

**QLDC Council**  
**28 October 2021****Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take 5****Department: Finance, Legal & Regulatory****Title | Taitara Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2020 - 2021****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO**

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The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the dog control policy and practices undertaken in the 2020/2021 financial year, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

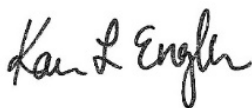
**RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA**

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That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report;
2. **Adopt** the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2020/2021, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996;
3. **Approve** the publication of the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2020/2021; and
4. **Direct** Council staff to forward a copy of the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2020/2021 to the Secretary for Local Government.

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14/10/2021

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14/10/2021

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## CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

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- 1 The Dog Control Act 1996 (“Act”) requires Council to report on the administration of its dog control practices and dog control policy each financial year.
- 2 The report must include details regarding:
  - The number of registered dogs, probationary owners and disqualified owners in the district;
  - The number of dogs classified menacing or dangerous as a result of their actions, and the number of dogs classified as menacing by the type or breed; and;
  - Infringement notices issued, the type and number of complaints received and prosecutions taken.
- 3 The Act also requires that the report of these activities must be publicly notified in one or more daily newspapers circulating in the district, or one or more newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in the district to that of daily newspaper.
- 4 A copy of the report (Attachment A) must also be forwarded to the Secretary for the Local Government within one month after adopting the report.
- 5 The report details the dog control activities undertaken by Queenstown Lakes District Council in the 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 financial year.

## ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

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- 6 Council has specifically identified dog control within its Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy. The specific objective of the Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy is to “Increase the level of voluntary compliance with the law through effective and appropriate education or enforcement activity”.

The key areas and figures within the report are:

- a) **Additional goals** Several additional initiatives have been achieved (over and above regular patrol and response), enabling us to work closely with the public, as described below:
  - Working with primary schools and local children’s groups to help educate children around approaching dogs and local bylaws on dog control (I.e. Clue Up Kids;
  - Media education to the public for control of dogs whilst promoting the dog walk events; Signage was installed throughout the district for control of dogs; Additional dog waste bag dispensers placed in high priority locations (I.e. Lake Hayes Estate);

- Additional regular weekend and out of hours patrols targeting popular walking trails: Queenstown Hill & Matakauri park;
- Targeted patrol in high volume public areas;
- Hosting the Queenstown and Wanaka dog walks
- Providing free dog training classes in Queenstown & Wanaka; and
- Purchased crates for the purpose of use in emergency situations, which we intend to build on each year.

b) **Registered Dogs** There was a 6.31% increase in the number of registered dogs from 5388 in 2019-20 to 5728 in 2020-21. This increase is lower than the 2019-20 increase of 7.05% however does fall in line with previous annual increases.

c) **Classification of Dogs** There are four dangerous dogs registered currently, which remains unchanged from the previous registration period. One dog was newly classified as dangerous due to an attack on stock and one dog was notified as deceased.

There are 13 menacing dogs registered currently, one dog was newly classified as menacing by behaviour, as a result of an attack on two people. This is down from 17 in 2019-20 as there were four menacing dogs notified as deceased and one menacing dog notified as transferred out of the District.

d) **Probationary and Disqualified owners** There is currently one disqualified owner in the district whose disqualified status expires on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. After this date the status will be removed and this owner will no longer have any owner restrictions.

e) **Attacks** The total number of dog attacks has reduced by 12.9%, from 62 reported attacks in 2019-20 to 54 reported attacks in 2020-21.

There has been a 35.8% decrease in attacks on animals, from 53 reported attacks in 2019-20 to 34 reported attacks in 2020-21. One of these attacks resulted in a dangerous classification on the dog.

The number of attacks on humans has increased by 100%, from 8 in 2019-20 to 16 in 2020-21. Two of these attacks were categorised as serious, however these occurred consecutively on the same day by the same dog. As a result the dog was classified as menacing by behaviour.

There was 1 attack on stock (worrying stock) in 2019/20, this increased to 4 in 2020/21.

f) **Roaming Dogs** Roaming dogs is the area which results in the most Requests For Service (RFS) from the community and is where we spend the largest proportion of time responding, educating and enforcing.

The number of reported roaming dogs has increased from of 506 in 2019-20 to 552 in 2020-21. However, in 2020-21 the number of reported roaming dogs in the district has stayed relatively the same as previous registration years in proportion to the number of dogs registered.

- f) **Impounded Dogs** There has been a decrease in the number of dogs impounded from 68 impounds occurring in 2019-20 to 53 dogs impounded in 2020-21. In 2020-21 this correlates to 0.93% of the dogs registered in the district. Council continues to focus on reuniting dogs with their owners rather than impounding if the roaming occurrence is a first-time offence and if the dog has previous positive history.
- g) **Barking Complaints** The number of complaints for barking dogs received has increased from 164 in 2019-20 to 251 in 2020-21. This increase in numbers could be a reflection of more members of the community working from home. Council continues to provide the free use of anti-bark devices to dog owners. This year the Animal Control Officers invested in more voice recorded bark collars to meet current welfare standards and also held free dog training classes in both Queenstown and Wanaka with a qualified dog behaviourist.
- h) **Infringements** There has been a decrease in the number of infringements issued from 53 in 2019-20 to 43 in 2020-21. 36 of those infringements were issued to owners for failing to register their dog at the start of the registration year. This number has decreased from 43 in the previous registration year. Additional time was given to dog owners in 2020-21 to make payment for registration, due to Covid 19, which may have contributed to less infringements being issued.

Despite receiving 251 barking dog complaints, no infringements were issued for failing to comply with a barking dog abatement notice. All barking complaints were resolved as dog owners were cooperative and successfully worked towards reducing their dogs' barking behavior.

## 7 Option 1 Adopt the Dog Control Policies and Practices Report 2020/2021

### *Advantages:*

- 8 Legislative compliance. This enables Council to comply with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

### *Disadvantages:*

- 9 There is a small cost to publicly notify this report.

## 10 Option 2 Reject the Dog Control Policies and Practices Report 2020/2021

### *Advantages:*

- 11 No cost to publicly notify this report.

### *Disadvantages:*

- 12 Council will fail to comply with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- 13 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because it is a statutory requirement for Council to adopt and publicly notify its annual dog control policy and practices report.

## **CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:**

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### **> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA**

- 14 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because there is a low impact on our environment and culture from the decision of the report.
- 15 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are dog owners, Residents/Ratepayers, Visitors and other councils.
- 16 The Council will place an advertisement in the local newspaper to advise the public of this report being available on the QLDC Website.

### **> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA**

- 17 The Council will place an advertisement in the local newspaper to advise the public of this report being available on the QLDC website.

## **RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA**

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- 18 This matter relates to the Regulatory/Legal/Compliance risk category. It is associated with OR004 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating.
- 19 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to retain the risk at its current level. This shall be achieved by putting measures in place which directly impact the risk, through Council's response to urgent Requests for Service within two hours across the District, conducting routine dog control patrols, enforcing Council's Dog Policy and education programmes for schools around dogs and safety.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA**

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- 20 The costs associated with publicly notifying the adoption of the Dog Control Policy and Practices will be met from current budgets.

## COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

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21 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- Dog Control Policy 2020 – This policy provides the principal rules regarding dog control throughout the District;
- Significance and Engagement Policy – The decision is not significant, as the report is to be noted and does not detail further action;
- Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy – This policy outlines Council’s enforcement approach and options available.
- Reference alignment with and consideration of the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/our-vision-mission>
- A catalogue of policies, strategies and bylaws is available here or consult with the Corporate policy team: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/policies>
- The QLDC Disability Policy should be considered in most if not all cases. You can read a copy of the policy here: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-documents/policies>

22 The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policy/policies.

23 This matter is included in the Ten Year Plan/Annual Plan

- Volume 1 – Regulatory functions and services

## LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES | KA TURE WHAIWHAKAARO, ME KĀ TAKOHAKA WAETURE

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24 Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires the Council to adopt a dog control policy and practices report annually. A copy of the report must be sent to the Secretary for Local Government, and must be publicly notified following its adoption.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

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25 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by awareness of the educational and enforcement matters identified;

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

## ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

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A	Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2020/2021
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