newspaper circulating in the district.
- 10.2 Notify the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

**Attachments**

Nil