



# AGENDA

Meeting of the  
**Regulatory and Hearings Committee**

**Commencing at 11:30am**  
**Wednesday 29 November 2023**

*To be held at the*  
Clocktower Chambers  
Palmerston Street  
Westport



## CORE COUNCILLOR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governance role entails:

- Strategic planning and decision-making;
- Policy and strategy review;
- Community leadership and engagement, and stewardship;
- Setting appropriate levels of service;
- Maintaining a financially sustainable organisation; and
- Oversight/scrutiny of Council's performance as one team.

The governance role focusses on the big picture of 'steering the boat' - management's role focusses on 'rowing the boat'

Our commitments to best support each other and meet the challenges and opportunities of 2023 include:

### CLEAR AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

We are committed to:

- Actively listening and not interrupting;
- Remaining conscious of 'tone', body language, and amount of time speaking (allowing time for others);
- Responding/answering in a timely manner; and
- Being honest, reasonable, and transparent.

### TRUST AND RESPECT

We recognise that trust and respect must be earned and that a team without trust isn't really a team. Trust can be built by:

- Valuing long-term relationships;
- being honest; honouring commitments; admitting when you're wrong; communicating effectively; being transparent; standing up for what's right; showing people that you care; being helpful; and being vulnerable.

### CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Continuous learning and improvement are critical for growing together as a team.

We are committed to constantly reviewing what is going well and what needs to improve in relation to the way we work together, the processes we follow, and the outcomes we deliver.

NONE OF US IS AS SMART AS ALL OF US

# Regulatory, Hearings and Planning Committee

<b>Reports To:</b>	The Council
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Graeme Neylon
<b>Membership:</b>	The Mayor, all Councillors and Māori Representative
<b>Meeting Frequency:</b>	As required
<b>Quorum:</b>	The composition of any Regulatory Hearings Committee for quorum purposes to be determined by the Chairperson

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## Purpose

1. To conduct fair and effective hearings and make determinations on a range of the Council's quasi-judicial functions under legislation and other matters as referred to the Committee.
2. Ensuring Buller is performing to the highest standard in the area of civil defence and emergency management through:
  - a) Implementation of Government requirements.
  - b) Contractual service delivery arrangements with the West Coast Regional Group Emergency Management Office.

***In addition to the common delegations on page 7, the Regulatory, Hearings and Planning Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:***

## Terms of Reference:

1. Hear and determine any statutory or regulatory hearings under relevant legislation unless otherwise delegated by Council, including (but without limitation):
  - objections under the Dog Control Act 1996;
  - matters regarding drainage and works on private land under the Local Government Act 1974 and Local Government Act 2002;
  - proposals for temporary closure of any road;
  - Supply and Sale of Alcohol Act 2012.
2. Guide the review of Council's bylaws, and policies required by statute (other than those incorporated in the Long Term Plan).
3. Hear and determine matters arising under current bylaws, including applications for dispensation from compliance with the requirements of bylaws, unless such matters are otherwise delegated by Council.

4. Hear and determine other matters that require hearings or submissions, as referred by Council or other Committees.

**The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:**

- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.

**The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:**

- The Committee may make recommendation to the Council.
- The Committee may make recommendations to Committees.

**Special Notes:**

- The Committee may request expert advice through an independent advisor when necessary.
- The Committee may appoint additional members for hearings where the relevant terms of reference or statute specify the requirement for expert, external or additional representation.
- The Chief Executive Officer, Group Manager Regulatory Services are required to attend all meetings but are not members and have no voting rights. Other Council officers may attend the committee meetings, as required.
- Written updates may be requested to be provided to Council meeting from the Chair and Group Manager Regulatory Services from time to time.

**Oversight of Policies:**

- *Dangerous, Earthquake-prone and Insanitary Buildings*
- *Class 4 Gambling and Totalisator Agency Board Venue*
- *Dog Control*
- *Vegetation Overhanging Footpaths*
- *Election Signs*
- *Fencing of Swimming Pools*
- *Commercial Trading*
  - *Alcohol Consumption & Dining on Public Footpaths*
  - *Display of goods Furniture or Sandwich Board Signs*
  - *Mobile Shops*
  - *Street Stalls Raffles, Appeals & Busking*



# Regulatory and Hearings Committee

29 November 2023 11:30 AM



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**REGULATORY AND HEARINGS COMMITTEE**

**29 NOVEMBER 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Prepared by** Steve Gibling  
Chief Executive Officer

**APOLOGIES**

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**1. REPORT SUMMARY**

That the Regulatory & Hearings Committee receive any apologies or requests for leave of absence from elected members.

**2. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

**That there are no apologies to be received and no requests for leave of absence.**

**OR**

**That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee receives apologies from (insert Councillor name) and accepts Councillor (insert name) request for leave of absence.**

# REGULATORY AND HEARINGS COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2023

## AGENDA ITEM 2

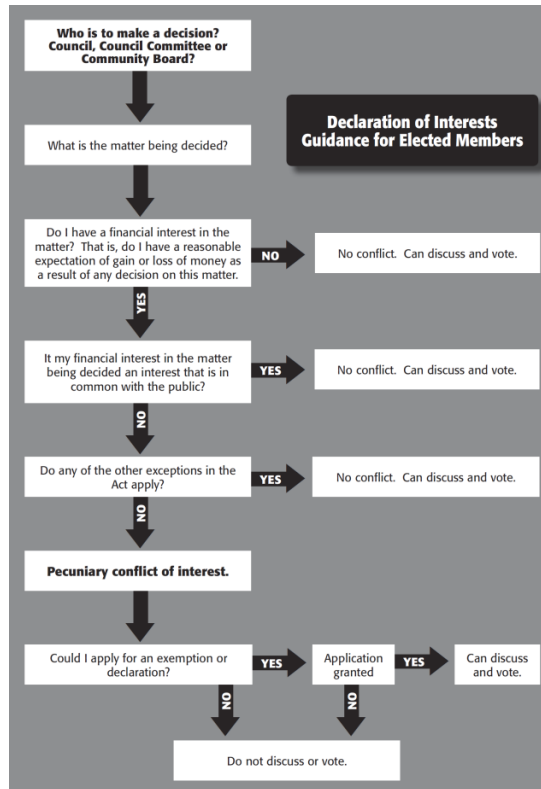
Prepared by Steve Gibling  
Chief Executive Officer

### MEMBERS INTEREST

Members are encouraged to consider the items on the agenda and disclose whether they believe they have a financial or non-financial interest in any of the items in terms of Council's Code of Conduct.

Councillors are encouraged to advise the Governance Assistant, of any changes required to their declared Members Interest Register.

The attached flowchart may assist members in making that determination (Appendix A from Code of Conduct).



### DRAFT RECOMMENDATION:

**That Members disclose any financial or non-financial interest in any of the agenda items.**

**REGULATORY AND HEARINGS COMMITTEE**

**29 NOVEMBER 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Prepared by** Steve Gibling  
Chief Executive Officer

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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**1. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee receive and confirm previous minutes from the meeting of 11 October 2023.**

**MEETING OF THE REGULATORY & HEARINGS COMMITTEE, HELD AT 5.00PM  
ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2023 AT CLOCKTOWER CHAMBERS,  
PALMERSTON STREET, WESTPORT.**

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**PRESENT:** Chair Cr G Neylon, Mayor J Cleine, DM A Basher, Councillors P Grafton, J Howard, T O'Keefe, A Pfahlert, C Reidy, R Sampson, L Webb, G Weston, N Tauwhare (Iwi Representative)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Gibling (CEO), Mike D (Infrastructure GM), J Ruiz (Waste coordinator), G Barrell (Governance Secretary), A Naik (Legal Assistant)

**MEETING DECLARED OPEN AT 08:31am**

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**1. APOLOGIES (Page 5)**

DM A Basher, N Tauwhare (Iwi Representative).

**RESOLVED** that the Regulatory & Hearings Committee receives apologies from Councillor DM A Basher and N Tauwhare.

**Cr. A Pfahlert/ Cr. L Webb**  
**10/10**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. MEMBERS INTEREST (Page 6)**

Nil

**RESOLVED** that Members disclose any financial or non-financial interest in any of the agenda items.

**Cr. G Weston/Cr. A Pfahlert**  
**10/10**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (Page 7)**

Nil

**RESOLVED** that the Regulatory and Hearings Committee receive and confirm previous minutes from the meeting of 17 May 2023.

**Cr. P Grafton/ Cr. O Keefe  
10/10  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 2025 CONSULTATION REPORT (Page 13)**

Nil.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

1. Receives this report for Information;
2. Hear those submitters who indicated they wished to speak to their submission; and
3. Will deliberate at a Regulatory & Hearings Committee meeting to be set at future date.

**Cr. L Webb/ Cr. A Pfahlert  
10/10  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Submission Number	Time Slot	Name	Opinion	Comments	Notes
P180	8.40 - 8.50	Alun Bollinger	Oppose	<p>Distinct disadvantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bin system ties BDC into shipping waste away for years to come.</li> <li>• Should be dealing with our waste closer to source.</li> <li>• BDC could negotiate similar system to ROSCO waste pit to dispose of own rubbish, using small tip truck to tip into a suitable hole.</li> <li>• Potential trap going to a more automated system with specialised bins requiring specialised trucks.</li> <li>• Working with other councils takes away direct local input and problem solving and adds to road miles.</li> <li>• Further action to be taken by our council and Local Government - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ lobby central government for sterner controls on packaging – they create the waste, but we must pay to dispose of it.</li> <li>➢ Much can be done to reduce the amount of waste we produce – needs to begin at the source.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra transport is a concern.</li> <li>• Real recycling is repurposing. Eg: refilling glass bottles.</li> <li>• Question validity- better sorting through the 2-bins system. Attitude and education more important.</li> <li>• If people are made to pay for bins, they'd chuck everything in it.</li> <li>• Main concern- personal responsibility- individual has limited ability to recycle.</li> <li>• Manufacturers and retailers responsible - giant plastic bags, feed for animals comes in plastic, plastic bottles in supermarket.</li> <li>• Encourage less packaging. Many commodities could use less or no packaging.</li> <li>• Power tools contribute to waste.</li> <li>• <b>Better for sorting – 2 bins? Dubious to presume that people have 2 bins.</b></li> </ul>

P136	8.50 - 9.00	Ray Curnow	Strongly Favour	Proposal is universal, fair and likely to lead to more cost-effective and environmentally acceptable outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion- opposed to use of provision of essential services, develops negative outcome.</li> <li>• Our district, we have high rate of recycling. What can we do to reduce rates?</li> <li>• Societies always function when everyone has equal access to service.</li> <li>• Happy to pay more if no one is put under financial pressure. Household with 4+ should get an extra bin without cost. Neighbours who have extra, welcome to put their waste in my bin.</li> <li>• Opposition is due to false interpretation of financial data. Ask councillors to rise above and make the right decision.</li> <li>• <b>What about the data? The calculation doesn't consider we already pay recycle rate and the new rate is inclusive of the existing rate.</b></li> <li>• <b>Family of 5 fill it every fortnight, single person fills it every 6 weeks - Every household should pay uniform rate. Some people may use undesirable methods of waste disposal.</b></li> </ul>
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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large households- additional bins? We need more education for what and how to recycle.</li> <li>• Negative outcomes? Situations where people cannot afford paying. No one should feel they cannot afford waste management. Should be based on cooperation and good will.</li> <li>• 30% of our recycle is contaminated with rubbish which is higher than national outcome.</li> </ul>
#100	9.00 - 9.10	Dennis Straker	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal would increase rates even more; non-users will be subsidising higher users – should not have to pay for mandatory collection when isn't used.</li> <li>• Many retired couples and single people who don't produce as much rubbish as families do, will be penalised by being forced to pay more in rates.</li> <li>• Council is dreaming if they believe this system will reduce fly dumping – this increased after council contracted out rubbish collection and fees went up as people cannot afford it.</li> <li>• Should be user pays and bins supplied to rate payers who want to use the rubbish collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haven't used rubbish bag for more than 22 years.</li> <li>• When council changed to bins, we weren't consulted, it just appeared and added to our rates.</li> <li>• At the time, we were told; more than 100 meters away from the road, did not have to go with the rubbish collection.</li> <li>• What do you do with the waste? Food into compost bins, all bottles and cardboard- taken to the garbage.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you not have any other non-recycling material? Like meat, plastic- Put plastic into open fire.</li> </ul>
P144	9.10 - 9.20	Jan Coll	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doing away with bags may be acceptable –only if a fair and equitable system is introduced so that ratepayers and residents only pay for their share of waste.</li> <li>Imposing bins on everyone is not fair and does not embrace any form of waste reduction.</li> <li>Have suggestions to speak on that are fairer to low volume users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overwhelming majority doesn't support. Representing those who did not submit.</li> <li>Some of the comments- there is no consensus to reduce waste. Pensioners could use smaller bins.</li> <li>Not fair to people who wish to compost. We need to think about our waste. The only people concerned to recycle are the elderly.</li> <li>Paying someone else to look after your rubbish is not the right way.</li> <li>Broken things, rubbish, mattresses etc., washing baskets, people use to get plastic bags to dispose lot of people don't buy and therefore don't throw.</li> <li>How do we determine the silent majority? A report said a lot of people did not submit, so we look at submissions before you as Councillors.</li> <li>People use social media and clubs to connect. Not as many meetings with</li> </ul>

					public as before, to talk to people with direct interests.
#97	9.20 - 9.30	Stephen Griffin	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns the proposal will be costly and doesn't promote recycling.</li> <li>Promote additional volumes of refuse at the expense of recycling.</li> <li>The current contract has been operating for almost 10 years – fit for purpose and only minor adjustments needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contract with smart Environmental, costs of development, legal consultant- contract specific need of council to the district.</li> <li>Council makes no writing provision for residual waste. Prior to contract – Westport had green and blue bin. Contract allows ratepayers to determine how they will pay for their waste.</li> <li>People would fill the bins as they are paying for it and increase the amount of waste. This factor would make pricing a problem - additional costs.</li> <li>Cost of two 60L bags \$473 per anum. Current cost for fortnight \$643 for 120 L bin.</li> <li>There will be additional costs for new bins and counting of bins, permanent identifier, etc.</li> <li>Status quo- bags are problematic from health and safety point. Bins are certainly better than bags, protected from animals, but not easy to dispose, as done physically by people.</li> <li>Always an opportunity to bring it in house. Substantially have to increase</li> </ul>

					<p>workforce and trucks, etc. Westreef is not in house, but contractor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could bill people according to no. of times people put out bins.</li> </ul>
#99	9.30 - 9.40	Dave Millar	In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If proposal is fairly implemented as a “user pays” system, it will save money.</li> <li>• Should only pay for what is picked up – universal charge is unacceptable as many would never fill 240L bin fortnightly - conversely some households would need two 240L bins.</li> <li>• Each property should have the option of bin size – should be tagged and households billed according to use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average, we use a bag fortnight= 120 L bin, sometimes less. Costing us currently around \$110 a year.</li> <li>• Which means smaller households paying as much as larger ones- inequitable. Have a barcode/ sticker.</li> <li>• Plant being built in canterbury for energy. Similar option for disposal. Further options be explored.</li> <li>• Do not support burning plastic. Proper disposal.</li> </ul>
P2	9.40 - 9.50	John Hill & Gary Jeffery	In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want to discuss a waste energy system to be placed in Westport. Similar plant is used near Waimate.</li> <li>• John has a version that could be set up in Westport – wanting to discuss this with council.</li> </ul>	Did not arrive
P3	9.50 - 10.00 9.54-	Murray Upson	Neither support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointed with the quality of proposal, lacks substance and actual consideration and relevance to BDC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between Tonkin and Taylor and BDC waste management coordinator.</li> </ul>

			nor oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lacks future planning – has large assumptions, estimates and opinion content.</li> <li>Not a good business proposal and shouldn't be considered by BDC without more substantial evidence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T&amp;T Plagiarised similar reports for all regions and districts and not investigated West Coast situation.</li> <li>2018 plan by T&amp;T, report had same report with no variation.</li> <li>\$33000 spent on T&amp;T so far + council workshops, statement for proposal, etc.</li> <li>If there is collaboration between regional councils, why is it not in report.</li> <li>Referred table #8, pg. #19 and table #9, item #4- reduction in legal dumping, no data. No values given, report actual values.</li> <li>Regional council policy adopted –why not included in BDC waste plan.</li> <li>Don't make changes, keep plastic bags for a year, till homework is done.</li> <li>Legal dumping? Not reported. We want to see as reports and info. Education in schools- clean up beach, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>P41</b>	<b>10.00 - 10.10</b>	<b>Robert Johns</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear that most are in favour of a user pays system. RFID in bins can be scanned by the waste truck and user is then charged once a month or quarterly.</li> </ul>	Did not arrive

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option of having a small “waste to energy” truck and trailer at the dump to turn the waste into dust.</li> <li>• BDC could have own collection trucks, not using third party who are taking profits out.</li> <li>• More options should be investigated.</li> </ul>	
<b>P64</b>	<b>10.10 - 10.20</b>	<b>Jon Rues</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal does not encourage recycling.</li> <li>• Disposes of all personal waste, excluding cardboard boxes, but also burns these.</li> <li>• Does not want to pay for a service that he will not use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNREP- we all have responsibility – caretaker of environment, it is time to rethink rubbish disposal. Amberley waste disposal – 1985, Auckland.</li> <li>• Electronic waste was there 75 years ago, but not actioned due to business reasons.</li> <li>• Plastic burning is okay.</li> <li>• Climate has been changing since thousands of years. Bit of carbon is okay. With 400ppm, we are not in absolute crisis.</li> <li>• Do you compost? Yes, my compost made me 13 pumpkins.</li> <li>• Ideas to educate public for composting- Display boards.</li> </ul>
<b>P77</b>	<b>10.20 - 10.30</b>	Linda Webb speaking on behalf of <b>Bert Waghorn</b>	In Favour	Has spoken with other pensioners who are having troubles meeting the cost-of-living increase – has a possible solution to discuss with council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some households put out more waste than others– bottle neck situation.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hits age section coping with increasing cost of living. Most bins fill in a month.</li> <li>• Single person household- consider the persons over age of 65 eligible could pay half price.</li> </ul>
<b>P70</b>	<b>10.30 - 10.40</b>	<b>Anthony Newman</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal is unfair and greatly disadvantages ratepayers who do not frequently use this service.</li> <li>• Offers no incentive for reduction of household waste, charges are applied to all ratepayers regardless of use.</li> <li>• Not likely saving on cost, suggested it will more than double.</li> <li>• Not all ratepayers have location can easily physically navigate a wheelie bin to – some thought should be given to those physically disadvantaged and unable to easily move a bin.</li> <li>• Concerns for landlords having to pay for a service that tenants use.</li> <li>• Proposal does not encourage or reward waste reduction.</li> </ul>	Did not arrive
<b>P73</b>	<b>10.40 - 10.50</b>	<b>Lex Blackadder</b>	Strongly Oppose	Reasons will be given at submission meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hokitika, Westland Greymouth have two dumps of their own.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hokitika – \$24 per bag and they alternate recycling and rubbish and pay \$292 for recycling. Greymouth pay \$724.28 – Greymouth for everything and alternate weeks of rubbish and recycle.</li> <li>• Reefton want to have a mandatory stations and collections.</li> <li>• Some people can only afford to buy 1 bag.</li> <li>• There are lots of old people in Reefton.</li> <li>• <b>The only rated landfill is in Greymouth.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P99</b>	<b>10.50 - 11.00</b>	<b>Paul Reynolds</b>	Strongly Oppose	Only in favour of a “user pays” system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No problem with bins, paying \$178 already.</li> <li>• Opposed to subsidising people with more waste.</li> <li>• \$33 paid for assessing each submission.</li> <li>• 50 people attended in Westport and Reefton. Misleading figures of voters.</li> <li>• Forcing people to pay and will have to pay for others bins even if they have no rubbish.</li> </ul>



					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the plan, bigger disaster for this district than others.</li> <li>• PAYE - Over \$40 million spent.</li> <li>• System TTPP- in the government's interest. Joined without consulting people– costing \$6 million.</li> <li>• Ratepayers will be rated \$6.9 million.</li> <li>• Burn my waste.</li> <li>• People's ability to pay has changed.</li> <li>• Consultation is late. Council has let the contract expire without next plan in mind.</li> </ul>
<b>P107</b>	<b>11.00 - 11.10</b>	<b>Laurie Collins</b>	Strongly Oppose	Currently pays approximately \$4,000 annually in rates, does not wish to pay anymore for purpose that does not support.	Did not arrive
<b>P112</b>	<b>11.10 - 11.20</b>	<b>Catherine Douglas</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually out of the country 2-3 months per year - only uses council rubbish bags 2-3 times per year.</li> <li>• Doesn't want to pay for something that wouldn't use - rates are already ludicrous.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use local people.</li> <li>• Example of disk system- Every disk had a number. Could not use other's disk. Buy it and put it out when we need waste to be picked up.</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single homes owners including self are considering moving as can't afford to keep up with rising rates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public comment – my rubbish bag goes out only once in 6 weeks, can't afford more rates.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P115</b>	<b>11.20 - 11.30</b>	<b>Dave Hawes</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal embeds fixed costs into every ratepayer indiscriminately without recognising level of service.</li> <li>• Negatively impacts those working on goals to live without creating land waste.</li> <li>• Arguments from council staff spokesperson that this would reduce contamination of recyclables are shallow and ridiculous – data used to support the statement shows that education is effective in doing this.</li> <li>• Supports the current system of bags – allows incentivisation of waste reduction and reflects user pays principles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-allocating contracts. Present change is driven from – illegal dumping.</li> <li>• Adding 10% to the rates doesn't help.</li> <li>• Scientific evidence- went down from 30 to 20% after 2 rounds of education, national average.</li> <li>• Answer is to educate people to know what goes into the bins. Its going to reduce price on people currently paying for bins.</li> <li>• <b>Question thinking around plastic being buried in land is bad.</b></li> <li>• <b>More of a central government issue. With electronic disposal, adds to the cost.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P128</b>	<b>11.30 - 11.40</b>	<b>Mary McGill Andrews</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste is worldwide problem and should be doing everything we can to minimise it.</li> <li>• Best way to encourage waste reduction is by "user pays".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program redesigned to focus on education for producing less waste. Truck emission, road damage, find a better way to load bags.</li> </ul>

		<b>Mary McGill Andrews - CONTINUED</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need better identification of what can be recycled from Buller – need clear information and education on this.</li> <li>• Mandatory/fixed charge is unfair – those who reduce, reuse, recycle will be subsidising those creating more waste.</li> <li>• Single person households will be considerably disadvantaged by the proposed changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general charge is okay but not more. Providing vouchers to some people.</li> <li>• Promote free dumping.</li> <li>• <b>We don't generate enough recycling waste. Big bins don't solve the problem.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P143</b>	<b>11.40 - 11.50</b>	<b>Kenneth Todd</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User pays, freedom of choice, reduce, reuse, recycle.</li> <li>• Could be the end of recycling, put everything in rubbish bin and use recycle bin for other purchase storage etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimalise all rubbish, people would chuck all the rubbish in there.</li> <li>• <b>Happy with a bag or dumping once in a while to the transfer station.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P157</b>	<b>11.50 - 12.00</b>	<b>Frida Inta</b>	Neither support nor oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointed on the lack of information – facts, figures, statistics around the current service being delivered.</li> <li>• Uses rubbish service rarely – would be heavily subsidising both those who put out a lot of rubbish and those who fly tip.</li> <li>• Consultation being presented as consideration for using wheelie bins – actual fact BDC is looking for options for future rubbish and recycling in the Buller.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three issues- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rubbish bag price hikes,</li> <li>2. Relevant statistics- how many properties and other statistics like labour sue, elimination use of trucks and labour. smart environment profit per anum.</li> <li>3. Consultation documents</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Support 60 or 80 L bins.</li> <li>• Will email the list of questions.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are you looking for in those answers? Good to know numbers.</li> <li>• Some sort of local composting system should be made.</li> <li>• Public Comments- In Christchurch, they had a green waste compost in the church.</li> </ul>
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### Lunch Break

Submission Number	Time Slot	Name	Opinion	Comments	Notes
P177	12.30 - 12.40	Leo Frederick Whittle	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alarming plans to ditch rubbish bags and move to more wheelie bins.</li> <li>• Rubbish bags are more efficient service than having second 120 L wheelie bins.</li> <li>• Bags incentivise to be selective in what gets put in each week and only put out when full.</li> <li>• Cynically believes increase in bag cost designed to soften up for a change to second wheelie bin.</li> <li>• Reliable ratepayers will have to front up more money for the initial cost of the bin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current system is simple and straightforward.</li> <li>• Put out rubbish bags fortnightly, but bag price went up, now every 3 weeks.</li> <li>• Going to be more expensive and unnecessary.</li> <li>• Long term system established now should roll on for 10 years. But shouldn't get more expensive than needed.</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once system in place it will be difficult to change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karamea has battery collection. To be followed up.</li> <li>Put out bags every 2 bags, but when the charge went up, lesser rubbish bags were seen.</li> <li>Where is the rubbish coming from to fill bags if bins are introduced? Green waste.</li> </ul>
#80	12.40 - 12.50	Phil Rutherford	In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further evaluation of mixed pay via rates/user pays system.</li> <li>Could bins be reduced to 60L or 80L bins, bags still available for purchase for additional waste – at lesser cost than currently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorrect figures from councillors frustrating.</li> <li>Understandable that members of the community are confused.</li> <li>Supports bins vs bags</li> <li>Concern for elderly prices</li> <li>Suggests annual charges and user pays mixture</li> <li>Prefers 60l bins fortnightly</li> <li>How many households have one bag a week or 2 bags a week?</li> <li>Personal survey - in his block equals 6 bags a fortnight from 14-15 houses.</li> <li>Supports working with neighbours for handling waste</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green waste - what would happen? Fill bins with waste that would normally be required to go to the dump. Not additional waste.</li> </ul>
<b>P154</b>	<b>12.50 - 1.00</b>	<b>Graham Howard</b>	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bin system has definite potential to increase amount of rubbish being put out – adding to the cost of collection, being passed on to ratepayers.</li> <li>Council don't know true cost of proposed service, only "guesstimating" the cost.</li> <li>Ratepayers cannot make informed decisions on value for money.</li> <li>Illegal for Council to give potentially false information to ratepayers regarding cost of proposal.</li> <li>Large number of older ratepayers, living alone only put out a bag every few weeks – find it hard to cover extra cost of new service.</li> <li>Where does the budget money come from to pay for the bins, other than the ratepayers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not looking for true consultation or true feedback. Should have been better advertised.</li> <li>Ratepayers have not had the chance to submit properly.</li> <li>Consultant fee of \$11k when councillors should be able to decide.</li> <li>People move here previously because Westport was seen as a reasonably priced place to live - no longer able to live here due to costs.</li> <li>The quoted costs will go up because of rising costs etc before this change comes in.</li> <li>Uses 10 bags a year.</li> <li>Big difference.</li> <li>Pensioners income is not a lot.</li> <li>Dump used to be 7 days a week and free. People still fly tipping and filled local rubbish bins up town.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop excessive use of consultants and start using common sense.</li> <li>• People are struggling. Families are struggling.</li> <li>• When will council add extra charge and how much will it be? Expects answer.</li> <li>• Ratepayers not given all the information - only guesstimates.</li> <li>• Can ratepayers afford this?</li> <li>• Throw out proposal and spend ratepayers money on water etc.</li> <li>• <b>Smaller bin ok? No because cost of picking up is the same</b></li> </ul>
<b>P68</b>	<b>1.00 - 1.10</b>	<b>Emma Hargreaves</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objects to 'everyone pays the same' approach – unfairly penalises those who currently reduce, reuse, recycle responsibly.</li> <li>• Uses 1 refuse bag per month – actively chose products that are unwrapped or from recyclable or burnable materials.</li> <li>• Currently purchase on average 10 refuse bags per year – new proposal would see potential increase of 67%.</li> <li>• Helps subsidise those who insist on perpetuating consumption, with throwaway attitudes and don't care for the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works with elderly and mentally unwell.</li> <li>• They can't afford this.</li> <li>• Penalising those who don't use as much rubbish.</li> <li>• Consumers should be more aware and make better choices on packaging at the supermarket.</li> <li>• Regional rates are large also.</li> </ul>

		<b>Emma Hargreaves - CONTINUED</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large wheely bins are awkward for many, including elderly and those with long driveways.</li> <li>• Proposes using an electronic tag system for each bin to monitor and charge each user for actual use of rubbish collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When not getting more money on the pension, how do they pay? Eat less? Turn the heating off?</li> <li>• User pays system. Maybe barcode on a bin?</li> <li>• Go back to simpler ways of doing things.</li> <li>• <b>What is most convenient for elderly and infirm? Bins getting heavy is an issue. Option of smaller bin would be good. Also calling waste management to pick up bin when needed.</b></li> </ul>
<b>P118</b>	<b>1.10 - 1.20</b>	<b>Patricia &amp; Trevor Brown</b>	Neither support nor oppose	BDC black rubbish bags are double the cost to purchase of those councils in the rest of the Upper South Island. The recently increased bag price of \$9.10 per bag is outrageous.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pat Brown - was due diligence done to assess and decide where rubbish bags were purchased? Staff</li> <li>• Cr G Neylon \$9.10 is made up of collection cost, transfer cost, gate cost at Nelson and government levy.</li> <li>• Bin definitely more acceptable - in favour of user pays - cost a lot for superannuitants</li> <li>• Additional bag in Marlborough costs 1.85</li> <li>• Cost of bag at supermarket is terrible - please do due diligence.</li> <li>• <b>Smaller centres have lower costs</b></li> </ul>



P129	1.20 - 1.30	Paul Hattersley	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single income households and low rubbish producing households severely disadvantaged by new proposal.</li> <li>• Use 1 bag every 6 weeks, totalling 8 per year = \$72 annually.</li> <li>• BDC promotes reduce, reuse and recycle – should be reflected in proposal for disposing of household rubbish.</li> <li>• Cost of proposal will encourage more fly-dumping and burning.</li> <li>• Council should consider their views on burning of toxic rubbish i.e., builders waste, treated timber and plastics.</li> <li>• Council is slow to adopt systems to stop these practices and needs to begin – most building companies in our area burn waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single and fixed income people would be disadvantaged.</li> <li>• People who make an effort in their rubbish are being forgotten about.</li> <li>• Whoever put this proposal together is a high rubbish user and on a high income.</li> <li>• A number of people won't get heard because they feel uncomfortable about putting a submission together.</li> <li>• A lot of rubbish burnt on Utopia Rd.</li> <li>• Important to reuse and recycle. Try to not buy things all wrapped in plastic.</li> <li>• <b>Against all burning or just toxic and treated timber? - All sorts of rubbish being burnt and it's not good. Should have clean, fresh air to breathe.</b></li> </ul>
#18	1.30 - 1.40	Eamon Moynihan	Strongly Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In favour of proposal in terms of application, not in price. Recycling costs \$178 per annum – general rubbish should be same cost.</li> <li>• Recycling requires far more handling, by collectors themselves and onflow. General waste using bins will be automated.</li> <li>• Willing to add \$250 to already most expensive rated areas in New Zealand to stop fly dumping, due to poor management of waste in Buller.</li> </ul>	Did not arrive

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buller regions rubbish transported to Nelson shows mismanagement – personally know several sites in Buller region where can manage own rubbish and bring costs down for rate payers.</li> <li>• Find our own sustainable solutions.</li> </ul>	
<b>P4</b>	<b>1.40 - 1.50</b>	<b>Janette Hateley</b>          <b>Janette Hateley - CONTINUED</b>	Strongly Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with some bins needing to be put out every fortnight and others only every 2-3 months depending on size of household.</li> <li>• Unfair flat rate for every household – whether it is one person living there or 5-6.</li> <li>• Unjust prejudicial treatment of different categories of people – many single elderly people and families with children – shouldn't be charged same when they create different levels of waste.</li> <li>• Practices good recycling and composting, limits waste to avoid excessive dumping – only puts out council rubbish bags every 2-3 months.</li> <li>• Concerns for landlord having to pay for general waste, therefore increasing rent.</li> <li>• Put forward a barcode scanned rubbish bin system for general rubbish – customer control their rate of rubbish bill and waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barcode and scan on pickup</li> <li>• Maybe a trial of 1-2 years - give the power back to the people.</li> <li>• This would give residents the opportunity to look at their waste.</li> <li>• People charged the same whether one person or 4 people - barcode system means each is individual.</li> <li>• People can put anything in there.</li> <li>• People doing the right thing are compensating for those doing nothing.</li> <li>• Barcode would incur a cost.</li> <li>• User pays may have an additional cost.</li> <li>• Plastic bag or bin more convenient? Price of bags continually going up not good</li> <li>• Coupon or tag for prepurchase has been suggested - opinion? Prefers barcode</li> </ul>

P153	1.50 - 2.00	Neil Stevenson	In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More must be done to educate people to recycle appropriately to reduce landfill costs.</li> <li>• Huge potential for council to lead in composting – leading to energy savings and alternative income streams.</li> <li>• Never used black council bags for refuse collection – cost of mandatory wheelie bin use has to be absorbed.</li> <li>• Transfer station should be open 7 days a week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving people to flytipping not having transfer station open 7 days.</li> <li>• Wheelie bin in favour</li> <li>• Recommends composting</li> <li>• Educating people</li> <li>• Dump shop required. Great revenue stream for Council.</li> <li>• <b>If dump is open on Saturday and Sunday, there is likely an additional cost for weekends.</b></li> </ul>
P147	2.00 - 2.10	Yvonne Scarlett	In Favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support having cost of change to bins attached to rates –hopefully reduce fly dumping and illegal use to rubbish bins.</li> <li>• Doesn't support fortnightly emptying as encourages dumping and costs people extra who want to reduce waste.</li> <li>• Monthly emptying more than adequate for most households – option for high producers to use bags or bag ties that could be purchased.</li> <li>• Present system not working – everyone produces different amounts of waste, need a system to accommodate this without disadvantaging low-income houses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support changes.</li> <li>• No one system will suit all.</li> <li>• Best benefit environment and ratepayer.</li> <li>• Wheelie bin option decreases plastic and make it easier for elderly.</li> <li>• Reduce fly dumping.</li> <li>• Prepared to pay a little more for betterment of community.</li> <li>• Urges monthly pickup.</li> <li>• Lots of people are burning rubbish and affecting environment.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savings from flydumping and cleanups from full bins up town should be factored into costs.</li> <li>• In favour but believe a few tweaks.</li> <li>• Some families may require more frequent pickups. - Red bin for monthly pickup and yellow bin for fortnightly. Or do monthly and have rubbish bags available for those who require more - Incentive to reduce.</li> <li>• Is a smaller bin suitable for some? - Same cost of pick up. A lot of people are 6-8 week pickup but smaller isn't necessary. Wants to walk down the beach and not see so much rubbish.</li> </ul>
		<b>Brian Jones - Karamea Waste Management Group</b>		•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from Hamish Macbeth - is illegal dumping big enough in the Buller? Is this really an issue?</li> <li>• Transport of recycling to Westport is an issue - KWG has reduced load of plastics to Westport by bailing, saving \$11k in freight. Transfer station in Westport wouldn't accept baled material.</li> <li>• Gave suggestions for management of different materials.</li> <li>• There are alternatives. Efficiencies being improved is important.</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under proposed system, Karamea falls under coastwide contract.</li> <li>• Outsourcing contractors will only cost more money.</li> <li>• KWG sees no benefit in changing. Their system could be scaled up to include Westport.</li> <li>• Why weren't the bales accepted? Because they thought they'd have to resort them. Chch was fine and impressed with the quality of sorting. Charged a lot at Westport transfer station to resort.</li> <li>• Does your group have scope to upscale? No - Better to have a CCO that rund a business like this and pay an amount to Council each year.</li> </ul> <p>Happy to give names of recycling places in the South Island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composting barriers? Just not set up for it. Trying to build permanent facilities as well as for recycling storage.</li> <li>• Karamea has free swap shop as opposed to dump shop.</li> </ul>
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Cr G Neylon advised Councillors will be deliberating on 1 November between 10.30am and 12.30pm, with a meeting on 22 November to make resolutions to go to the Council.

He advised all Councillors to consider what has been heard today, as well as all written submissions and come to the meetings prepared to deliberate.

- 
- There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.22pm
  - **Next Meeting:** 1 November 10.30am, Clocktower Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport.
- 

**Confirmed:** ..... **Date:** .....

**REGULATORY AND HEARINGS COMMITTEE**

**29 NOVEMBER 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM: 4**

- Prepared by** Bronwyn Little  
Policy Advisor
- Reviewed by** Sean Judd  
Group Manager Regulatory Services
- Attachments**
1. Statement of Proposal (Amended May 2023)
  - 2a. Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022 (Amended May 2023)
  - 2b. Urban Area maps (Amended May 2023)
  3. Summary of submissions by submission number
  4. Submissions received #1 to #33

**BYLAW REVIEW**

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1. **REPORT SUMMARY**  
This report summarises the submissions received to the amended Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022.
2. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**  
**That the Committee:**
  1. **Receives this report for information;**
  2. **Hears those submitters who indicated they wished to speak to their submission; and**
  3. **Deliberates on the submissions and advises officers of the outcome for inclusion in a report to Council on 12 December 2023.**
3. **ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**
  - 3.1 **Submissions and Hearing to Proposed Bylaw**  
The proposed bylaw, along with a set of maps outlining 'Urban Areas' was approved to proceed to public consultation, as required under the LGA 2002 (Sec.156: Consultation requirements when making, amending or revoking bylaws made under this Act and Sec.83: Special Consultative Procedure) in June 2022.

Between 13 September and 11 October 2022 Council consulted on the Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022. In total 63 submissions were received from around the district and from stakeholder organisations (5 submissions did not have any attached explanation).

The issues that were raised covered many aspects of the proposed bylaw as follows:

- Urban Area Boundaries (Appendix One)
- Keeping of cats in an urban area (section 7, p.3)
- Keeping of Poultry in an urban area and Poultry houses and poultry runs (Section 8, p. 3 and Section 9, p.4)
- Bee-Keeping and Keeping Bees in an urban area (Section 10 p.5)
- Keeping of Livestock in an urban area (Section 11, p.6)
- Pig keeping (section 12, p.6)
- Slaughter of Livestock (Section 13, p.7)
- Commercial vs. Domestic animal keeping
- Existing use rights
- Clarification and further definition
- Bylaw itself

A hearing for 9 submitters who wished to speak to their submissions was held on 14 December 2022.

**Amendments Proposed:**

After the hearing the Regulatory and Hearings Committee proposed that a number of changes be made to the draft bylaw.

- changes to the urban area boundaries – so that only Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton to be classified as urban areas.
- number of cats in urban areas be limited to 2 per property and that they should be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals) by 6 months old.

These changes were considered significant and therefore a further period of public consultation was required. The Regulatory and Hearings Committee 17 May 2023 approved the Statement of Proposal (Amended May 2023) – Appendix 1 together with the Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022



(Amended May 2023) – Appendix 2a and Urban Area maps (Amended May 2023) – Appendix 2b.

### 3.2 Submissions to Amended Keeping of Animals Bylaw

During July 2023 Council consulted on the amended Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022. Public Notices were placed in local papers and the council website had a full page dedicated to the proposed bylaw with copies of all the relevant documents including a submission form and link to a survey monkey submission form. There were regular reminders on the council Facebook page and copies of all the document were in libraries, the Reefton Service centre and other locations around the district.

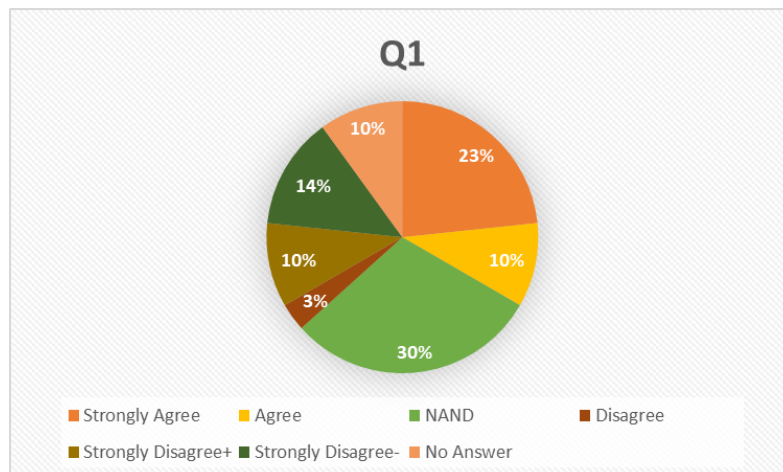
In total 33 submissions were received from around the district and from organisations such as Companion Animals NZ, the SPCA and Forest & Bird. Of these 30 submitters completed, the formal submission form either on-line or a paper copy. The remaining 3 submitters have written comments generally responding to the proposed amendments.

Those who completed the form (both online and on paper) responded as follows:

#### Question 1:

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton.

Q1 responses (Form Submissions)	
Strongly Agree	7
Agree	3
Neither agree nor disagree (NAND)	9
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree + widen the urban areas	3
Strongly Disagree – decrease/remove urban areas	4
No Answer	3
<b>TOTAL responses to Q1 on form</b>	<b>30</b>

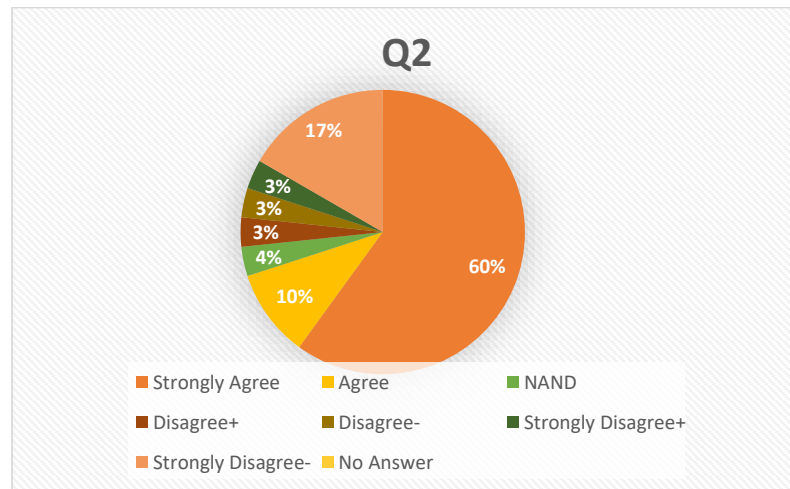


**Question 2:**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. Any cat over six (6) months must be:

- desexed,
- microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

Q2 responses (Form submissions)	
Strongly Agree	18
Agree	3
Neither agree nor disagree (NAND)	1
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree + 1 cat only	1
Strongly Disagree – no need for limit	1
No Answer	5
TOTAL responses to Q1 on form	30



**Further Comments:**

Many submitters also made further comments which are summarised in Appendix 3 (Summary of submissions by submission number) and can be read in full in Appendix 4 (Submissions received #1 to #33).

Two submissions addressed specific land parcels on the edge of the Westport Urban Area. The submitters are requesting the properties highlighted below in Figure 1 be removed from the urban area classification.



Fig.1

**Other Written Submissions:**

Three submitters wrote individual submissions which are summarised in Appendix 3 and can be read in full in Appendix 4.

**Submission 26** – Agree with spaying and microchipping but costs are high and funding would be a help. Strays given homes reduce nuisance and cats have a right to life too.

**Submission 32 (SPCA)** – Supports reasonable limits on cats per household, mandatory microchipping, registration and desexing of all cats over 4 months (rather than 6 months). Advocates for cats to be kept at home and for Council to improve tracking of nuisance associated by roaming cats.

**Submission 33 (Forest and Bird)** – Recommends keeping of cat provisions be district wide. Supports 2 cat per household limit, compulsory microchipping and registration together with desexing of all cats from 4 months (rather than 6 months). Proposes allocating appropriate resources to ensure bylaw effectiveness such as subsidising desexing and microchipping and education and awareness programmes for responsible cat ownership.

**4. CONSIDERATIONS**

**4.1 Strategic Alignment**

Council must ensure the bylaw is in keeping with its strategic direction for the district.

**4.2 Significance Assessment**

Bylaws require community consultation prior to adoption under the Local Government Act 2002. This process has been followed to date.

**4.3 Tangata Whenua Considerations**

There are no specific tangata whenua considerations identified.

**4.4 Risk Management Implications**

Council needs an effective mechanism to mitigate the impacts of certain animals being kept on private property and an effective mechanism in order to address any legitimate complaints.

**4.5 Policy Framework Implications**

Nil identified.

**4.6 Legal Implications**

Council must take steps to ensure its compliance mechanisms are consistent with current best practice and law. It is noted that the draft bylaw presented has undergone a review by Council's legal team and amended as a result.

**4.7 Financial / Budget Implications**

Process including legal review and public consultation can be managed within existing budgets.

**4.8 Consultation Considerations**

Under the Local Government Act 2002 there is a statutory requirement for public consultation to be undertaken in accordance with Section 83, Special Consultative Procedure. This process has been followed.

**Buller District Council**

**Proposed Keeping of  
Animals Bylaw**

**Revised  
Urban Areas and Provisions  
for Keeping of Cats**

**Statement of Proposal  
May 2023**

### **Summary:**

In September/October 2022 Council called for submissions on the Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (2022). After considering submissions and holding a hearing the council proposed some changes to the following sections of the proposed bylaw:

- Re-definition of urban areas
- Keeping of cats in urban areas

### **Introduction**

The Council is reviewing the Buller District Council Bylaw Model General Bylaw Part 13 – The Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees (NZS9201: Part 13: 1999) and the accompanying local amendment Section 1306 The Keeping of Cats (the Current Bylaw) in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

The Council took the review as an opportunity to revisit the previous approach adopted in 2008 by proposing a significant number of changes to better address the perceived problems that arise in relation to animals in the district. The review proposes that the Keeping of Animals Bylaw (the Proposed Bylaw) remain standalone.

The proposed bylaw along with a set of maps outlining 'Urban Areas' was approved to proceed to public consultation, as required under the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 (Sec.156: Consultation requirements when making, amending or revoking bylaws made under this Act and Sec.83: Special Consultative Procedure) in June 2022. The Proposed Bylaw 2022 would replace the Current Bylaw.

NB: The Proposed Bylaw 2022 does not apply to dogs as this is covered separately under the Dog Control Bylaw.

## **Proposed Bylaw 2022**

The Proposed Bylaw 2022 provides measures to regulate the keeping of animals (including pigs, poultry, bees, livestock and cats) within the district:

- to minimise the impact of nuisance on animal owners' neighbours;
- to ensure animals do not create a nuisance or endanger health; and
- to regulate the slaughtering of animals to avoid causing nuisance or offence.

A copy of the Proposed Bylaw 2022 and the accompanying Statement of Proposal can be found on the Council website at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/proposed-keeping-of-animals-bylaw/> and at the Council office in Westport and the Service Centre in Reefton.

These documents outline the matters required to be considered in reviewing a bylaw including the assessment of the issues, determination of council that a bylaw was needed and reasons for proposing the bylaw as proposed. The three options of reviewing/amending, revoking or replacing the current bylaw were also outlined along with the key changes that were proposed.

## **Submissions to Proposed Bylaw (2022)**

Between 13 September and 11 October 2022 Council consulted on the Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022. Public Notices were placed in local papers and the council website had

## APPENDIX 1 Statement of Proposal (Amended May 2023)

a full page dedicated to the proposed bylaw with copies of all the relevant documents, including a submission form and link to a survey monkey submission form. There were regular reminders on the council Facebook page and copies of all the document were in libraries, Reefton Service Centre and other locations around the district.

In total, 63 submissions were received from around the district and also from national organisations (five submissions did not have any attached explanation).

The issues that were raised covered many aspects of the proposed bylaw as follows:

- Urban Area Boundaries
- Keeping of cats in an urban area
- Keeping of poultry in an urban area and poultry houses and poultry runs
- Bee-Keeping and keeping bees in an urban area
- Keeping of livestock in an urban area
- Pig keeping
- Slaughter of livestock (Section 13, p. 7)
- Commercial vs. Domestic animal keeping
- Existing use rights
- Clarification and further definition
- Bylaw itself

On the 14th of December 2022 the Regulatory and Hearings Committee met to hear from those submitters who had notified council that they wished to speak in support of their submissions. In total nine submitters outlined their submissions and the reasons for making their submissions.

### **Proposed changes**

The Regulatory and Hearings Committee then deliberated on all the submissions and at their meeting on 15 March 2023 resolved to make changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022. These changes relate to:

- Definition of Urban Area
- Keeping of cats

Council has deemed that the changes being considered are of sufficient significance that further consultation should be undertaken on these specific matters.

## Changes Proposed:

After considering the submissions made to the Proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (2022) the council proposes the following changes to the Proposed Bylaw 2022:

### Definition of Urban Areas

**Current Bylaw:** Not defined. Refers to 'urban areas', 'predominantly urban character' and 'urban character under the District Plan' but no actual definition of the areas.

**Proposed Bylaw (2022):**

A total of 9 urban areas were defined in a set of maps which were attached to the proposed bylaw. The maps were intended to provide certainty around the term 'urban;' as it is used in the proposed bylaw. A number of the matters in the proposed bylaw refer to urban areas e.g. keeping of livestock. The proposed urban areas were identified by Council and defined using census data as a base.

Essentially the urban areas were the towns and the smaller communities around the District. The areas defined on the set of maps accompanying the proposed bylaw were:

- Westport
- Carters Beach
- Waimangaroa
- Granity
- Ngakawau and Hector
- Karamea and Market Cross
- Inangahua Junction
- Reefton
- Ikamatua

### Proposed Changes (after consideration of submissions)

After consideration the committee determined to propose that the urban areas be limited to:

- **Westport (excluding the racecourse)**
- **Carters Beach; and**
- **Reefton**

The set of maps include as attachment 1 shows the proposed areas.

A number of submissions concerned the inclusion of areas outside the main towns as urban areas. They related to Snodgrass Road, Granity, McKenna Road and the Westport Racecourse in particular.

It is considered restricting urban areas to Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton would better reflect the urban areas in the district. In particular the section size and proximity of houses to one another in these areas. Residential areas outside these three areas are more semi-rural in nature and in these areas there is also an expectation from residents that animals will be kept.

It should be noted that a number of the provisions in the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (2022) are to be applied district wide regardless of urban area status. There include the provisions relating to the keeping of animals:

- which cause general nuisance or in a manner which causes nuisance, offense or injury to neighbours, confining animals to a property and abandoning of domestic animals (Clause 6)
- standards for poultry houses and runs (Clause 9)
- bee-keeping in general (clause 10)
- conditions for slaughtering of animals (clause 13)
- fees (clause 14), offences and penalties (clause 15) and Repair and removal of works in breach of bylaw (clause 16)



## APPENDIX 1 Statement of Proposal (Amended May 2023)

### Keeping of Cats in urban areas

**Current Bylaw:** Maximum number of cats is three in non-rural areas. If more than three they must not cause any nuisance. Excludes cat breeders, boarding establishments, vets and SPCA shelters

**Proposed Bylaw:**

- The maximum number of cats six months or older that may be kept in any dwelling is **four**. Existing exceptions remain in the Proposed Bylaw for catteries, animal shelters and vets.
- Cat owners who have more than four cats would be allowed to continue to own these cats until the end of the cat's natural lives.
- Exemptions can be made by Council (on a case-by-case basis) provided housing is adequate, no nuisance will result and all other lawful requirements are met.

#### Proposed Changes (after consideration of submissions):

Council proposes the following changes and additions to clause 7:

7.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than **TWO** cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.

**7.6 Any cat over six (6) months must be:**

**(a) Microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register and**

**(b) Be de-sexed, unless:**

- i. The cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognized cat breeder's body OR**
- ii. The owners provide a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.**

In total 32 submissions related to the keeping of cats, particularly the number of cats in urban areas and the need for a requirement to desex, microchip and/or register cats. After consideration of the submissions and the discussions with submitters in the hearing the Council made the proposed decision from the evidence that submitters put forward on the harm caused by cats to native birds and wildlife, the nuisance they cause roaming in neighbours gardens and the proliferation of unwanted kittens with the accompanying issues of abandonment and the work this makes for rescue organisations.

Council acknowledges that without national legislation mandating these matters it is difficult to enforce such provisions however it is considered that it is a step in the right direction and a signal to cat owners that they there is a need to take responsibility.

It is proposed to also produce a responsible cat owners manual, similar to the one council has for dog owners, which will outline how to care for a cat, access cat desexing and micro chipping services and measures that owners can take to try to ensure cats do not cause minimal nuisance to neighbours and wildlife.

APPENDIX 1 Statement of Proposal (Amended May 2023)

Attachment 1 - Keeping of Animals Bylaw - Revised 2023

**Urban Areas – Carters Beach and Westport**





**Urban Areas - Reefton**



**PROPOSED**

**BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**KEEPING**

**OF**

**ANIMALS**

**BYLAW**

**2023**

**CHANGES PROPOSED IN MAY 2023 HIGHLIGHTED IN RED:**

- **Definition of Urban Areas**
- **Provisions for the Keeping of Cats in Urban Areas**

# Animals Bylaw 2022

Buller District Council

## 1 Title and Commencement

- 1.1 The title of this bylaw is the Buller District Council Animals Bylaw 2023.
- 1.2 This bylaw comes into force on [.....] 2023.

## 2 Authority

- 2.1 This bylaw is made under:
  - a) Sections 145(a) and (b) and 146(a)(v) of the Local Government Act 2002; and
  - b) Section 64(1)(a), (i), (j), and (m) of the Health Act 1956.

## 3 Purpose and application

- 3.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to:
  - a) Regulate the keeping of animals (including pigs, poultry, bees, livestock and cats) in the district to protect, maintain and promote public health and safety and to avoid causing a nuisance to any person; and
  - b) Regulate the slaughtering of animals in the district so as not to be offensive and to avoid causing a nuisance to any person.
- 3.2 This bylaw shall apply to Buller District.

## 4 Exclusions

- 4.1 This bylaw does not apply to:
  - a) Any animal kept in a zoo; or
  - b) Any dog.

## 5 Interpretation

- 5.1 In this bylaw unless the context otherwise requires:

**Animal** means any member of the animal kingdom, including any mammal, bird, finfish, shellfish, reptile, amphibian, insect or invertebrate, and includes their young, their carcasses or constituent parts of that animal, but does not include a human being or a dog.

**Approval** means a written approval from the Council.

**Bylaw** means this Buller District Council Animals Bylaw 2023.

**Council** means Buller District Council or any person delegated to act on its behalf.

**District** means the district within the jurisdiction of Buller District Council.

**Domestic animal** means any cattle, sheep, poultry, horse, mule, ass, dog, cat, pig, rabbit, or goat; but does not include any such animal that is living in a wild state.

**Dwelling** means any separately occupied household unit used in whole or in part for human habitation, and includes any building, tent, vehicle or other structure, whether permanent or temporary and whether attached to the soil or not.

**Livestock** includes any cattle, sheep, deer, horse, donkey, hinny, mule, goat, thar, alpaca, llama, bison, ostrich, emu, pigs or any other herd animal, regardless of age or sex.

**Nuisance** means any unreasonable interference with the peace, comfort or convenience of another person and includes a nuisance as defined in section 29 of the Health Act 1956, and includes the following:

- a) where any accumulation or deposit of any waste or other similar material is in such a state or so situated as to be offensive;
- b) where any buildings used for the keeping of animals are so constructed, situated, used, or kept or are in such a condition, as to be offensive; and
- c) where any noise emitted by an animal unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort, and convenience of any person.

**Occupier** (of any property) means the person occupying the property.

**Owner** (of any property) means any person who would be entitled to receive the rent of the property, or would be so entitled if the property were let at a rent, and includes any person for the time being registered under the Land Transfer Act 2017 as the owner of the property.

**Person** includes an individual, a corporation sole, a body corporate, and an unincorporated body.

**Poultry** means any live, domesticated or farmed bird including, but not limited to, chicken, rooster, goose, duck, turkey, swan, pheasant, or peafowl.

**Property** means any parcel of land that is occupied or unoccupied.

**Urban area** means the land identified in the plans attached in Appendix 1 of this bylaw.

**Waste** has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.

**Zoo** means a place where animals are kept for public exhibition, education, or entertainment, and includes a zoological garden.

- 5.2 A reference in this bylaw to any Act, Regulation or Rule, includes any amendment thereof, and any Act, Regulation or Rule in substitution therefor.
- 5.3 The Legislation Act 2019 applies to this bylaw.

## 6 Keeping of animals

- 6.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, on any property any animal (including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry and bees):
- a) which causes a nuisance through noise, smell, dust or through the attraction of flies; or
  - b) in a manner that is or is likely to become:
    - i) a nuisance; or
    - ii) offensive to the occupier of any neighbouring property; or
    - iii) injurious to the health of any person.
- 6.2 Clause 6.1 will apply regardless of whether a person has complied with any other provisions of this bylaw.
- 6.3 Any person keeping an animal (other than cats or bees) must confine the animal within the boundaries of the property where the animal is usually kept.
- 6.4 Clause 6.3 of this bylaw does not prevent a person from driving, leading or riding any animal.
- 6.5 No person shall release or abandon a domestic animal.

## 7 Keeping of cats in an urban area

- 7.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than **two** cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.
- 7.2 Before granting any approval under clause 7.1 of this bylaw, the Council must be satisfied that:
- a) the cats will be adequately housed and that no nuisance will result; and
  - b) any other lawful requirements of the Council have been satisfied including any relevant provisions of the Operative Buller District Plan.
- 7.3 The approval of the Council under clause 7.1 of this bylaw may include such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate in the circumstances, including requiring the cats to be desexed.
- 7.4 Any person to whom an approval has been given under clause 7.1 of this bylaw must comply with the terms and conditions of the approval.
- 7.5 Nothing in clause 7.1 of this bylaw applies to a lawfully established SPCA facility or other animal shelter, or a lawfully established veterinary clinic or cattery.
- 7.6 **Any cat over six (6) months must be:**
- (a) **Microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register and**
  - (b) **Be de-sexed, unless**
    - i. **The cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeder's body OR**
    - ii. **The owners provide a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.**

## 8 Keeping of poultry in an urban area

- 8.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any roosters, ganders or peacocks on any property in an urban area.
- 8.2 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than 12 head of poultry on any property in an urban area.
- 8.3 A person who keeps poultry on any property in an urban area must ensure the poultry are confined to that property by providing either:
- a) an enclosed poultry house with an attached poultry run; or
  - b) an enclosed poultry house and adequate fencing of the property;
- and the poultry house and poultry run (if any) must comply with clause 9 of this bylaw.
- 8.4 A person who keeps poultry on any property in an urban area must ensure that the poultry do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or odour nuisance.
- 8.5 If poultry on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 8.6 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 8.5 of this bylaw must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

## **9 Poultry houses and poultry runs**

- 9.1 A person who keeps chickens on any property in the District must ensure:
- a) The chickens have access to shelter from adverse weather that is likely to cause heat or cold stress, and to reduce the risk of predation; and
  - b) Openings provided for the chickens to access an outside area are wide enough to enable the chickens to freely move to and from the outdoors at all times without risk of smothering or injury; and
  - c) Where access to an outside area is provided it must be managed to prevent the development around the poultry house of muddy, dusty or contaminated conditions to an extent that could be harmful to the chickens' health; and
  - d) Precautions are taken to protect the chickens from pests, including predators.
- 9.2 No person shall place, or allow to be placed, any poultry house or poultry run:
- a) Within ten metres of any dwelling on any neighbouring property; or
  - b) Within two metres of the boundary of any neighbouring property.
- 9.3 Every poultry house and poultry run must be adequately graded and drained and must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 9.4 No person shall discharge effluent from a poultry house or poultry run in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
- 9.5 If a poultry house or poultry run on any property causes a nuisance, the Council may, by written notice to the owner or occupier, require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.



- 9.6 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 9.5 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

## **10 Beekeeping**

- 10.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any bees on any property in the District if the keeping of the bees is, or is likely to become, dangerous or injurious to the health of any person, or cause a nuisance to any person.
- 10.2 A person who keeps bees on any property in the District must ensure that hives are positioned so as to not cause a nuisance to any person.
- 10.3 If bees cause a nuisance to any person, or may be dangerous or injurious to the health of any person, the Council may by written notice require the beekeeper, or the owner or occupier of the property on which the bees are kept, to undertake one or more of the following steps to mitigate or abate the nuisance or danger:
- i) ensure the bees are kept in accordance with the Apiculture NZ Code of Conduct and/or similar code of conduct;
  - ii) relocate the hives to another area on the property;
  - iii) develop a flight management plan and submit this to the Council for approval by the Council to ensure that the bees flightpath is diverted from or made to go a minimum of 1.8 metres high over an adjacent property, footpath, or road;
  - iv) reduce the maximum number of hives allowed on the property; and/or
  - v) remove some or all of the existing hives from the property.
- 10.4 Any beekeeper, owner, or occupier who receives a notice under clause 10.3 of this bylaw must, without delay, comply with the notice.

### **Keeping of bees in an urban area**

- 10.5 No person shall place, or allow to be placed, more than two hives on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.
- 10.6 Before granting any approval under clause 10.5 of this bylaw the Council must be satisfied that:
- a) increasing the number of hives will not cause a nuisance or be injurious to the health of any person; and
  - b) the property on which the hives are located is in excess of 1,500 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 10.7 Any approval granted by the Council under clause 10.5 may provide for the placement of up to and including four hives.
- 10.8 Any approval granted by the Council under clause 10.5 of this bylaw may include such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate in the circumstances.
- 10.9 Any person to whom an approval has been given under clause 10.5 of this bylaw must comply with the terms and conditions of the approval.

## **11 Keeping of livestock in an urban area**

- 11.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, any livestock on any property in an urban area at a distance less than two metres from a boundary of any adjoining property if the presence of the

livestock within that area causes a nuisance to any person.

- 11.2 A person who keeps livestock on any property in an urban area must ensure that the livestock do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or an odour nuisance.
- 11.3 If livestock on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 11.4 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 11.3 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

## **12 Keeping of pigs in an urban area**

- 12.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than [ ] pigs on any property in an urban area.
- 12.2 A person who keeps pigs on any property in an urban area must ensure that the pigs do not cause a nuisance to any person, including a noise nuisance or an odour nuisance.
- 12.3 No person shall:
- a) keep, or allow to be kept, pigs on any property in an urban area in such a manner as to cause a nuisance, or likely to be injurious to the health of any person, or be offensive; or
  - b) discharge effluent from a pigsty in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
- 12.4 If pigs or a pigsty on any property in an urban area cause a nuisance, the Council may by written notice to the owner or occupier require the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance.
- 12.5 Any owner or occupier who receives a notice under clause 12.4 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

*Note: The Operative District Plan contains provisions on the keeping of pigs. All pig farmers must also comply with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993, Animal Welfare Act 1999 and any other relevant regulations.*

## **13 Slaughter of livestock**

- 13.1 A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock must ensure:
- a) the slaughter is carried out in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby;
  - b) the processing of the slaughtered livestock (including skinning, gutting, and cutting of a carcass is carried out in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby;
  - c) the waste associated with a slaughter is disposed of in such a way that it cannot be seen by any other person nearby; and
  - d) the slaughter and the processing of the slaughtered livestock does not cause a nuisance or be offensive to any other person nearby.
- 13.2 A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock must ensure:
- a) any waste associated with the slaughter of livestock is immediately removed: and
  - b) the body or part of the body of any slaughtered livestock is disposed of in a manner that will not cause a nuisance (including producing odour), become a threat to the health of any person, or otherwise become offensive to any person nearby.
- 13.3 For the purposes of clause 13 of this bylaw:

**A person responsible for the slaughter of any livestock** includes:

- a) the owner of the livestock concerned;
- b) any person contracted or otherwise engaged to perform the slaughter; and
- c) any person carrying out the slaughter and associated processing and disposal.

**Any person nearby:**

- a) includes a person on a neighbouring property, whether in a dwelling on that property or not, and a person in a dwelling on the property where the slaughter is carried out; but
- b) excludes any person responsible for the slaughter of the livestock.

13.4 If clauses 13.1 and 13.2 are not complied with, the Council may by written notice to the person responsible for the slaughter of the livestock, as set out in 13.3, require the person responsible to abate the nuisance.

13.5 A person responsible for the slaughter of livestock who receives a notice under clause 13.4 must, without delay, act to abate the nuisance as required by the notice.

## **14 Fees**

14.1 The Council may prescribe fees payable for any approval by the Council under this bylaw.

## **15 Offences and Penalties**

15.1 Every person who fails to comply with this bylaw commits an offence and is liable to enforcement action by the Council and the penalties set out in the Local Government Act 2002 or the Health Act 1956, as the case may be.

15.2 Notwithstanding the above, nothing in this Bylaw prevents the Council from exercising its powers under the Health Act 1956 or Resource Management Act 1991.

## **16 Repair and Removal of Works in breach of bylaw**

16.1 The Council may repair, remove, or alter, or cause to be repaired, removed, or altered, any work, material, or thing erected or done in breach of this Bylaw, and may recover from any person responsible for the work, action, or thing, all expenses incurred by the Council in connection with the repair, removal, or alteration (including the cost of debt collection and legal fees incurred by the Council).

## **17 Revocation**

17.1 All bylaws previously made by the Council which relate to the keeping of animals are hereby revoked.

Carters Beach



**Westport**





## Reefton



## URBAN AREAS

### WESTPORT





**URBAN AREAS**

**CARTERS BEACH**





**URBAN AREAS**

**REEFTON**





Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS PROPOSED KEEPING OF ANIMALS BYLAW 2023 - #2					
#	Name	Summary of Submission		Comment	
		Redefinition Urban Areas	Keeping cats	Redefinition Urban Areas	Keeping cats
1	Caitlin Wilson	SA	SA	These are the only areas considered urban	Help stop unwanted kittens and make people accountable
2	Gerald Freeman	SD – Wider	SA	Cats problem everywhere	
3	Hans Wiskerke	A	D		One per property and kept on property
4	Jo Newburry	SA	SA		
5	Samantha Sky Byrne	A	SA		
6	Mark Pitchfork	SD - Wider	SD - less	Include Hector, Ngakawau Granity and Waimangaroa. TTPP Settlement Zones	1 cat maximum and/or kept inside at night
7	Margaret Mackley	SD - Wider	SA	Include Karamea – island within National Park, significant estuary. Presence of wild and stray domestic cats great threat to wildlife in both areas. Extend new cat requirements to Karamea township would reduce harm	
8	Ash Oldham	SA	SA		

SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree

Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

9	Terence Amies	SD	SD	Gardens need poultry/cost of eggs/use household waste, bees pollinate gardens/honey, cats keep rats/mice away	Few people have more than 2 cats, waste of ratepayers money policing it, cats company for elderly, don't need more expense for pensioners
		not needed			
10	Beck Walker	D	NAND	Land included is farm land, map showing land McKenna Road and Stafford Street	
		exclude identified area			
11	Christine Hoffman	NAND	D		2 Cats ok but should allow one litter - cats healthy and kittens still available. Households to be responsible for rehoming
12	Yvonne Scarlett	NAND	SD		How will it be policed/cost to ratepayers. Cats difficult to control. In principle agree with microchipping and desexing. Should be 3-4 as they provide mental support for owners and there can be number of people in each dwelling.
13	Adrienne McEnaney	SD	SD	Need definition of nuisance and proof on the complainant	No limit needed if cats well looked after and not wandering
14	Lynnden Rain	SA	SA		Cats are precious companions but need to be near us not in gardens. Cats roaming after dark is very harmful to the cats – injuries in fights and collisions with cars, unwanted kittens. Roosting birds, skinks and other small creatures preyed on. If microchipped and desexed people would value them more.
15	John	SD	SD	Money making for council	

SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree

Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

					Like covid vaccine, cat will not be chipped
16	Elaine Kitto	NAND	SA		Like it to be extended throughout Buller
17	Margaret Montgomery	NAND	SD		2 cats ok for average section but e.g. Holiday Park – many people on same site owning and caring for cats. Same for pensioner housing. Wording is flawed.
			more		
18	Alex	NAND	A	But strongly believe new cats requirements should be across whole district	Good start but not far enough. Should be over entire district. With addition of cats contained on their property. Improves cat safety and safety of native birds. Also need proper penalties.
19	Piper	NAND	SA	Should apply to all areas	
20	Craig Burke	NAND	SA	Why only in new urban areas? Other rules for cat owners outside these areas? Why not across all wards?	Please apply over all wards.
21	Brenda Kaye	NAND	A		6 month target good - some cats are not well-grown enough and logistics might make this difficult. Microchipping is a good separate option. Offering it for free would be much more palatable and fair to hasten acceptance, also enough older cats owners to facilitate recovery e.g. earthquake
22	Di Rossiter	A	A		
23	David and Madeleine Barnes	SD	SA	Property RD2 and clearly rural	
		one property			
24		NAND	SA		

SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree

Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

	David Lloyd – Companion Animals NZ			Cat management is not an urban-only problem, reservations that urban areas are being defined for the purpose of cat management	Strongly agree but advocate for desexing from 4 months old and in all areas of district. NZ Veterinary Assoc. support prepubertal desexing so it is considered safe. Rural management of cats will help protect against dumping of unwanted kittens in rural areas and avoids management inconsistencies across district
25	Gerald Hart		SA		Huge win for native wildlife. Shame its not down to 1 cat but 2 better than 3 plus
26	Celia Smith	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some people take in strays so no longer a nuisance to others and provide a safe home. SPCA no longer active here.</li> <li>2. Spay and microchip a good idea but cost for households under financial stress. Experience with \$300 cost and taking to Greymouth. Low cost mobile service would be good. Funding for this would help people meeting other costs including microchipping.</li> <li>3. Cats have right to life too and should not pay price for bad human behaviour such as abandonment.</li> </ol>			
27	John Bennett	SA	SA		Stray cats kill wildlife
28	Sue Bennett	SA	SA		
29	Shona Smith		SA		Wildlife is important
30	Ross Eddy	SA	SA		
31	Kim Ashby		SA		Great Work, positive start, cats wreak havoc on wildlife and neighbours. Don't replace cats when they die; keep inside at night; check out Canberra and Victoria States

SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree

Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

32	SPCA, Dr Arnja Dale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cats are one of New Zealand's most popular companion animals. However, SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of owned cats that are desexed, that only half the number of owned cats are microchipped, and very few owners keep their cat(s) at home.</li> <li>• The unwanted cat population in New Zealand requires local (and national) policy solutions where the true cost of owning an undesexed and non-microchipped cat does not place an undue burden on New Zealand society.</li> <li>• supports reasonable limits on the number of cats per household as this can help ensure a cat's welfare needs are met and they experience A Good Life.</li> <li>• supports the mandatory microchipping and registration of microchips for all cats over four months of age in the Buller District. Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted.</li> <li>• supports the mandatory desexing of all cats by four months of age or at the transfer of ownership in the Buller District unless a cat is a registered breeding animal or a veterinarian has deemed this would negatively impact the health of the cat. Desexing provides welfare benefits to the individual cat and is an important tool to address problems with cat overpopulation.</li> <li>• advocates for cat owners to keep their cats at home or on their property, and supports bylaws that facilitate this behaviour.</li> <li>• urges Buller District Council to improve their tracking of nuisance associated with roaming cats including property damage, spraying and defecating on neighbouring properties, and fighting with other cats causing injuries that then require veterinary treatment.</li> </ul>
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SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree

Appendix 3 – Summary of submissions by submission number

33	Forest and Bird, Nicky Snoyink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommends removing the ‘urban’ qualifier in the cat provisions of this bylaw thereby making the regulation apply district wide.</li> <li>• supports a limit of TWO cats per household</li> <li>• supports compulsory microchipping and registration</li> <li>• proposes the compulsory requirement to de-sex cats from FOUR months</li> <li>• proposes allocating appropriate resources to ensure bylaw effectiveness - Forest &amp; Bird would support the provision of targeted funding towards subsidising de-sexing and microchipping and the establishment of an education and awareness programme teaching responsible cat ownership in addition to regulation through this Bylaw</li> </ul>
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SA	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
NAND	Neither Agree nor Disagree
D	Disagree
SD	Strongly Disagree



# #1

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, June 30, 2023 1:37:31 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, June 30, 2023 1:39:39 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:07  
**IP Address:** 222.152.48.149

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## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Caitlin Wilson</b>
Postal address	██████████
City/Town	██████████
Post code	██████
Email address	██
Phone number	██████████

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Strongly agree,**  
 Further comment :  
 These are the only areas I would consider Urban in the Buller District

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly agree,**

Further comment: :

This will help to stop unwanted kittens and make people accountable for their cats. It would also make the SPCA's job far easier.

# #2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, July 01, 2023 6:10:54 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, July 01, 2023 6:14:52 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:58  
**IP Address:** 103.250.118.216

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Gerald Freeman
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**  
Further comment: :  
Cats are are as much a problem outside of the new designated rural areas as in them. This looks like a cop out!

**Q5**

**Strongly agree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

#3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 03, 2023 1:45:01 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 03, 2023 1:47:28 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:26  
**IP Address:** 118.149.82.84

Page 1

**Q1**

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Hans Wiskerke
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

**Q2**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

**Q3**

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

**Q4**

Agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Disagree,

Further comment: :

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

As per earlier submission I would have preferred to see a limit of one cat per household. Also, the cat should be kept on the property itself.

# #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 03, 2023 5:34:02 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 03, 2023 5:39:03 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:01  
**IP Address:** 203.118.169.111

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Jo Newburry
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Strongly agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

**Strongly agree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

## #5

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 03, 2023 8:52:30 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 03, 2023 9:02:23 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:52  
**IP Address:** 125.238.244.21

Page 1

**Q1**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Samantha SkyByrne
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

**Q2**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

## PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

**Q3**

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

**Q4**

Agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Strongly agree

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).



# #6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 10:07:28 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 10:12:54 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:26  
**IP Address:** 115.189.101.216

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Mark Pitchfork</b>
Postal address	██████████
City/Town	██████████
Post code	████
Email address	██
Phone number	██████████

## Q2

**I wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**  
Further comment: :  
I think hector, ngakawau, granity and waimangaroa should be included. If we go by th TTPP then houses in these areas are settlement zones and are urban. 100s of people live in these places

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

1 cat maximum and/or to be kept in at night by law.

# #7

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 7:19:05 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 7:28:44 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:38  
**IP Address:** 118.82.151.115

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Margaret Mackley</b>
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

I am disappointed that Karamea township has been excluded from the "Urban area" category. Karamea itself is an island within a National Park as well as having a nationally significant estuary which supports a wide variety of birds. The presence of wild or stray domestic cats is a great threat to the wild life living in both of these environments. Extending the limits on numbers of cats and the requirement for microchipping and desexing cats to the Karamea township would reduce the harm done by such predators.

**Q5**

**Strongly agree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

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# #8

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 10:09:50 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, July 04, 2023 10:13:10 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:20  
**IP Address:** 116.251.167.155

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Ash Oldham
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Strongly agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

**Strongly agree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

# #9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 05, 2023 3:17:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 05, 2023 3:22:36 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:29  
**IP Address:** 203.211.77.54

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Terence Amies
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

No

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**  
Further comment :  
gardens need poultry. eggs expensive. use household waste. bees polliate gardens. give honey. cats keep rats/mice away

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

few people have more than 2 cats. waste of ratepayers money policing this. elderly love cat company. dont need more expense for pensioners



# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, July 07, 2023 8:00:51 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, July 07, 2023 8:10:00 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:09  
**IP Address:** 122.57.127.189

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Beck Walker</b>
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Disagree,**

Further comment: :

There is a further block of land included in the revised plan that is farm land. I will email a map with it outlined. the land is down McKenna Road & Stafford Street.

**Q5**

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

# #11

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, July 08, 2023 10:17:15 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, July 08, 2023 10:22:19 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:03  
**IP Address:** 121.75.88.19

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Christine Hoffman</b>
Postal address	██████████
City/Town	██████████
Post code	██████
Email address	██
Phone number	██████████

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Disagree,**

Further comment: :

I agree with 2 cats per household but disagree with all cats being fixed, there should be a longer time so that owners have an opportunity for 1 litter that is at a healthy point of the cats life or we will end up in a situation of kittens being unavailable to be purchased, allow a household to have 1 litter that they are responsible to rehome to stop the supply just being feral farm cats.

---

# #12

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, July 09, 2023 11:07:05 AM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, July 09, 2023 11:16:04 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:08:58  
**IP Address:** 222.153.98.115

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Yvonne Scarlett</b>
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**No**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

How is this proposed bylaw to be policed, by whom and at what cost to ratepayers. Council has not managed to control dogs within the district so if you've ever met a cat you would know that it's more difficult. Setting bylaws without an effectual way of policing is only unnecessary cost on ratepayers. While in principle I agree with all cats being micro chipped and desexed I feel restrictions to only 2 cats in urban areas should be 3-4 especially considering the mental support they give their owners and often the number of people residing in a dwelling

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# #13

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, July 09, 2023 11:12:56 AM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, July 09, 2023 11:17:57 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:00  
**IP Address:** 27.252.194.81

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Adrienne mcenaney
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**  
Further comment: :  
There needs to be a definition of nuisance, and the onus of proof needs to be on the complainant.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

If cats are well looked after, not wandering, no cap should be placed on the number..



# #14

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:53:12 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:07:17 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:05  
**IP Address:** 210.48.190.68

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	LYNN DEN RAIN
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Strongly agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly agree,**

Further comment: :

BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS, PRECIOUS COMPANIONS, BUT THEY BELONG NEAR US, NOT IN OUR GARDENS. IT IS HEART-BREAKING THAT PEOPLE LET THEIR CATS ROAM OUTSIDE AFTER DARK. IN THE FIRST PLACE IT IS VERY HARMFUL FOR THE CATS...EYES CLAWED OUT IN A FIGHT, JAWS BROKEN FROM A COLLISION WITH A CAR, AND GIVING BIRTH TO UNWANTED KITTENS. AS WELL, ROOSTING BIRDS, SKINKS AND OTHER SMALL CREATURES ARE PREYED ON. IF PEOPLE HAVE TO MICROCHIP AND SPEY THEIR CATS, I THINK THEY WOULD VALUE THEM MORE.

---

#15

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:49:39 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:56:33 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:54  
**IP Address:** 222.153.223.12

Page 1

**Q1**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name	John
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]

**Q2**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

## PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

**Q3**

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

**Q4**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

I see this as just another way to remove cash from the public pockets. Bdc, is the worst council i have ever come across, and an investigation into back handers should be investigated.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

Just like covid vaccine, my cat will not be chipped.

# #16

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:32:04 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:37:34 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:29  
**IP Address:** 161.65.255.4

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Elaine Kitto</b>
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**No**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

**Strongly agree,**

Further comment: :

Would like to see this extended to all areas of the Buller district.

# #17

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:26:39 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:34:29 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:49  
**IP Address:** 119.224.65.148

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Margaret Montgomery</b>
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

**I wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**No**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :

Only having 2 cats per property may be fine for small 1/4 acre sections - but the Westport Holiday Park is set over 5.4 hectares, within the town boundary of Westport and has many people living on this one property, who own and care for their cats. The same will apply for pensioner housing in both Westport and Reefton, as cats are permitted to live with the elderly residents. So I believe that the wording is flawed in this proposed policy.

---

# #18

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:53:54 AM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 10:02:43 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:08:49  
**IP Address:** 103.235.93.59

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Alex
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Neither agree nor disagree,

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

Further comment: :  
It doesn't bother me where is classified urban, however I very strongly believe the new cat desexing and microchipping laws should extend across the whole district and not be limited to urban areas.



**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Agree,**

Further comment: :

I only believe these laws do not go far enough, although they are a good start. This law should apply to ALL areas within the district, not just urban areas. Desexing and microchipping is great, however we also need to bring in a law that cats must be contained on the property and not allowed to wander. This is for the cats own safety (far too many cats meet their end on the roads), and also for the safety of our native birds which are under threat. When bringing in these laws they need to be backed up with proper penalties for breaking them as well or else not much will change.

---

#19

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:25:51 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, July 15, 2023 12:29:41 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:50  
**IP Address:** 103.21.172.89

Page 1

**Q1**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Piper
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

**Q2**

## PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Q3**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

Yes

**Q4**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Neither agree nor disagree,**  
 Further comment :  
 It should apply to every area

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly agree**

# #20

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, July 21, 2023 6:14:26 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, July 21, 2023 6:20:53 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:27  
**IP Address:** 203.173.186.235

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	<b>Craig Burke</b>
Postal address	██████████
City/Town	██████████
Post code	██
Email address	████████████████████
Phone number	██████████

## Q2

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

**Yes**

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

**Neither agree nor disagree,**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

Further comment :  
I would like to understand why the bylaw is only going to be enforced in the newly proposed urban areas? Do you mean that cat owners outside the new urban area's have different rules to comply with? Why not apply the rule across all wards in Buller?

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

---

**Strongly agree,**

Further comment: :

Please apply the rule across all wards not just urban.

# #21

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 1:07:56 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 1:23:30 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:15:33  
**IP Address:** 115.189.98.169

Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Brenda Kaye
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

## Q2

I do not wish to speak to my submission

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

## Q3

No

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

## Q4

Neither agree nor disagree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Agree,**

Further comment: :

I believe that a 6 months target for spaying is good - there will be some cats that are not well-grown enough in my opinion, and the logistics of getting them operated on might also make it difficult for some. Separately requiring microchipping would be a good option, as the cats can be better tracked. Offering microchipping for free would make it much more palatable and fair for impoverished owners. It would hasten acceptance, as some savvy owners will get their cats microchipped even if they are older to facilitate recovering them - if for instance the Big One (earthquake) scares them away from their property.

---

#22

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:46:25 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:48:57 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:31  
**IP Address:** 206.83.102.59

Page 1

**Q1**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Di Rossiter
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]

**Q2**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

## PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

**Q3**

Yes

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

**Q4**

Agree

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Q5**

Agree

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

# #23

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 31, 2023 10:38:21 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 31, 2023 10:50:36 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:14  
**IP Address:** 122.57.127.65

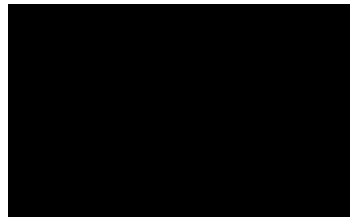
Page 1

## Q1

### CONTACT DETAILS

Name  
 Postal address  
 City/Town  
 Post code  
 Email address  
 Phone number

**David & Madeleine Barnes**



## Q2

### PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON

**I do not wish to speak to my submission**

## Q3

WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?

**Yes**

## Q4

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Strongly disagree,**

Further comment: :  
Our property is designed RD2 and clearly Rural. It is inconsitent and poinyless to redesignate it Urban.



**Q5**

**Strongly agree**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must bedesexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

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#24

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** AnimalsBylawReview (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, July 31, 2023 4:22:15 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, July 31, 2023 4:24:18 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:03  
**IP Address:** 161.29.239.49

Page 1

**Q1****CONTACT DETAILS**

Name	David Lloyd
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Postal address	[REDACTED]
City/Town	[REDACTED]
Post code	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Phone number	[REDACTED]

**Q2****I do not wish to speak to my submission****PRESENTING YOUR SUBMISSION IN PERSON****Q3****No**

**WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BE WITHHELD WHEN SUBMISSIONS ARE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE ?**

**Q4**

Re-definition of urban areas - Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. Residents are encouraged to read the Statement of Proposal which includes the maps defining the three proposed urban areas. You can view the Statement of proposal at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

**Neither agree nor disagree,**

Further comment: :

We do not believe that cat management is an urban-only problem. So, while we have no view what should be classed as an urban area in Buller District, we have reservations that urban areas are being defined for the purpose of cat management.

**Q5**

Keeping of cats in urban areas - Council proposes: no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council. any cat over six (6) months must be desexed, microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

**Strongly agree,**

Further comment: :

While we strongly agree with the sentiment of this bylaw clause, we strongly advocate for desexing to be from 4 months of age and in ALL areas, not just urban areas. We note that the New Zealand Veterinary association support prepubertal desexing, so we know it can be done safely. New Zealand. Rural management of cats will help protect against dumping of unwanted cats in rural areas and avoids unnecessary management inconsistencies based on address.

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**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details Please complete all fields

Name: GERALD HART

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Privacy Statement: In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

Presenting your submission in person

I wish to speak to my submission

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

Yes  No

Submission number: Office use only

\_\_\_\_\_

### What we are consulting on

Following community feedback, Council made changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022 after the public consultation in September/October 2022

Between 3 July and 31 July 2023 Council is consulting on these changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022.

Hearings will be held in August – September with a decision expected to be made by October.

Bylaws are discrete pieces of law created by councils that specifically apply to a district. These locally applicable forms of legislation deal with district-specific issues that are not already covered by any existing Acts of Parliament or Regulation.

#### These are the changes proposed:

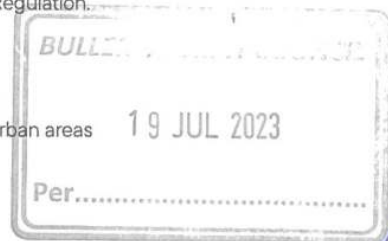
Re-definition of urban areas:

- Only Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton are now proposed to be considered as urban areas

Keeping of cats in urban areas:


- reducing the number to 2 per property; and
- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.



25

Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



*Shaping*  
our district

SCAN ME to complete your submission online





## Your submission

### 1. Re-definition of urban areas

Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. You can view the maps in the Statement of Proposal on Council's website or at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Further comment:

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### 2. Keeping of cats in urban areas

Council proposes no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council.

Any cat over six (6) months must be:

- desexed,
- microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Further comment:

HUGE WIN FOR ALL OUR NATIVE WILD LIFE IF THE SUBMISSION GETS APPROVED.

Have your say!

## Further feedback

SHAME ITS NOT DOWN TO 1 CAT BUT 2 CATS IS BETTER THAN 3 plus.

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*Need more room? You can attach extra pages – just make sure they're A4 and that you include your name and contact information.*

**Submissions are accepted during the consultation period from Monday 3 July to 4:30pm Monday 31 July 2023. Late submissions will not be considered.**


## For more information or for sending us your submission


There are a number of ways you can find out more about the amendments to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (2022), get a copy of the document, or make a submission:

 **Email**  
info@bdc.govt.nz with the subject **Animal bylaw** if you have any questions.

 **Online**  
Visit Council's website  
<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/proposed-keeping-of-animals-bylaw/>

Submissions can be completed online by visiting:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnimalsBylawReview>

 **Post**  
Return this completed form to the mail slot at Council Offices in Brougham Street or the Reefton Service Centre.

 **Have a read**  
Consultation documents and submission forms can be collected from Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

SCAN ME



TO COMPLETE YOUR SUBMISSION





**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details *Please complete all fields*

Name: CELIA SMITH

Organisation:

Postal address:

Phone:

Email:

**Privacy Statement:** In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.



Presenting your submission in person

- I wish to speak to my submission  
 I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

- Yes  No

Submission number: Office use only



### What we are consulting on

Following community feedback, Council made changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022 after the public consultation in September/October 2022

Between 3 July and 31 July 2023 Council is consulting on these changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022.

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Keeping of cats in urban areas:

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- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

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26

Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



Shaping  
our district

SCAN ME  
to complete  
your  
submission  
online



## Submissions on Keeping Of Animals By Law

- 1) While I appreciate the intent behind 2 cats per household, some people take in strays so that they are not a nuisance for others. For example our 3<sup>rd</sup> cat came to us in that manner obviously hungry and without an owner. So it would be counterproductive to prevent cats being taken care of by a household. And I have known others to adopt strays to bring to provide a safe home. The SPCA is no longer active here so there is no back up support. We were asked to help with 2 kittens abandoned on the lagoon mud flats and had to take them to Cat Rescue Christchurch.
- 2) Spay and microchip – good initiative however I would like to raise the issue of cost in a time when households are under financial stress. Some years ago an elderly friend was given two young cats understanding they were male. But they were young pregnant females. It cost around \$300 for me to get them spayed as he didn't have the money and I had difficulty getting times at the vet. Had to take one to Grey to get her spayed. A friend said in the past there was a van which would come to the coast and provided low cost spay and neutering services. I think having such a low cost mobile service would be helpful. To obtain funding for such a service over several years or longer could help people meet additional costs including microchipping.
- 3) I would like to further observe that cats in general have a right to life the same as any species and they should not pay the price for bad human behaviour of breeding for money and then abandoning or being abandoned through indifference or as an act of domestic violence.

4)

Celia Smith 16 Bentham Street  
John Robb  
Pam Milligan.



**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### > Your details *Please complete all fields*

Name: John BENNETT

Organisation:

Postal address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone:

Email: [REDACTED]

Presenting your submission in person

- I wish to speak to my submission
- I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

- Yes
- No

Submission number: *Office use only*

[REDACTED]

**Privacy Statement:** In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

### > What we are consulting on

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**These are the changes proposed:**

Re-definition of urban areas:

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Keeping of cats in urban areas:

- reducing the number to 2 per property; and
- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

27

The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.

Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.

*Shaping*  
our district

SCAN ME to complete your submission online









**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details Please complete all fields

Name: Sue Bennett.

Organisation:

Postal address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

**Privacy Statement:** In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

Presenting your submission in person

- I wish to speak to my submission
- I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

- Yes  No

Submission number: Office use only

[Empty box for submission number]



### What we are consulting on

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The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.

28

Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



*Shaping our district*

SCAN ME to complete your submission online











**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details *Please complete all fields*

Name: Shang Smith

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Privacy Statement:** In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

Presenting your submission in person

- I wish to speak to my submission
- I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

- Yes
- No

Submission number: *Office use only*



### What we are consulting on

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#### These are the changes proposed:

Re-definition of urban areas:

- Only Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton are now proposed to be considered as urban areas

Keeping of cats in urban areas:

- reducing the number to 2 per property; and
- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.

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Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



*Shaping our district*

SCAN ME to complete your submission online











**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details Please complete all fields

Name: Ross Eddy

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenting your submission in person

I wish to speak to my submission

I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

Yes  No

Privacy Statement: In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy) or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

Submission number: Office use only

\_\_\_\_\_

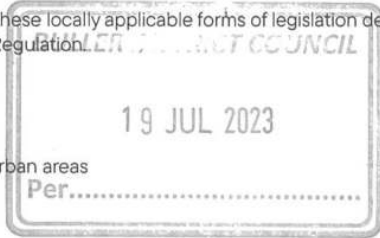
### What we are consulting on

Following community feedback, Council made changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022 after the public consultation in September/October 2022

Between 3 July and 31 July 2023 Council is consulting on these changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022.

Hearings will be held in August – September with a decision expected to be made by October.

Bylaws are discrete pieces of law created by councils that specifically apply to a district. These locally applicable forms of legislation deal with district-specific issues that are not already covered by any existing Acts of Parliament or Regulation.



#### These are the changes proposed:

##### Re-definition of urban areas:

- Only Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton are now proposed to be considered as urban areas

##### Keeping of cats in urban areas:

- reducing the number to 2 per property; and
- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.



Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



Shaping  
our district

SCAN ME  
to complete  
your  
submission  
online











**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Keeping of Animals Bylaw

## Submission Form



### Your details Please complete all fields

Name: Kim Ashby (Fentemann)

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenting your submission in person

- I wish to speak to my submission
- I do not wish to speak to my submission

Would you prefer your contact details be withheld when submissions are made available online?

- Yes
- No

Submission number: Office use only

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#### These are the changes proposed:

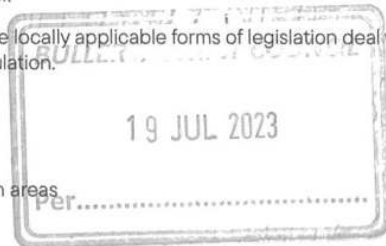
Re-definition of urban areas:

- Only Westport, Carters Beach and Reefton are now proposed to be considered as urban areas.

Keeping of cats in urban areas:


- reducing the number to 2 per property; and
- requiring all cats over 6 months old to be desexed, microchipped and registered with Companion Animals New Zealand.

The remainder of the proposed bylaw remains the same as the one which was consulted on in 2022.



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Please take the time to read the Statement of Proposal. By doing this you bring your voice to the discussion on how animals are kept and managed in Buller, particularly for those who own cats and those who live in urban areas.



**Shaping our district**

SCAN ME to complete your submission online





## Your submission

### 1. Re-definition of urban areas

Council proposes that the urban areas be limited to Westport (excluding the racecourse), Carters Beach; and Reefton. You can view the maps in the Statement of Proposal on Council's website or at Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Further comment:

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### 2. Keeping of cats in urban areas

Council proposes no person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than TWO cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of Council.

Any cat over six (6) months must be:

- desexed,
- microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (exemptions for certified breeding animals will apply).

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree  Disagree  Strongly disagree

Further comment:

Great work BDC and Councillors. This is a positive start.  
Cats wreak havoc on our wildlife & neighbours

Have  
your  
say!

## Further feedback

Help us save our wildlife.  
Don't replace your cat when it dies.  
Keep it inside at night.  
Worth checking out what they did in Victoria & Canberra to help protect wildlife, contain your cat  
thank you

*Need more room? You can attach extra pages – just make sure they're A4 and that you include your name and contact information.*

**Submissions are accepted during the consultation period from Monday 3 July to 4:30pm Monday 31 July 2023. Late submissions will not be considered.**

## For more information or for sending us your submission

There are a number of ways you can find out more about the amendments to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw (2022), get a copy of the document, or make a submission:



#### Email

info@bdc.govt.nz with the subject **Animal bylaw** if you have any questions.



#### Online

Visit Council's website  
<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/proposed-keeping-of-animals-bylaw/>

Submissions can be completed online by visiting:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnimalsBylawReview>



#### Post

Return this completed form to the mail slot at Council Offices in Brougham Street or the Reefton Service Centre.



#### Have a read

Consultation documents and submission forms can be collected from Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.



## Prue Holms

---

**From:** BDC\_Customer Services  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 August 2023 8:25 am  
**To:** Prue Holms  
**Subject:** FW: RNZSPCA Submission Amended Buller District Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022  
**Attachments:** RNZSPCA submission\_Buller District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022\_Amended Cats\_31.07.23.pdf; SPCA submission on the Buller District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022\_11.10.22.pdf

---

**From:** Arnja Dale <arnja.dale@spca.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 July 2023 6:15 PM  
**To:** BDC\_Info <info@bdc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RNZSPCA Submission Amended Buller District Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022

Kia ora,

Please find attached our RNZSPCA submission on the amended Buller District Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022.

I have also reattached our original submission from October last year.

Please let me know if you have any questions, would like any further information, or would like to meet to discuss.

Ngā mihi,  
Arnja



**Dr Arnja Dale** BSc., GDipNFPL, GDipHE, MSc., MSc.(Hons), PhD  
Chief Scientific Officer

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Henderson | 0610  
PO Box 15349 | New Lynn | Auckland | 0640 | New Zealand  
P: +64 9 827 6094 | Cell: +64 22 300 1158 | DD: +64 9 825 1805  
E: [arnja.dale@spca.nz](mailto:arnja.dale@spca.nz) | W: [www.spca.nz](http://www.spca.nz)

*Make flexibility work - if you receive an email from me outside of normal business hours, I am sending it at a time that suits me. Unless I've marked it urgent, I'm not expecting you to read or reply until you can during normal business hours.*



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**Submission by the**  
**Royal New Zealand Society for the**  
**Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.**  
  
**on the**  
**Buller District Council Proposed**  
**Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022**  
**Amended Urban Areas and Keeping of Cats**

31 July 2023





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## Executive Summary

- Cats are one of New Zealand's most popular companion animals. However, SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of owned cats that are desexed, that only half the number of owned cats are microchipped, and very few owners keep their cat(s) at home.
- The unwanted cat population in New Zealand requires local (and national) policy solutions where the true cost of owning an undesexed and non-microchipped cat does not place an undue burden on New Zealand society.
- SPCA supports reasonable limits on the number of cats per household as this can help ensure a cat's welfare needs are met and they experience A Good Life.
- SPCA supports the mandatory microchipping and registration of microchips for all cats over four months of age in the Buller District. Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted.
- SPCA supports the mandatory desexing of all cats by four months of age or at the transfer of ownership in the Buller District unless a cat is a registered breeding animal or a veterinarian has deemed this would negatively impact the health of the cat. Desexing provides welfare benefits to the individual cat and is an important tool to address problems with cat overpopulation.
- SPCA advocates for cat owners to keep their cats at home or on their property, and supports bylaws that facilitate this behaviour.
- SPCA urges Buller District Council to improve their tracking of nuisance associated with roaming cats including property damage, spraying and defecating on neighbouring properties, and fighting with other cats causing injuries that then require veterinary treatment.



## **Introduction**

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 140 years with a supporter base representing many tens of thousands of New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 29 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Buller District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw Amended for Urban Areas and Provisions for the Keeping of Cats.

## **Submission**

Cats are one of New Zealand's most popular companion animals. However, SPCA is concerned with a recent decrease in the number of cats that are desexed, that only half the number of cats are microchipped, and very few are kept at home (Companion Animals New Zealand [CANZ], 2020).

Our SPCA Centres regularly see the welfare problems related to irresponsible cat ownership, including:

- the predictable cycle of unplanned litters of kittens born each year because there are too many cats that are not desexed and allowed to breed;
- the number of cats and kittens who are lost or have strayed, but we cannot find their owner because they are not microchipped, or their microchip details are not registered on a national database; and
- the majority of cats and kittens who need our care is because they have contagious disease, are injured, or lost because they roam freely from home.



We also know that irresponsible cat ownership can lead to nuisance in communities (e.g., spraying, toileting, fighting), predation on wildlife, and the spread of toxoplasmosis to people, farmed animals, and vulnerable native marine mammals (e.g., Hector's and Māui dolphins).

SPCA advocates for more responsible ownership of companion cats to improve the welfare of these cats and to help address the problems with community nuisance, predation, and the overpopulation of stray cats. SPCA advocates for all companion cats (except registered breeding animals belonging to registered breeders) to be desexed and microchipped, and their microchip to be registered on a national microchip registration database. Our organisation advocates for companion cats to be kept at home by keeping them indoors or kept on their owner's property.

The unwanted cat population in New Zealand must be viewed as a public problem, requiring local (and national) policy solutions where the true cost of owning an undesexed and un-microchipped cat is not an undue burden on New Zealand society. These costs include the costs that shelters and rescues absorb, costs that local councils absorb with managing unwanted cats, and costs of increased protection of vulnerable wildlife.

Currently, there are four places in New Zealand where bylaws require cats to be desexed<sup>1</sup> and six places where bylaws require cats to be microchipped and the microchip is registered.<sup>2</sup> Please see Part 1 of the Background section for more information on cat-related bylaws.

New Zealand needs more leadership from the local government to encourage responsible cat ownership and complement the work done by our organisation and others. Our organisation is pleased to see the inclusion of requirements for companion cats to be desexed and microchipped in the amended proposal for the Keeping of Animals Bylaw in the Buller District. Below, we provide feedback on the proposed changes in the bylaw, additional suggestions for the Council to consider which promote more responsible cat ownership, and background information in support of our submission.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Palmerston North City](#), [Whanganui District Council](#), [Whangārei District Council](#), and [Ruapehu District Council](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Wellington City Council](#), [Palmerston North City](#), [Whanganui District Council](#), [Selwyn District Council](#), [Whangārei District Council](#), [Ruapehu District Council](#).





## **SPCA's feedback on proposed changes to the Buller District Keeping of Animals Bylaw**

**Proposed change: 7.1 No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, more than two cats over the age of six months on any property in an urban area, except with the written approval of the Council.**

SPCA prefers the previously proposed bylaw of a limit of four cats six months or older per dwelling. Our organisation supports reasonable limits on the number of cats per household as this can help ensure a cat's welfare needs are met and that they experience a Good Life. We support Buller District Council's inclusion of exceptions with the written approval of the Council for cat owners no matter the set limit. We urge Council to consider that people who keep their cats at home, including those cats confined to their property, be permitted to have more than two cats.

**Proposed change: 7.6 Any cat over six (6) months must be:**

- a) Microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.**

SPCA supports the mandatory microchipping and registration of microchips for all cats in the Buller District. Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted (Lord et al., 2010; Lancaster et al., 2015). We encourage the Council to consider lowering the age at which cats must be microchipped to four months as this helps ensure kittens under the age of six months benefit from having a registered microchip. Please see Part 2 of the Background section for more information about the welfare benefits of a registered microchip.

**Proposed change: 7.6 Any cat over six (6) months must be:**

- b) Be de-sexed, unless:**
  - i. The cat is kept for breeding purposes; and registered with a nationally recognised cat breeder's body OR**
  - ii. The owners provide a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.**

SPCA supports the mandatory desexing of all cats in the Buller District by four months of age or before the transfer of ownership unless a cat is a registered breeding animal. Desexing provides welfare benefits to the individual cat and is a valuable tool to address problems with cat





overpopulation (Farnworth et al., 2013; Joyce & Yates, 2011; Yates et al., 2013). Desexing cats helps reduce the number of kittens that enter shelters and are euthanased (New et al., 2000; Marston & Bennett, 2009; Marsh, 2010). Please see Part 3 of the Background section for more information on the welfare benefits of desexing cats.

We urge Buller District Council to lower the age to four months for when cats are required to be desexed. The traditional age for desexing a cat is from four to six months of age (Farnworth et al., 2013; Orr & Jones, 2019). Kittens enter puberty typically from four to six months of age; however, a kitten may reach puberty as early as 14 weeks of age (3.5 months) (Farnworth et al., 2013; Stubbs & Bloomberg, 1995). Therefore, we advocate the requirement for desexing to be earlier than is currently proposed to help ensure those kittens who have entered puberty before six months do not contribute to the cycle of unplanned litters born each year in New Zealand.

Desexing can safely be carried out at an earlier age than the traditional age of four to six months (Howe, 1997, 2015; Root Kustritz, 1999; Stubbs & Bloomberg, 1995; Stubbs et al., 1996). Early desexing does not adversely affect the physiological or behavioural development in cats; desexing at a younger age is a faster procedure and has a quicker recovery time for the kitten (Aronsohn & Faggella, 1993; Bushby & Griffin, 2011; Howe, 1997; Porters et al., 2015); and it reduces the likelihood of some cat behaviours such as spraying, straying, and vocalising (Spain et al., 2004).

## **Additional suggestions for promoting responsible cat ownership**

### ***Keeping cats at home to reduce nuisance***

We urge Buller District Council to consider the public health risks, nuisance, and property damage issues related to owned companion cats whose owners allow them to freely roam from their property. SPCA advocates for cat owners to keep their cats at home, and support bylaws that facilitate this behaviour.

There are roughly 1.2 million companion cats in 41% of households across New Zealand (CANZ, 2020). Recent studies indicate that most cat owners do not restrict their cats roaming from their property (Bassett et al., 2020; CANZ, 2020; Gates et al., 2019). The likelihood of undesexed



companion cats contributing to the unwanted population of cats is exacerbated by most cat owners allowing their cats to roam freely.

A cat's physical, health, behavioural, emotional, and mental needs can be met whilst keeping them at home as either indoor-only cats, with access to a secure outdoor enclosure, or with access to a garden with an escape-proof fence.

In addition to being at increased risk of welfare harm from disease, injury, vehicle accidents, and becoming lost, roaming cats can have negative impacts on other people and animals in communities. Please see Part 4 of the Background section for more information on the benefits of keeping cats at home.

#### ***Keeping track of nuisance complaints***

SPCA urges Buller District Council to improve how they track nuisance associated with cats including property damage, spraying and defecating on neighbouring properties, and fighting with other cats causing injuries that then require veterinary treatment.

SPCA is concerned that the true scale of nuisance related to un-desexed and roaming companion cats is not fully communicated to local councils. Our organisation regularly receives emails and calls from the public related to cat nuisance (e.g., the neighbour's cat is toileting in their garden). We even have a [website article](#) offering advice and tips for keeping a neighbour's cat out of your garden. However, these strategies place the onus of managing nuisance on those who do not own the cat. Our organisation advocates that preventing nuisance is the cat owner's responsibility.

SPCA is concerned about issues related to the keeping of cats that may be perceived as non-nuisance such as predation on native wildlife. We receive emails and calls related to the harms that members of the public voice about native wildlife predation, and we argue, this impacts the person and should be considered a community nuisance. Cats are the definitive host of toxoplasmosis, and exposure to cat faeces in soil, sandpits, litter beds, and gardens are risk factors for transmission to people and other animals (Aguirre et al., 2019; Stelzer et al., 2019).



Please see Part 5 of the Background section for more information on other benefits of responsible cat ownership.

## Background Information

### ***Part 1: Examples of where Local Councils have passed requirements for cats to be desexed and microchipped***

There are few places in New Zealand where desexing, microchipping, and microchip registration are mandatory for cats.

**Table 1: Local councils that have bylaws requiring cats to be desexed or microchipped.**

Council (year)	Desexing	Microchipping
<a href="#">Wellington City (2016)</a>	None.	All cats over the age of 12 weeks must be microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
<a href="#">Palmerston North City (2018)</a>	All cats over six months of age, born after the 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2018 must be desexed (exemptions are in place for registered breeders).	All cats over 6 months of age and born after the 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2018 must be microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
<a href="#">Whanganui District (2020)</a>	Any cat over four months of age is required to be desexed (exemptions are in place for registered breeders or to protect the cat's health and/or welfare).	Any cat over four months of age is required to be microchipped and registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
<a href="#">Selwyn District (2021)</a>	None.	Every person who keeps a cat over the age of four months is required to microchip and register the cat with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register or other approved registry.





<a href="#">Whangārei District (2022)</a>	Any cat over six months of age must be desexed (exemptions are in place for registered breeders or to protect the cat’s health and/or welfare).	Any cat over six months of age must be microchipped, and the microchip registered on the New Zealand Companion Animals Register.
<a href="#">Ruapehu District (2022)</a>	Every person who keeps a cat that is over six months must ensure the cat is desexed (exemptions are in place for registered breeders or to protect the cat’s health and/or welfare).	Every person who keeps a cat that is over six months must ensure they are microchipped, and the microchip is registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register or other Council approved microchip registry.

**Part 2: Welfare benefits of microchipping and registering the microchip**

SPCA prefers microchipping as the primary form of identification for a cat because the chip cannot be removed, dislodged, or lost without surgical intervention. Once a cat is microchipped, the 15-digit microchip number and the animal and owner’s details can be registered with a microchip registration database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (CANZ, 2018). Microchipping helps ensure a lost cat can be reunited with their owner, which can be especially true during emergencies.

**Table 2: Benefits of microchipping cats.**

Benefits of Microchipping	Source
During the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, 85% of owners of microchipped animals were contacted within 3 hours by the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, compared to only 25% of non-microchipped animals reunited with their owners within seven days.	CANZ, 2018
39% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners, compared to 2% returned for un-microchipped cats.	Lord et al., 2010
51% of microchipped cats were returned to their owners compared to only 5% of un-microchipped cats.	Lancaster et al., 2015



The addition of a collar and tag for companion or managed stray cats can provide a visual indication of a cat’s ownership/management status and successfully help reunite lost cats with their owners/carers (Alberthsen et al., 2013; Lord et al., 2007, 2010).

**Part 3: Welfare benefits of desexing cats**

Desexing can reduce the risk of certain diseases, reduce the likelihood of roaming (which can increase risks of harm such as disease and infection, injury, and becoming lost), and increase lifespan. Desexing can also prevent the mortality of unwanted kittens which is often overlooked as a welfare impact.

**Table 3: Welfare benefits of desexing cats**

Decreased risk of reproductive disease	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16.3% of all tumours are in the mammary gland, making this the second most common tumour (Vascellari et al., 2009). 8.2% of tumours in a Swiss feline cancer registry (1965-2008) were mammary gland tumours (Graf et al., 2016). Previous reports showed a 2.5% incidence of mammary gland tumours in female cats, 12% of all tumours making this the third most common tumour (Dorn et al., 1968; Verstegen &amp; Onclin, 2003).</li> <li>• More recently, mammary tumours have been found to make up 16.3% of tumours</li> <li>• &gt;90% of mammary gland tumours in cats are malignant (Dorn et al., 1968; Hampe &amp; Misdorp, 1974; Hayes et al., 1981). A more recent study with a Swiss feline cancer registry found that 83% of mammary tumours were malignant (Graf et al., 2016).</li> <li>• Japanese and Siamese breeds are at increased risk of mammary tumours (Graf et al., 2016; Verstegen &amp; Onclin, 2003).</li> <li>• Pyometra risk increase significantly with age for female cats (Potter et al., 1991).</li> </ul>	
Benefits of desexing	Source
Sexually intact females are at increased risk of mammary tumours.	Hayes et al., 1981
Sexually intact cats have seven times the risk of developing mammary gland neoplasms when they get older compared to spayed female cats.	Dorn et al., 1968





<p>Ovariectomy was found to protect against mammary carcinomas but not against benign mammary tumours. Intact cats are seven times overrepresented in the population of cats diagnosed with mammary tumours.</p>	<p>Misdorp et al., 1991</p>
<p>Desexing before one year of age is protective against mammary carcinoma: 91% risk of reduction if desexed before 6 months, 86% reduction if before one year. Desexing after two years increased the risk (likely due to very few cats being desexed after this age).</p>	<p>Overley et al., 2005</p>
<p>Desexed female cats had significantly lower odds than entire female cats of developing tumour/malignant tumour in the mammary gland.</p>	<p>Graf et al., 2016</p>
<p>Reviews on this topic: Reichler, 2009; Root Kustritz, 2007, 2012</p>	

Increased lifespan and improved overall health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lifespan should be cautiously interpreted, as it can be a proxy measure for overall better care provided for both owned and stray cats. There is little research on this topic, so it is difficult to make strong claims about the specific impact of desexing on increasing lifespan.</li> <li>Improved health for both male and female cats in managed colonies may be related to decreased risk of infectious disease, nutritional deficiencies, and stress associated with reproduction (Gilhofer et al., 2019) and reduced reproduction-related aggression in males (Cafazzo et al., 2019; Finkler et al., 2011; Gunther et al., 2018).</li> </ul>	
Benefits of desexing	Source
<p>Desexed male cats live a mean of 62 percent longer than undesexed male cats, and desexed female cats live a mean of 39 percent longer than undesexed female cats.</p>	<p>Banfield Pet Hospital, 2013</p>
<p>Desexed stray cats were in better welfare condition compared to intact cats.</p>	<p>Gunther, et al., 2018</p>



Undesexed males and females in a TNR (Trap Neuter and Return) managed colony were more likely to be injured or have impaired health.	Gilhofer et al., 2019
--	-----------------------

Decreased roaming risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intact male cats are at higher risk of traffic accidents, injuries, bite wounds, and disease transmission compared to desexed males (Finkler et al., 2011; Gunther et al., 2015; 2018).</li> <li>Decreased roaming is most relevant for cat owners who do not keep their cats confined to their property (either garden or house).</li> </ul>	
Benefits of Desexing	Source
Roaming (and fighting and spraying) reduced or eliminated in 80-90% of cats.	Hart & Cooper, 1984
Desexing reduces activity related to territorial behaviour. Authors note cats are less active, which they do not specify includes roaming.	Cafazzo et al., 2019
Reviews on this topic: Bain, 2020.	

Improved kitten welfare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unplanned kittens contribute to high numbers of animals surrendered to shelters. Kittens under the age of 6 months made up the largest proportion of owner-surrender cats to an animal shelter in Australia; 34% of all owner-surrendered animals were emaciated (Marston &amp; Bennett, 2009).</li> <li>Kittens that enter the shelter system because they are from unplanned breeding can often be in a poor state of welfare. This is before shelter entry and not related to shelter stay.</li> <li>Free-roaming kittens had the highest prevalence of emaciation and thinness, lowest BCS (Body Condition Score) scores, and higher prevalence of severe injury or disability than adults. (Gunther et al., 2018).</li> </ul>





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is high variability among kitten mortality in stray cats, however, at least one study showed 75% mortality before 6 months, with trauma being the most common cause of death (Nutter et al., 2004).</li> </ul>	
Benefits of desexing	Source
An average of 30% of kittens that came into SPCA Centres are categorised as not healthy at intake. Not healthy categories include Dead on Arrival; Unhealthy not treatable; Unhealthy treatable (urgent); Unhealthy treatable (non-urgent).	SPCA Intake Health Data: Jan 2021-Jul 2023

SPCA advocates for pre-pubertal desexing to reduce the likelihood of a cat having kittens before the 'traditional' time of de-sexing at four to six months of age. Cats may reach reproductive maturity as early as three and a half months of age (Farnworth et al., 2013; Little, 2011; Stubbs & Bloomberg, 1995). Therefore, delaying the desexing of owned cats can result in unwanted litters of kittens which has long-term negative impacts on nuisance in communities, public health, and animal welfare.

Desexing companion cats is one of the few humane methods we have for managing stray cats, as it reduces the flow of unplanned litters of kittens from the companion cat population into the stray cat population.

**Part 4: Welfare benefits of keeping cats at home**

Cats who are allowed to roam from home face numerous welfare risks including threats to their health, consequences of becoming lost or straying, and if not desexed, can contribute to the unwanted kitten population in New Zealand.

**Table 4: Welfare benefits of keeping cats at home**

Benefits of keeping cats at home	Source
Reduces the risk of injury and death from vehicles, fighting with cats and other animals, infectious disease transmission, and ingestion of harmful substances.	Bruce et al., 2019; Loyd et al., 2013, Rochlitz, 2003a, b, 2004a, b





Reduces risk of disease transmission to people and other animals (e.g., ringworm, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus [FIV]).	Hosie et al., 2009; Stull et al., 2015
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**Part 5: Other benefits of responsible cat ownership**

Desexing, microchipping, and keeping cats at home can also reduce the negative impacts cats can have including nuisance, predation on native wildlife, and spread of toxoplasmosis to both native animals and pastoral animals. Desexing and microchipping are longer term-strategies that will address problems with the overpopulation of cats and keeping cats at home can provide immediate local benefits for reducing nuisance such as spraying and toileting on neighbouring properties and reducing predation. Preventing cats from defecating away from home can also contribute to a reduction in the spread of toxoplasmosis to other animals and people.

**Table 5: Other benefits of responsible cat ownership**

Benefits of responsible cat ownership	Source
Reduces risk of disease transmission to people and other animals (e.g., ringworm, FIV).	Hosie et al., 2009; Stull et al., 2015
Reduces risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to farmed animals.	Aguirre et al., 2019; Stelzer et al., 2019
Decreases predation on native wildlife.	Bell & Bell, 2003; Bellingham et al., 2010; Dowding & Murphy, 2003; Imber et al., 2003; Veitch et al., 2011
Decreases risk of toxoplasmosis transmission to native wildlife.	Aguirre et al., 2019



## **Conclusion**

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Buller District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022 Amended for Urban Areas and Provisions for Keeping of Cats. We welcome further engagement on this issue. If any further information is required, the Society is happy to discuss this matter further.



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# Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

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31 July 2023

## Submission on Buller District Council proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2022

To: Buller District Council  
Submitted via email to [info@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@bdc.govt.nz)

From: Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc (Forest & Bird)



### Introduction

1. Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest independent conservation organisation. Our mission is to protect New Zealand's unique flora and fauna and its habitat.
2. We congratulate Buller District Council for the changes to the proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw that was notified last year. Forest & Bird encourages councils, through their bylaws, to adopt meaningful cat management policies and regulations to support responsible cat ownership, to minimise risk to human health and to minimise the risk of nuisance cats to native species.
3. We would like to speak in support of our submission.

### SUBMISSION

4. It was with great optimism that we read the submissions of Buller residents regarding cat regulation in the District during last year's bylaw review. Cat regulation is not controversial, and for the most part, is desired by Buller residents, and New Zealanders more widely.
5. Forest & Bird acknowledges the position cats hold as a valued companion animal to loving owners. As a loved animal, cat owners also need to take responsibility for their cat's behaviour and safety. Limiting the number of cats on a property and ensuring all cats are de-sexed and microchipped is the bare minimum of responsible cat ownership.

6. However, Forest & Bird opposes the restriction of the proposed cat regulation to solely urban areas of Buller District. Cat nuisance is not a solely urban issue. Buller has many small townships that don't meet the definition of urban but where residents own cats. Furthermore, rural communities often bear the brunt of urban cat nuisance via illegal dumping of unwanted cats in remote parts of the district, thereby creating nuisance outside the urban boundary.
7. Forest & Bird recommends removing the 'urban' qualifier in the cat provisions of this bylaw thereby making the regulation apply district wide.

**Forest & Bird supports a limit of TWO cats per household**

8. Cat limits are the most common form of regulation in bylaws across Aotearoa (Table 1.). New Zealanders show a high level (>65%) of support for limits to be placed on the number of cats owned per household.<sup>1</sup> Of the 50% of submitters who responded to the proposed increases in cats from three to four in Buller's bylaw review last year, no one supported the increase. Furthermore, 84% of those submitters called for a limit of three or fewer.

**Table 1. Territorial Authorities that currently limit cat numbers in their bylaws.**

Cat limits per household	Council
Two cats	Mackenzie District Council <sup>2</sup>
Three cats	Buller District Council <sup>3</sup> Rangitikei District Council <sup>9</sup> Carterton District Council <sup>4</sup> South Wairarapa District Council <sup>10</sup> Invercargill City Council <sup>5</sup> Tararua District Council <sup>11</sup> Masterton District Council <sup>6</sup> Wairoa District Council <sup>12</sup> New Plymouth District Council <sup>7</sup> Whanganui District Council <sup>13</sup> Palmerston North City Council <sup>8</sup>
Four cats	Hastings District Council <sup>14</sup> Manawatū District Council <sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Walker, J.K., Bruce, S.J., Dale, A.R. 2017. A Survey of Public Opinion on Cat (Felis catus) Predation and the Future Direction of Cat Management in New Zealand. *Animals (Basel)*. 7(7): 49. Accessed: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5532564/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/589829/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-2021.pdf](https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/589829/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-2021.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Keeping-of-Cats.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Part%206%20Keeping%20of%20Animals%20Poultry%20and%20Bees%20Bylaw\\_Current\\_0.pdf](https://www.swdc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Part%206%20Keeping%20of%20Animals%20Poultry%20and%20Bees%20Bylaw_Current_0.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://icc.govt.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-2013.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> See Footnote 16.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.newplymouthnz.com/-/media/NPDC/Documents/Council/Council%20Documents/Bylaws/Animals%20Bylaw%202020.ashx?la=en&hash=A677A7CBBBA6FDC4E908A526DFC6A5DE7C136DFC>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.pncc.govt.nz/media/3130963/animals-and-bees-bylaw-2018.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/files/forms/Animal-Control-Bylaw-2019.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> See Footnote 16.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.tararoadc.govt.nz/Publications/Policies-Bylaws>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Bylaws/WDC-Part-3-Public-Safety-Bylaw-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/files/assets/public/bylaws/keeping-of-animals-poultry-and-bees-bylaw-2020.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Bylaws/Hastings-District-Council-Consolidated-Bylaw/hastings-district-council-consolidated-bylaws-october-2016.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.mdc.govt.nz/Documents/Bylaws>

	Marlborough District Council <sup>15</sup>	Ruapehu District Council <sup>17</sup>
Five cats	Far North District Council <sup>18</sup> Southland District Council <sup>19</sup>	South Waikato District Council <sup>20</sup>

9. As recently as 2021, Mackenzie District Council imposed the strictest cat limit in the country, allowing only two per household in urban areas. Imposing cat limits to households where cats pose a nuisance, e.g. cat hoarders and unwanted breeding, is an easy way to address and abate the nuisance.
10. Forest & Bird supports the certainty provided by a two cat limit to give direction to Council Officers to impose a limit on cat numbers as a means of dealing with a nuisance when a complaint is received.

#### **Forest & Bird supports compulsory microchipping and registration**

11. Forest & Bird believes that microchipping and registering cats should be required of all cat owners. Requiring individuals to microchip and register their cats allows for a clear delineation between stray, feral and free-roaming owned cats. Identification of cats is paramount to ensuring that effective strategies for control of un-owned cats, that Council may wish to undertake, can progress.
12. In this context, catching microchipped cats allows not only the return of someone's beloved pet, like the cat trapped in Inglewood and returned to its family six years after it went missing,<sup>21</sup> but also presents an opportunity to educate that cat owner who may have previously been oblivious to the negative impact their cat was having in the local community and the distance they may have travelled. Furthermore, compulsory microchipping brings Buller District Council in line with recent bylaws enacted by Whanganui, Palmerston North, Wellington City,<sup>22</sup> Selwyn District,<sup>23</sup> Whangārei<sup>24</sup> and most recently Ruapehu District.<sup>25</sup>

#### **Forest & Bird proposes the compulsory requirement to de-sex cats from FOUR months**

13. The reproductive potential of a single female cat is estimated at 300 kittens in her reproductive lifetime. The potential for a male cat is far beyond that. MPI's Code of Welfare states puberty

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/AnimalsBylaw2017.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2dyphjrmg1cxby65trfv/hierarchy/our-council/policies-and-bylaws/theruapehubylaw/documents/The%20Ruapehu%20Bylaw%202022.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fndc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/objectivedocuments/governance-and-executive-management-gem/bylaws/keeping-animals-poultry-and-bees/keeping-of-animals-poultry-and-bees-2007.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/assets/bylawspolicies/Keeping-of-Animals-Poultry-and-Bees-Bylaw-come-into-effect-12-October-2020.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:24rtvarkd17q9s3wxfn/hierarchy/our-council/strategies-plans-policies-bylaws/bylaws/documents/Keeping%20of%20Animals%2C%20Poultry%20and%20Bees%20Bylaw%202017.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/stratford-press/news/hundreds-of-kittens-and-cats-rescued-this-year-alone-by-taranaki-animal-protection-trust/SGLHEBF4GHSTZNGIDWCIXCNMGU/>

<sup>22</sup> [https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/wellington-consolidated-by-law-2008/part-2\\_-animals#four4](https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/wellington-consolidated-by-law-2008/part-2_-animals#four4)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/news-And-events/news/new-rules-agreed-for-keeping-animals-in-selwyn-towns>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/documents/council/bylaws/animals-by-law.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300757581/clampdown-on-freewheeling-backyard-moggies>

can occur from four months of age.<sup>26</sup> Responsible cat ownership includes having cats desexed at or before puberty. Palmerston North, Whanganui, Whangārei and Ruapehu District Councils all included de-sexing in their recent Animals Bylaw reviews. Whanganui's bylaw includes compulsory desexing from four months of age.

14. Forest & Bird proposes the compulsory requirement to de-sex cats in Buller be from four months. De-sexing from four months would bring the bylaw in line with Whanganui which currently has the best cat regulation in the country. We would however, support veterinary discretion on a case-by-case basis, should six months be deemed more appropriate for specific individual cats. Prevention of unwanted kittens would be a major advancement in cat management in Buller. Animal shelters and cat rescues strain under the burden of so many unwanted cats. Desexing from four months would go a long way to addressing this pressure.

**Forest & Bird proposes allocating appropriate resources to ensure bylaw effectiveness**

15. The biggest stumbling block to effective cat management in Aotearoa is funding of compliance and education. Forest & Bird would support the provision of targeted funding towards subsidising de-sexing and microchipping and the establishment of an education and awareness programme teaching responsible cat ownership in addition to regulation through this Bylaw.
16. Good models for cat management already exist. In Wellington, for example, they have an officer who works two days a week systematically clearing out the city's stray cat populations. They have partnered with a shelter to ensure captured cats are housed for the required length of time and any cats that are suitable for re-homing, are re-homed.
17. Cat management in Buller need not be expensive or unachievable. It just requires leadership and a well-balanced approach of education, targeted funding and enforcement.

**Submission ends.**

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/46021-Code-of-Welfare-Companion-cats>