

2024

7.4 DOG CONTROL ACT SECTION 10A REPORT

Information Only - No Decision Required

Report To:	Environment and Regulatory Committee
Meeting Date:	29 August 2024
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Report Number:	RRC24-08-4

1. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 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 2023 to 30 June 2024. It is a requirement of the DCA that a copy of this report be made publicly available once adopted.
- 1.2 Dog numbers have continued to increase in urban areas.
- 1.3 One more person was disqualified from dog ownership.
- 1.4 Complaint numbers have fallen, notably those related to wandering/found, dogs barking and attacks on stock.

2. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Environment and Regulatory Committee

1. receives the Dog Control Act section 10a report.

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 full review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy is currently out for public submissions.
- 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.

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- 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 2023 to June 2024
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5.1 Number of dog owners in the district.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of dog owners in the district	8,308	8,584	8,770
Probationary owners	1	2	2
Disqualified owners	5	8	9

5.2 Number of registered dogs in the district

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of registered dogs in the district	12,160	12,439	12,577
Rural dogs	5,948	6,036	6,004
Urban dogs	6,212	6,403	6,573

5.3 Dogs classified Dangerous DCA Section 31

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Sec 31 1(a) due to owner conviction	1	2	0
Sec 31 1(b) due to sworn evidence	6	6	17
Sec 31 1(c) due to owner admission	0	0	1

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5.4 Number of dogs classified as Menacing under DCA Section 33

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Sec 33A (Observed or Reported Behavior)	18	20	18
Sec 33C (By Breed)	6	5	2

5.5 Infringement Notices Issued

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Failure to comply with effects of classification	3	2	4
Failure/refusal to supply information	1	0	0
False statement of registration	0	0	1
Failing to register dog	85	149	182
Failure to keep dog under control	10	6	19
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined	7	25	47
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice	1	6	0
Failure to comply with Bylaw	1	9	2
Failure to implant microchip transponder	3	4	1
Wilful obstruction of Officer	0	0	0
Failure to comply with dangerous dog classification	3	4	2
Allowing unmuzzled dangerous dog	1	0	0

Prosecutions

- 5.6 Tasman District Councils legal proceedings in one case has been initiated, with charges officially filed in the courts. The hearing is scheduled to take place in December 2024

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Complaints

5.7 The following complaints were received:

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Unregistered dog	5	18	8
Attack domestic pet	16	35	28
Attack stock	21	18	15
Attack human	46	33	40
Barking	394	407	389
Fouling	4	2	4
Rushing	41	32	38
Wandering/found	732	665	584
Welfare	16	14	11
Dog in restricted area	6	5	6
Dog not on leash	3	4	7
Dog not under control	17	6	9
Unfenced property	3	3	1
Excess number of dogs	0	1	1
Total	1304	1243	1141

6. Strategy and Risks

- 6.1 The Dog Control operation serves as a highly visible public service, and its role in ensuring the welfare and management of dogs is pivotal to realising community goals that support the creation of and promote safe and healthy communities.
- 6.2 The trend of rising dog populations continues within the district, with a notable dominance of dogs in urban areas compared to their rural counterparts.
- 6.3 Failure to provide a robust and efficient dog control service would conflict with our fundamental principles of Kawenga (responsibility) and Manaakitanga (hospitality and kindness), which are integral to our community ethos.

7. Legal Requirements

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

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- 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 report for the current period reflects a promising trend of diminishing complaints regarding dogs, alongside a rise in the dog population. This indicates a successful balance between the enforcement of regulations and the community's needs. The current enforcement strategy not only aligns with the stipulations of the DCA but also resonates well with public expectations. These metrics underscores our commitment to fostering a harmonious coexistence between our canine companions and the community at large.

10. Next Steps

- 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.

1. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

Nil