

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

18 DECEMBER 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 7

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Reviewed by Simon Bastion
Group Manager Regulatory Services

Attachments

1. Annual Statistical Information
2. What Your Registration Pays For
3. Extract From Dog Control Act 1996
4. Policy s10a(1)(a)

Public Excluded: No

ADOPTION OF REPORT UNDER SECTION 10A OF THE DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report is an overview of Animal Management practices and statistical information pursuant to s10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 relating to the 2023 / 2024 financial year. This report is required to be adopted by Council and publicly notified before a copy is sent to the Secretary for Local Government.

2. Section 10A of the Act requires Council to report on the administration of its Dog Control Policy and practices each financial year. It also specifies certain information that must be included in the report.

3. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

1. **That Council adopts the Buller District Council Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the 2023/2024 financial year.**

2. **That the Secretary for Local Government is advised that it has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.**

4. **ISSUES & DISCUSSION**

5. **BACKGROUND**

The *Dog Control Policy* and the supporting Bylaw are enforcement tools for ensuring that the legislation is complied with. Day to day dog control is enforced in accordance with the graduated response model and only in the event of continued non-compliance or sufficiently serious matters are infringement notices or prosecution options pursued.

6. The majority of the known dog owners within the district are responsible and compliant. Animal Control Officers have focused on educating the non-compliant owners and while this is more time consuming, we generally achieve a positive result.

7. An outline of the dog control activities undertaken by Animal Control Officers, entitled "*What Your [Dog] Registration Pays For*" is attached as Annex B. This document is used as an educational tool for dog owners.

8. Current activities include recognition for dog owners displaying positive behaviour and provision of information about responsible dog ownership.

9. Animal Management continue to work with DAWGS who are a non-profit organisation operating in the Buller District. They are financed via local fundraising initiatives and have assisted by covering the cost to spay or neuter impounded dogs so that they may be suitable for rehoming.

10. Social media remains an effective communication platform for delivering consistent messaging. Our posts highlight dogs available for adoption, registration date reminders etc. Notably social media has reunited lost dogs with owners.

11. Animal Management will be holding another Mutt dog show in 2025, as part of the annual A & P show. This event is always immensely popular and positive. Classes such as the obstacle course always attract a big crowd.

12. **OPTIONS**

There is a legislative requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices and make the report publicly available in the same year. This report is submitted for adoption in accordance with those legislative requirements

13. **Advantages**
Council meets its obligations of the Act by adopting the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices thus maintaining legislative requirements.
14. **Disadvantages**
Failure to adopt the report would mean council breaches the ACT.
15. **PREFERRED OPTION**
Adopt the report as per the recommendations.
16. **NEXT STEPS**
The Secretary for Local Government is advised that it has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.
17. **CONSIDERATIONS**
18. **Strategic Impact**
The adoption of the attached Annual Report is an administrative function required of Council under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is therefore of low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
19. **Significance Assessment**
Section 76AA of the Local Government Act requires the Council to adopt a policy on significance and engagement. The Council Policy on significance can be found by clicking the following link:
20. <https://bullaerdc.govt.nz/media/f2ofzb4z/buller-district-council-significance-and-engagement-policy-2021-2031-ltp.pdf>
21. As this item does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online
22. **Risk Management Implications / Opportunities**
The following risks or opportunities are identified with the issues identified in this report:
23. If Council does not adopt a report on its Dog Control Policy and practices for the 2023/2024 financial year, it will not meet the requirements of section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
24. **Engagement - external**
No external engagement has been conducted.

25. **Engagement – internal**
The Senior Leadership Team has reviewed the report and approved the release to council for consideration
26. **Policy & Legislative Considerations**
The Report can be used to measure the effectiveness of Council’s Dog Control Policy and practices, and to inform their review.
27. Once adopted, the Act requires Council to give public notice of the Report and send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government within one month of its adoption
28. **Māori Impact Statement**
The decision does not involve a significant decision in relation to ancestral land or a body of water or other elements of intrinsic value, therefore this decision does not specifically impact Tangata Whenua, their culture and traditions.
29. **Financial Considerations**
There is no financial implication relevant to this decision
30. **Communication Internal / External**
As this item does not trigger Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online.