

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Regulatory Services Coordinator
REFERENCE: D402-1
DATE: 10 August 2009
SUBJECT: Tasman District Council Policy on Dogs 2009 and Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 2: Dog Control 2009

Report Prepared for Council meeting of 20 August 2009.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is the final step in the policy and bylaw making process that was necessary to update the Tasman District Council Policy on Dogs 2004 and the associated document Tasman District Council Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 2: Dog Control Bylaw 2004.
- 1.2 At the Council Meeting of 4 and 5 August 2009, submissions from the public were heard by Council. At the conclusion of the staff report (report EP09/08/05) the amended draft Tasman District Council Policy on Dogs 2009 (the Policy) and Tasman District Council Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 2: Dog Control Bylaw 2009 (the Bylaw) and 14 subsequent amendments were adopted by resolution of Council for inclusion in the draft Policy and Bylaw.
- 1.3 The amendments adopted by Council at the meeting of 5 August have now been incorporated into the draft Policy and Bylaw and these are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Also incorporated were a number of minor editorial changes that corrected typographical and semantic errors and made minor changes to format. All of these editorial changes were solely for improving clarity and do not alter the meaning or intent of either document.

2. Additional Information

- 2.1 Council directed that two matters be further researched, and I report as follows:
 - 2.1.1 Possible Dog Prohibition Areas for Pearl and Niemann Creeks.

Pearl Creek is the more sensitive of these two areas, having received considerable efforts in recent years both in plantings and pest control. Discussions with Councils Reserves Manager reveals that the stop bank in this area is intended to be part of

a wider network of walkways and cycleways and that process would be complicated by dogs being prohibited in the immediate area of Pearl Creek. She is aware of a number of people that already use the area to walk dogs. The Reserves Manager is happy to help fund signs in the sensitive areas that will draw dog owner's attention to the need of keeping dogs on leads or closely controlled in that area. That seems a pragmatic solution which is consistent with the intent in other similarly sensitive areas such as Jimmy Lee Creek and the northern end of the Motueka Sandspit.

Niemanns Creek has been re-assessed and much of the sensitive area is on private land on which there is no public access for walkers. The remaining area is uninviting for dog walkers at the moment due to the muddy nature of the intertidal zone. This area can be managed in a similar way to Pearl Creek with signage where necessary when the planned foreshore walkway eventually reaches that part of the Waimea Inlet.

- 2.1.2 Appointment of Department of Conservation staff in Golden Bay as honorary dog control officers.
- 2.1.2.1 Communication with Department of Conservation (DoC) managers in Motueka and Takaka established that by mutual arrangement with Council, 15 appointments had been made of DoC staff as honorary dog control officers under the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996. Those appointments had unfortunately expired, but DoC has confirmed the desire to renew such appointments, and will soon be presenting Council staff with lists of appropriate staff. At least eight such appointments were intended for staff working from the Takaka office of DoC.

3. Recommendation:

- 1. **THAT the Tasman District Council, ratifies the "Amended Draft Policy on Dogs 2009" as attached in Appendix 1, and "Amended Draft Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 2: Dog Control 2009" as attached in Appendix 2, and that the draft amended Policy and Bylaw be adopted by Council and come into force on 12 September 2009:**

**Graham Caradus
Coordinator Regulatory Services**

Appendix 1: Amended Draft Tasman District Council Policy on Dogs 2009
Appendix 2: Amended Draft Tasman District Council Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 2: Dog Control Bylaw 2009