

To:	Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
From:	Terri Mulligan, Environmental Services Manager Tania Madden, Manager Strategic Planning
Endorsed by:	David Hopman, Acting Chief Executive
Date:	25 July 2018
Subject:	Section 10A report of Dog Control Act 1996
RECOMMENDATION	
Recommendation:	That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee recommends Council adopt the Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the 2017/18 registration year.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit the Practices Report for the 2017/2018 registration year for recommendation to Council for adoption.

Dog Control Policy & Practices Report for 2017/2018

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (see Attachment 1) requires Councils to report annually on specified dog control activities. Once adopted by Council, this must be publicly notified.

One of the highlights for the year was the adoption of the Dog Policy. The Animal Services team worked along with Policy team to review and amend the Dog Policy. Animal Services were extremely pleased with the public engagement throughout the process.

Key points to note from the report (see Attachment 2) are:

- The registration of dogs has increased by 130. This is a result of both new dog owners, and staff following up on unregistered owners to ensure their dogs are registered.
- The number of dogs classified as ‘menacing by deed’ has declined to 47 (from 65 and 58 in the previous two years). The number of dogs classified as ‘menacing by breed’ has increased. This is due the success of the “Get Kuri fixed” campaign which encouraged the owners of menacing dogs to register and de-sex their dogs.
- The number of infringements has increased substantially. This reflects a dedicated effort from staff to follow up on unregistered dogs over the past twelve months. The vast majority of infringements issued were for failing to register dogs. The team will continue to follow up with dog owners who fail to register their dogs.
- Overall, service request calls have remained steady compared to the previous two years. There has been a continuing decline in the overall number of reported dog attacks – from 73 in 2015/16 to 58 in 2017/18. The biggest declines have been in the number of attacks on other animals. The number of attacks on people is comparable with the 2015/16 year, following a decline last year.

- Fouling, welfare & general nuisance calls have continued to reduce over the previous two years.
- Administration service requests have increased substantially from 66 the previous year to 186 over the last twelve months. Staff attribute this to the issuing of notices to register, dog owners subsequently making payment arrangements for registration, and responsible dog owner applications.
- There were no prosecutions over the year.
- There were 40 more dogs impounded than the previous year.
- Just over 10% of dogs impounded were euthanised. The vast majority were returned to owners.

Attachment 1: Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 states –

Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

(1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of—

- *(a) its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and*
- *(b) its dog control practices.*

(2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to—

- *(a) the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district:*
- *(b) the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district:*
- *(c) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:*
- *(d) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:*
- *(e) the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:*
- *(f) the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:*
- *(g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.*

(3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report—

- *(a) by means of a notice published in—*
 - *(i) 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or*
 - *(ii) 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and*
- *(b) by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.*

(4) The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

Attachment 2

Annual Animal Services Report 2017/18

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A)(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Number of Registered Dogs:

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Number of dog registered by council	5426	5484	5614

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31):

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Dangerous by owner conviction S31 (1)(a)	4	2	3
Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b)	2	2	2
Total Dangerous Dogs	6	4	5

Number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 33A and 33C):

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Menacing by Breed S33C	74	104	121
Menacing by Deed S33A	65	58	47
Total Menacing Dogs	139	162	168

Number of infringements notices issued:

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Infringement notices issued	7	8	124

Number of classified dog owners:

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Disqualified Owners	1	1	0

Number and nature of requests for service received:

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
barking complaints	283	225	246
attack human	22	17	24
attack stock, domestic animal & poultry	51	48	34
rushing	39	63	44
wandering & stray/ roaming/ lost	702	883	856
unsociable behaviour on private property	38	24	28
fouling, welfare & general nuisance	333	157	109
administration	12	66	186
Breach of bylaw	4	6	5
Total	1529	1546	1535

Impounding and Rehoming

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Total dogs impounded	235	239	279
Dogs returned to owner	141	173	207
Dogs rehomed	12	21	14
Dogs signed over the SPCA	7	13	28
Dogs euthanized	75	32	30