
Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Regulatory Hearings Committee

Annual Report On Dog Control Policy And Practices - 2018/2019

Purpose

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires Council to publicly report, each financial year, on the administration of our Dog Control Policy and practices along with specified dog control related statistics.

The content of the attached report is based on the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Format of this report is as required by the Ministry of Internal affairs and only includes incidents involving dogs.

Recommendation

- 1. THAT the Compliance and Monitoring Manager's report dated 17 July 2019 and titled Dog Control Policy and Practices – 2018/2019 be received.***
- 2. THAT the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of Low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.***
- 3. THAT pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for 2018/2019 be adopted and publicly notified.***

Alison Curtis
Compliance and Monitoring Manager

1. Background

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

The attached report details Council's activities under the Dog Control Act 1996, and fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

2. Significance and Engagement

The Local Government Act 2002 requires a formal assessment of the significance of matters and decisions in this report against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. In making this formal assessment there is no intention to assess the importance of this item to individuals, groups, or agencies within the community and it is acknowledged that all reports have a high degree of importance to those affected by Council decisions.

The Policy requires Council and its communities to identify the degree of significance attached to particular issues, proposals, assets, decisions, and activities.

In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy this decision is considered to be of Low significance because the report only relates to activities that the Council is required to undertake under legislation, and is not a matter of decision-making.

3. Engagement, Consultation and Communication

Interested/Affected Parties	Planned Communication
Secretary for Local Government	Dog Control and Policy Report for 2018-19 copy sent within 1 month of adoption by Council, in accordance with legislative requirements.
Tangata Whenua	As per general public.
General Public	Dog Control and Policy Report for 2018-19 notified in the newspaper and report copy available on Councils website pages.

4. Issues and Options Assessment

Council adoption of the Dog Control and Activities report	
Reasons why no options are available	Legislative or other reference
This report is required to be produced by Council annually, the content of which is prescribed by the Dog Control Act 1996. Council decision-making only is in relation to adoption of the report.	Dog Control Act 1996. Section 10A. Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices.

5. Statutory Compliance

The report and recommendation have been prepared to ensure that Council meets the statutory requirements under the Dog Control Act 1996.

Western Bay of Plenty District Council: Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2018-2019

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as a territorial authority, is required to manage and enforce provisions pursuant to the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually on its Dog Control Policy and practices.

This report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year:
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

1. Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw 2016

Council reviewed the existing 2011 Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 during the 2015-16 year, with introduction of the Bylaw taking effect on 14 October 2016.

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide adequate opportunities to fulfil the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners, including off leash exercise.
- To minimise the danger, distress and nuisance (of dogs) to the community generally.
- To minimise the likelihood for conflict between dogs and the public or environment, by restricting access for dogs to public places where appropriate.
- To avoid danger from uncontrolled dogs having access to public places which are frequented by children whether or not the children are accompanied by adults.
- To minimise, to the extent that is practicable, the public fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.
- To actively promote the responsible ownership of dogs.
- To actively promote public safety and education.

Council promotes the Policy and Bylaw through communications with residents and dogs owners through:

- Dogs of the Western Bay newsletter
- Council webpage and Facebook page
- One on one contact with dog owners
- Council dog events
- Puppy training classes

2. Dog exercise areas

The current policy provides for all public spaces including reserves to be used for dog exercise areas, with dogs under control. A number of reserves are restricted to dogs on leash only, to ensure that conflict between other users and wildlife is avoided.

Geographical Area	Timeframe
TECT All Terrain Park (excluding the designated dog exercise area)	Year round
Huharua Park	Mixed approach
Omokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway, including associated berms and verges	Year round
Scenic Reserves	
Kaiate Falls Scenic Reserve	Year round
Ongaonga Scenic Reserve	Year round
Puketoki Scenic Reserve	Year round
Omokoroa Point	
Omokoroa Golf Course: Walkway adjacent to sandspit	Year round
Omokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway, including the associated berms and verges, except the area at Cooney's Reserve where no restrictions apply (dog under control). For the avoidance of doubt, the area at the end of Beach Grove is a Dogs on Leash Area	Year round
Katikati	
Uretara Walkway between the point where the Riverside Place walkway links onto the Uretara walkway and Park Road Reserve.	Year round
In the town centre area on Main Street (between the Uretara Stream and Fairview road) and Talisman Drive	Year round
Waihi Beach	
Island View Reserve	Seasonal (October to March) The Island View Reserve is restricted to dogs on a leash area between the months of October to March as a result of birds nesting within the reserve during this period.
In the town centre area on Seaforth Road (between Dillon Street and Citrus Avenue)	Year round
Te Puke	
In the town centre area bounded by Queen Street, Boucher Avenue, Commerce Lane, Jocelyn Street, the railway line, King Street, Tom Blaikie Lane and Oxford Street. This includes all areas open to the public within this area.	Year round

3. Prohibited dog areas

The Council restricts or prohibits dogs in places that have a high potential for conflict between other users and dogs, and are used frequently by the public. Areas that are prohibited include children’s playgrounds, areas of intense public use and areas of ecological sensitivity.

Geographical Area	Timeframe
District Wide	
All children’s playgrounds (soft play area)	Year round
Plummers Point	
Huharua Park (Ongarahu Pa) The Park comprises some areas which are prohibited to dogs and some which are dogs on leash	Year round
Omokoroa Point	
Omokoroa Domain – the area between the playground and toilet block	Year round
Sandbars off Cooneys Reserve Omokoroa	Year round
Omokoroa Esplanade The Omokoroa Esplanade is prohibited in Summer Months. However, dogs may pass through the area on leash, using the footpath opposite the Esplanade, as part of the Omokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
The foreshore area between Cooneys Reserve and Lynley Park, adjoining the Omokoroa to Bethlehem cycleway	Year round
Omokoroa Domain Foreshore	Spring to Autumn -the period between Labour weekend and Easter Monday (inclusive)
Waihi Beach	
Waihi Beach except for year round dog zone The area which is available to dogs year round is the area formed between a line 100m south of Albacore Avenue and a line 100m north of Pio Road	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu	
Area between (and including) Park Road Reserve to Maketu Surf Lifesaving Club	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu Historic and Local Purpose Reserve	Summer months- third Wednesday of December to the 7th of February (both days inclusive) between the hours of 9am and 7pm
Maketu Spit (stretching as far as the cut)	Year round
Pukehina	
Pukehina Spit (Dotterel Point Reserve)	Year round

4. Fees

The Council recovers 80% of the total cost associated with dog control through registration and control fees and enforcement. General rates funding is used to meet the remaining 20% of dog related costs, reflecting the wider community benefits of effective dog control. Dog registration fees are set by Council resolution.

5. Policy monitoring and compliance

Council has consistently applied the Dog Control Policy and Council's Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy when dealing with all matters of dog control over the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

This has continued to ensure a fair, unbiased and consistent approach when dealing with either offending dog owners or other interested parties.

Animal Services Officers have continued strategies for the compliance with dog registration within the District which has resulted in achieving 97.4% registered known dogs.

6. Dog Control Statistics

Section 10A (2) information

The following information is required under section 10A (2) clauses a – g.

The statistical component of this report for the 12 months to 30 June 2019 is as follows:

Number of registered dogs in Western Bay of Plenty District

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of known dogs in District	8893	9220	9389
Number of registered dogs in District	8720	9124	9145

Number of Probationary and Disqualified owners

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of probationary owners in District	0	0	0
Number of disqualified owners in District	11	14	14

Number of Dogs classified as Dangerous (section 31)

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Dangerous by owner conviction 31 (1)(a)	1	1	2
Dangerous by sworn evidence 31(1)(b)	15	15	15
Dangerous by owner admittance in writing 31(1)(c)	5	1	1
Total	21	17	18

Number of dogs classified as menacing (section 33A & 33C)

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Menacing by behaviour s.33A(1)(b)(i)	38	43	45
Menacing by breed or type characteristics s.33A(1)(b)(ii)	35	38	32
Menacing by schedule breed or type s.33C(1)	97	89	86
Total	170	170	163

Number of Infringement notices issued

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Failure to register dog	80	40	68
Other offences	92	93	126
Total	172	133	194

Number of dog related complaints

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Barking	251	255	280
Roaming	385	365	413
Attacked Person	22	40	36
Attacked Animal	80	95	103
Rush at Person	47	51	59
Rush at Animal	42	41	47
Welfare Concern	34	39	32
Other	164	157	153
Total	1025	1043	1123

Other dog service requests:

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Adoption queries	117	47	119
Education requests	40	55	35
Lost and found	486	560	461
Microchipping request	66	64	50
Total	709	726	665

Number of Prosecutions taken

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	1	0	0

7. Other initiatives

Dog owner education and dog events

Council has undertaken the following events in the community to educate dog owners on dog behaviour and encourage responsible dog ownership.

Dogs' day out event

This event was held in Omokoroa at Western Ave Reserve in March and following on from previous years has been an opportunity for dog owners to engage with staff, see dog behaviour displays and dog stalls. Council's dog microchipping, registration and dog fostering and adoption services are promoted.

Wander Dog walks

Council undertook a series of dog walks promoting responsible dog ownership and positive community socialisation of dogs. These were well attended and are a great opportunity for dog owners to engage with Council Animal Services staff and other dogs and their owners.



Image 2-Puketoki Reserve wander dog walk 2 february 2019

Wander Dogs of Western Bay Dog Owner Newsletter

One dog newsletter was sent to dog owners during the year. The newsletter highlights Council requirements in the Policy and Bylaw, promotes dog events, responsible dog ownership, key registration dates and has dog training tips. Dog communications have also included Facebook information and information on Council's webpages.

TECT Park Dogs Mud Run

A new combined event was held in conjunction with Tauranga City Council animal services team at TECT All Terrain Park. This event was very popular with families, provided good opportunities for dog socialisation and promoted the dog exercise spaces at TECT Park.



Image 2- TECT Park 20 Jan 2019

Dog Owner Education

Community dog education was also undertaken by staff with workplace groups, and to dog owners in conjunction with Te Puke Vets & Tauranga, Katikati and Te Puna Vets.

High Risk Dogs Desexing Campaign

Council received funding for desexing of high risk (menacing dogs) through the Department of Internal Affairs in the 2016-17 year, and this funding has continued to be utilised for desexing of menacing dogs for the last 2 years. There has been a mixed response to the desexing initiative with uptake being slower than anticipated.

To the 30 June 2019, Council had 6 dogs desexed through the funding provided by DIA in the 2018-19 year.

Dog category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
Existing classified menacing dogs	14	14	3	31
New classified menacing dogs	17	30	3	50