

To: Council
 From: Environmental Compliance Officer
 Date: 10 September 2024
 Subject: Dog Control Policy & Practices Report – Year Ended 30 June 2024.

Recommendation

THAT the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2024 be received and contents noted.

Recommended Reason

The report is required under section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Moved/Seconded

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices (**Appendix 1**).

2. Executive Summary

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to report annually on its Dog Control Policy and practices, give public notice of that report after adoption by Council and send a copy to the Secretary for Local Government. This report meets those requirements.

3. Local Government Act 2002

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Council’s purpose is to “enable democratic local decision making by and on behalf of communities; as well as promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities now and into the future”

Does the recommended option meet the purpose of the Local Government 4 well-beings? And which:

Yes

Social	Economic	Environmental	Cultural
✓		✓	

The Dog Control Policy contributes to the *performance of a good quality regulatory function and local public service*.

4. Background

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires a Territorial Authority to report annually on Dog Control Policy and practices:

10A Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

- (1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of-
 - “(a) its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and
 - “(b) its dog control practices.
- (2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to-
 - “(a) the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district;
 - “(b) the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district;
 - “(c) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - “(d) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made;
 - “(e) the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority;
 - “(f) the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and nature of those complaints;
 - “(g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this act.
- (3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report-
 - “(a) by means of a notice published in-
 - “(i) 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or
 - “(ii) 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers in that district; and
 - “(b) by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
- (4) The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after the adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.”

5. Information Summary

The attached report is produced to meet the requirement of the Dog Control Act 1996.

The Animal Control team has seen a decrease in the number of dogs recorded in the Stratford District. Out of the 2148 dogs recorded, 98% were registered during the 2023/2024 period.

The number of complaints overall has increased. We have seen an increase in the number of people using Antenno and other media platforms to advise the Council of a nuisance. This allows officers to educate dog owners or use enforcement tools where necessary. Not all calls for service are substantiated and sometimes calls for service relate to the same property or incident. We also see a decrease in the number of wandering dogs in the district for this period.

The number of calls about dog attacks and rushing has increased. Not all of these complaints were substantiated, or sufficient evidence was provided to use enforcement tools (i.e., the owner could not be identified). No prosecutions were undertaken this year for attacks. This is because owners choose to euthanise dogs involved in attacks.

6. Strategic Alignment

6.1 Direction

The Stratford Community Outcome of having a *“built environment that is attractive, safe and healthy”* is addressed by the collective information in this report.

6.2 Annual Plan and Long Term Plan

The recommendation does not have any implications concerning the proposed Long Term Plan.

6.3 **Sustainability Consideration**

This report informs the Department of Internal Affairs on the annual statistics for Dog Control matters in the Stratford district. Legislation informs the criteria that is required for those statistics. Sustainability consideration is not required in this instance.

6.4 **District Plan**

The recommendation does not have any implications concerning the Stratford District Plan.

6.5 **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications concerning the recommendation.

6.6 **Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications concerning the recommendation.

Attachments

Appendix 1 - Council report to the Department of Internal Affairs required by the Dog Control Act 1996.

M. Moss

Megan Moss
Environmental Compliance Officer

Blair Sutherland

[Endorsed by]
Blair Sutherland
Director – Environmental Services

Sven Hanne

[Approved by]
Sven Hanne
Chief Executive

Date 3 September 2024

STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOG CONTROL POLICY & PRACTICES REPORT - YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	This Year 2023/24	Last Year 2022/23
DOG REGISTRATIONS		
Total number of registered dogs	2148	2176
Total number of Probationary Owners	NIL	NIL
Number of Probationary Owner declarations this year	NIL	NIL
Number of lapsed Probationary Owners this year	NIL	NIL
Total number of Disqualified Owners	4	3
Number of Disqualified Owner declarations this year	NIL	3
Number of lapsed Disqualified Owners this year	NIL	NIL
Total number of Dangerous Dogs	2	NIL
Number of Dangerous Dog classifications this year	NIL	2
Provision(s) (Number)		
31(1)(a)	NIL	1
31(1)(b)	NIL	NIL
31(1)(c)	NIL	NIL
Total number of Menacing Dogs	9	11
Number of Menacing Dog classifications this year	1	2
Provision(s) (Number)		
33A(1)(a)	0	1
33A(1)(b)(i)	0	0
33A(1)(b)(ii)	0	1
Number of Infringement Notices issued	115	118
Infringements forwarded to Court for collection	52	23
Number of Prosecutions obtained	0	0
Number of dogs impounded	45	52
Number of dogs destroyed	6	3
Number of dogs rehoused	8	10
Total Number of complaints	336	286
Barking dogs	135	63
Wandering dogs	172	192
Dog attacks on stock or other animals	8	15
Dog attacks on people	6	1
Dogs rushing	4	1
Miscellaneous*	11	17

*Miscellaneous duties are responses to calls for lost dogs, dog rescue, customer complaints, education and the like.