

**QLDC Council
10 October 2019**

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take: 13

Department: Finance, Legal & Regulatory

Title | Taitara Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2018 - 2019

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

Purpose

To inform Council on the dog control policy and practices undertaken in the 2018/2019 financial year, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report
2. **Adopt** the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2018/2019, in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996;
3. **Approve** the publication of the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2018/2019; and
4. **Direct** Council staff to forward a copy of the Dog Control Policy and Practices report 2018/2019 to the Secretary for Local Government.

Prepared by:



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Animal Control Officer

26/09/2019

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Carrie Edgerton
Regulatory Support Coordinator

26/09/2019

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 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 2018 – 30 June 2019 financial year.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

- 6 Council has identified dog control as a primary area of focus within its Enforcement Strategy and Enforcement Action Plan. The specific objective of the Action Plan is to “ensure a safe environment from roaming and aggressive dogs for our community”.

The key areas and figures within the report are:

- a) Additional goals achieved above regular patrol and response as per below has enabled us to work closely with the public.
 - Working with primary schools and local children’s groups to help educate children around approaching dogs and local bylaws on dog control.
 - Media education distributed to the public around control of dogs and roaming dogs.
 - Working alongside local events to ensure control of dogs and education is provided.
 - Additional dog waste bag dispensers placed in high priority locations;
 - Additional regular weekend ACO patrols targeting popular walking trails.

- Target patrol in high volume public areas.
- b) **Registered Dogs** There was a 4.07% increase in the number of registered dogs (4836 in 2017-18 to 5033 in 2018/19). Despite this growth the number of complaints are down 1272 to 1161.
- c) **Microchipping** During 2018/2019 ACOs targeted 200 dogs that had no micro-chip numbers as required by the Dog Control Act 1996, Of these, 180 owners provided their dogs' micro-chip numbers when contacted (90%). 20 dog owners failed to comply with the micro-chip requirement and five of these were subsequently issued infringements.
- d) **Classification of Dogs** There were four dangerous dogs registered during this year, which remains unchanged from the previous period. Two dogs were newly classified as menacing by behaviour, these were both the results of serious attacks on humans. Two Dogs transferred into Queenstown Lakes that were previously classified in another district, one due to Breed and one due to behaviour. Despite these additions, menacing dogs in our district have dropped from 19 to 17 as a result of deaths and relocating out of district.
- e) **Probationary and Disqualified owners** We have one Probationary owner in our district, which has not changed from the previous year 2017/2018. No disqualified owners.
- f) **Attacks** We have seen a significant reduction in attacks overall from 73 in 2017/2018 to 64 in 2018/2019 showing a 12.3% decrease. However serious attacks on humans has increased from 2 in 2017/2018 to 4 in 2018/2019 resulting in 2 classifications, 1 Warning and 1 No action due to unidentified attacking dog and an increase in minor attacks on other animals from 25 to 37.
- g) **Roaming Dogs** The number of roaming dogs reported to us has decreased from 563 in 2017/2018 to 498 in 2018/2019. This is the first time in four years we have seen this number reduce.
- h) **Impounded Dogs** There was an increase in the number of impounded dogs during 2018/2019, an increase of 34 impounded dogs, from 110 in 2017/18 to 144 in 2018/19
- i) **Complaints** There was a decrease in the number of complaints regarding barking dogs from 205 to 159. One infringement was issued for failing to comply with a barking dog abatement notice. ACOs continue to provide education to owners of barking dogs along with the free use of anti-bark devices.
- j) **Infringements** We have seen a significant decrease in infringements issued from 67 in 2017/2018 to 38 in 2018/2019. This decrease is predominantly due to a drop in infringements issued for Failure to implant microchip responder in dog, 20 were issued in 2017/2018 and only 5 issued in 2018/2019 this being due to owners already receiving an infringement in the previous year.

There has been no change to impound fees last financial year,

- First impound \$125
- Second impound \$200 + \$200 infringement
- Third impound \$300 + \$200 infringement

7 Option 1 Adopt the Dog Control Policies and Practices Report 2018/2019

Advantages:

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

Disadvantages:

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

10 Option 2 Reject the Dog Control Policies and Practices Report 2018/2019

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, as it is a statutory requirement for Council to adopt and publicly notify its annual dog control policy and practices report.

14 Advice To meet the legal requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 15 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.
- 16 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are dog owners, Residents/Ratepayers, visitors and other councils.
- 17 The Council has/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

18 The Council has/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

19 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.

20 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 Councils response to urgent Requests for Service within two hours across the district, conducting routine dog control patrols, enforcing Councils Dog Policy and education programmes for schools around dogs and safety.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

21 The costs associated with publically 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

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

- Dog Control Policy – 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;
- Council 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/vision-beyond-2050/>
- A catalogue of policies, strategies and bylaws is available here or consult with the Corporate policy team: <https://www.qldc.govt.nz/council-online/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/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Disability-Policy-May-2018.pdf>
- Refer to online documents here: <http://www.qldc.govt.nz/policies>

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

24 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

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

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 raising 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

- A Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2018/2019