



REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Cr Trevor Norriss, Rural Services Committee Chairperson

REFERENCE: D400

SUBJECT: **MICRO-CHIPPING DOGS - EP06/05/14** – Report Prepared for 1 June 2006 Meeting

The recent debate / debacle regarding the micro-chipping of all dogs first registered after July this year has seen the need for this report.

We need to remember why this legislation was instigated; it was seen as a means of identifying dogs after a series of vicious attacks on people in various areas around New Zealand. The majority of these dogs were not registered and will not be micro-chipped either. The inclusion of a micro-chip in any dog or having dogs on a national database will not prevent this happening in the future.

All dog owners, of which the vast majority are responsible owners, are going to pay the increased costs associated with this legislation, council costs in associated staff time and policing of this scheme are another issue.

Federated Farmers have lobbied Local Government and Central Government to have rural dogs exempted and at this stage it seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Treasury also advised Government not to proceed with this scheme.

After looking at all the facts, costs etc it will be my recommendation to Council (unless there is some compelling evidence presented to change my view):

1. That the Tasman District Council continues its dog registration as per normal and does not require the micro-chipping of rural or urban dogs first registered after July 2006.
2. That the Tasman District Council investigates a policy of micro-chipping of problem dogs and all associated costs to be paid for by the owners of those dogs.
3. The Tasman District Council does not pay the \$7,501 allocation requested as payment for the National Dog Database levy.

Cr Trevor Norriss
Rural Services Committee Chairperson