

9.6 REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Information Only - No Decision Required

Report To:	Environment and Planning Committee
Meeting Date:	29 January 2015
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1 Summary

- 1.1 The Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA 1996) 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 Act for the year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. 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:

1. **Adopts the Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices REP15-01-03 and approves its public release and transmission to the Secretary for Local Government.**

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3 Purpose of the Report

3.1 This report constitutes the annual report that the Council has to prepare on 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 is:

- 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 2013 to June 2014

5.1	Number of dog owners in the district	6617
	• Probationary owners	2
	• Disqualified owners	0
5.2	Number of registered dogs in the district	10,227
	• Rural dogs	5601
	• Urban dogs	4626
5.3	Number of dogs classified as Dangerous under DCA 1996 Section 31	
	• Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	1
	• Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	6
	• Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admission	1
5.4	Number of dogs classified as Menacing under DCA 1996 Section	33
	• Sec 33A (Observed or Reported Behavior)	45

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•	Sec 33C (By Breed)	25
5.5	Infringement Notices Issued	
•	Failure to comply with effects of classification	2
•	Failing to register dog	159
•	Failure to keep dog under control	11
•	Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	3
•	False statement of registration	1
5.6	Prosecutions.	
▪	Dog attack stock incident Upper Moutere 21 May 2013	
•	Dog destroyed with owner consent prior to hearing	
•	Charge; DCA 1996 Section 57(2) dog attack animal.	
•	Fined \$500.	
•	Reparation \$10,347 Costs \$210.	
▪	Dog attack horse incident Rabbit Island 22 May 2013.	
•	Dog destroyed with owner consent prior to hearing.	
•	Charges; DCA 1996 Section 57(2) dog attack animal and LGA 2002 Section 239 Contravention of local bylaw.	
•	Fined \$600.00 (\$300 each charge).	
•	Reparation \$1250, Costs \$340.	
▪	Dog attack pet lamb incident Upper Moutere 30 October 2013.	
•	Dog destroyed at time of incident.	
•	Charges; DCA 1996 Sections 42(1) failing to register and 57(2) dog attack animal.	
•	Fines; Section 42.(1) \$200, Section 57(2) \$500	
•	Reparation \$80, Costs \$499.	
5.7	Complaints	
•	Unfenced property	1
•	Unregistered dog	12
•	Attack domestic pet	70
•	Attack stock	33
•	Attack human	42
•	Barking	410
•	Fouling	12

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- Rushing 49
- Wandering 304
- Welfare 81
- Dog in restricted area 10
- Dog not on leash 5
- Dog not under control 32
- Excess number of dogs 2

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 contribute 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 1996 and the expectations of the public.

11 Next Steps / Timeline

- 11.1 On adoption; give public notice of Report REP15-01-03.
- 11.2 Within one month of adoption provide a copy of Report REP15-01-03 to the Secretary for Local Government.

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- **Attachments**

Nil