



DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

**1. SCOPE**

1.1 This policy applies to the General Manager and all staff, together with all dog and non-dog owners within the Waratah-Wynyard Municipal Area to meet legislative requirements of Council with regards to the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

**2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Dog Management Policy is to:

- 2.1 Ensure that all dog owners within the Municipal Area have a complete understanding of their obligations under the *Dog Control Act 2000*; and
- 2.2 To define the obligations and responsibilities of Council staff and dog owners for the effective management of dogs within Waratah-Wynyard Municipal Area.

**3. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 3.1. The Council understands the importance of dog companionship within Waratah-Wynyard Municipal Area;
- 3.2. The Council will administer all provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* within available resource allocation and consistent with its priorities for service provision;
- 3.3. In administering the provision of the Dog Control Act 2000 the value of education and the delivery of information for dog owners and non-dog owners is the first guiding principle to be adopted by Council staff. Regulatory measures are to be used where education has previously been provided and a subsequent offence is detected, or in the instance of a serious offence;
- 3.4. The Council will work together with the community to reduce the risk from anti-social and straying dogs through education, routine patrols, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues.
- 3.5. The Council will provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of dog attacks and dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road and, where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange collection for the next working day when practicable;
- 3.6. The Council will provide dog exercise areas (as defined in Dog Recreation Areas) that recognise the needs of people and their dogs, taking into account any negative impacts on the environment;
- 3.7. The Council will actively support and promote responsible dog ownership through the development of a code relating to responsible ownership of dogs (as defined in Code of Responsible Dog Ownership);
- 3.8. It is the responsibility of all dog owners to comply with the Responsible Ownership of Dogs Code; and
- 3.9. The Council will develop and maintain a dog management fee structure (as defined in Dog Management Fee Structure).

**Legislative Requirements – Dog Control Act 2000 – s7**

**Related Procedures/Guidelines:**

Code for Responsible Dog Ownership

Declared Dog Areas

Management Fee Structure

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