



2014 - 2018

CITY OF HOBART  
DOG MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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# INTRODUCTION

Hobart, the capital of Tasmania is one of the most attractive cities in Australia. To the west, Mt Wellington provides a striking natural backdrop to the City, whilst the River Derwent creates a beautiful setting to the east of the City. These two features have strongly influenced the development pattern of the City where urban development now stretches along the foreshore and low hills. This pattern of urban development allows residents and visitors to the City to readily access the foreshore areas, surrounding natural bushland and developed urban spaces. The quality of recreational areas contributes significantly to the overall image and lifestyle values of the City.

The Council provides a major role in the planning, development and management of the urban and natural areas of the City. One of these roles is providing dog management across the City in a number of environs which includes households (23,817) sports fields and facilities (50), urban parks and reserves (130), bushland reserves (4,589 hectares) containing over 190 kilometres of tracks and trails (most available for on-lead walking), roadways (310 km) and footpaths (440.5 km). These areas includes playgrounds, historic parks and gardens, riparian reserves, foreshores, amenity areas, picnic areas and bushland spanning a range of environments from the foreshore of the River Derwent to the alpine summit of Mt Wellington.

Council's commitment to dog management is reflected in the *Hobart 2025 Vision* which states that:

***“In 2025 Hobart will be a city that:***

- is recognised for its natural beauty and quality of environment, and***
- builds strong and healthy communities through diversity, participation and empathy”.***

The Council's Animal Management Unit has responsibility for providing animal management for the municipal area, of which dog control is a key role. The Animal Management Unit also has responsibility for managing other animals in the municipal area as required by the Local Government Act

1993 or as a response to an enquiry from the community. These include, but are not limited to horses, goats, cows, rabbits, snakes, sheep, pigs, and feral cats. Within the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 the Animal Management Unit manages an animal pound at the Mountain Park Depot.

An overview of the Unit is as follows:

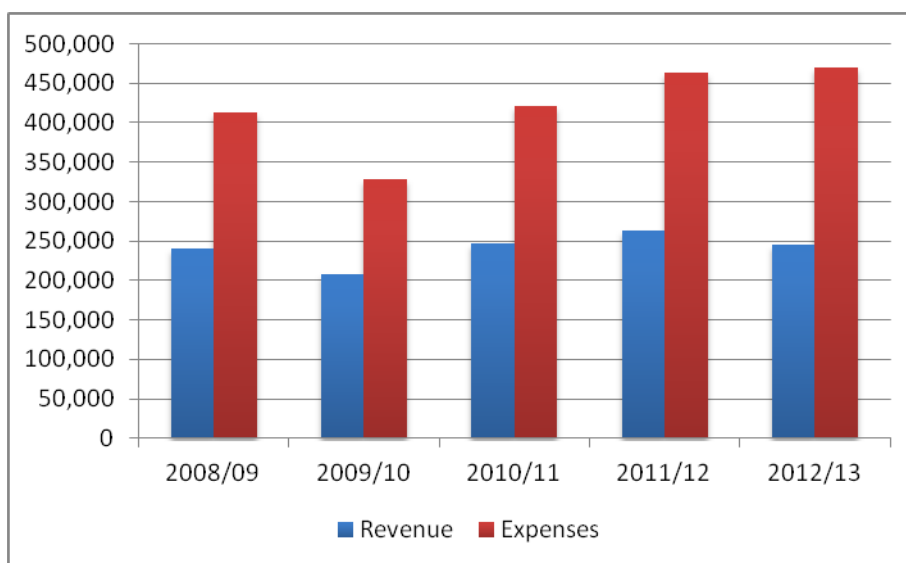
### 1. Employees

EMPLOYEE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	% FTE
Animal Control Officers	2	100%
Supervisor	1	100%
Customer Service Officer	1	80%
Manager Customer Services	1	20%

### 2. Annual Budget

Income is derived from registrations, licences and fines. Expenses include all items to deliver the service. A summary of the income and expenses for the financial years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and budget for 2012/13 are graphically represented as follows:

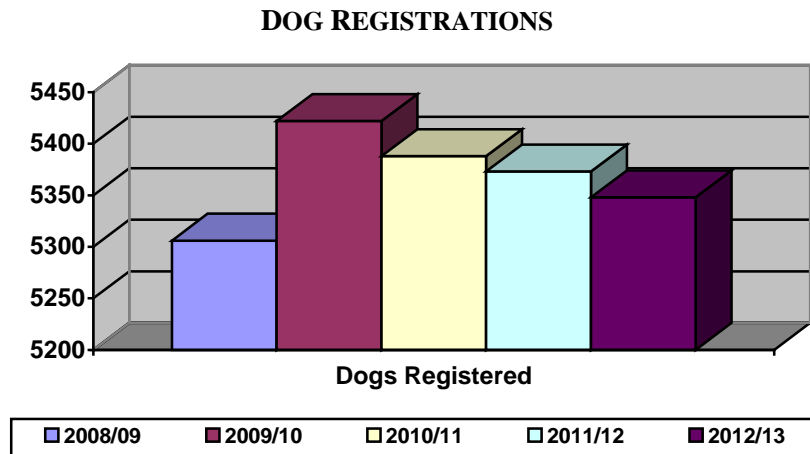
**COMPARISON OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FROM 2008/09  
FINANCIAL YEAR TO 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR**



It should be noted that within the expenses approximately \$110,000 is attributed to an annual committed grant to the Hobart Dogs Home.

### 3. Dog Registrations

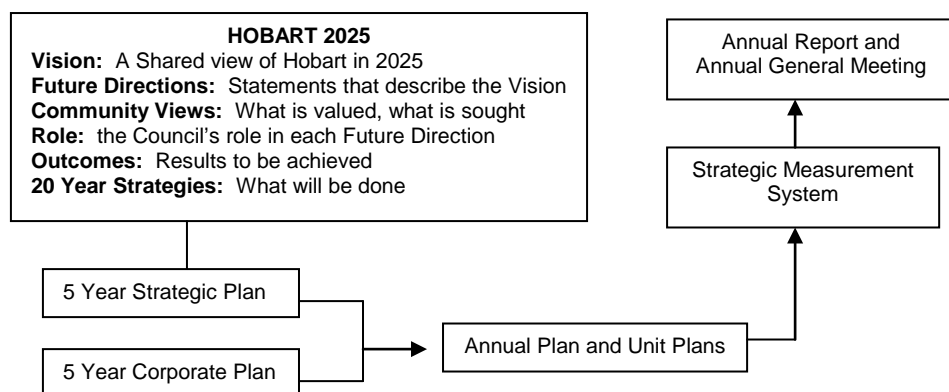
Annual dog registrations have fluctuated for each year from 2008/09 financial year to the 2012/13 financial year and are set out in the following graph:



### 4. Contribution to Strategic Framework

To achieve the Council’s Vision, the Dog Management Strategy developed fits within the Council’s planning and strategic measurement framework as follows:

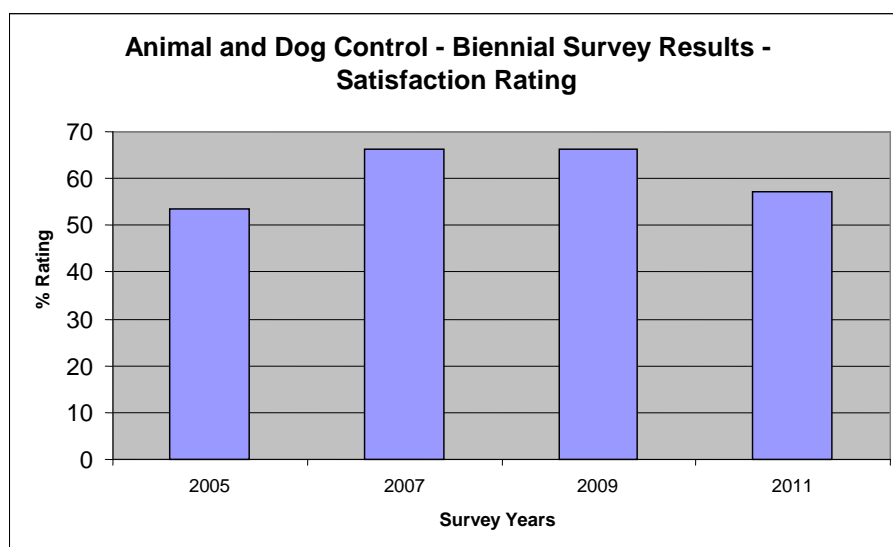
**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION,  
MONITORING AND EVALUATION**



Animal Management contributes to the strategic framework at every level. The Management Strategy provides the basis for the development of the

Annual Plan and Unit Plans for the Animal Control Unit. These in turn contribute to the Annual Report.

Animal Management is also a key component of the strategic measurement system where the rating of satisfaction is measured every two years through the Biennial Community Perception Surveys. The ratings are by percentage of people place a value out of 5. The results of the surveys follows:



### **Dog Management Strategy Aims**

This Strategy also underpins the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000 and sets out the priorities for the Animal Management Unit of the Council for the next five (5) years.

#### ***Dog Management Strategy aims to:***

- *continue to establish a harmonious relationship between people, dogs and the environment;*
- *promote a caring, happy and safe environment for dogs*
- *ensure compliance with the Dog Control Act 2000*
- *provide a framework for prioritising actions (including resources); and*
- *provide indicators to measure the success of the plan's outcomes*

To achieve these aims, a range of education, promotion and enforcement tools are used. The Dog Management Policy sets out a code of conduct for

responsible ownership of dogs, declared areas, the fee structure and key management issues. The key management issues sets out the objectives, actions required. The Policy meets the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000, Section 7 – Dog management policy, as follows:

*“7. Dog Management Policy*

- (1) A council is to develop and implement a policy relating to dog management in its municipal areas.*
- (2) A dog management policy is to include the following:*
  - (a) a code relating to responsible ownership of dogs;*
  - (b) the provision of declared areas;*
  - (c) a fee structure;*
  - (d) any other relevant matter.*
- (3) A council is to –*
  - (a) invite public submissions relating to a proposed dog management policy; and*
  - (b) consult with any appropriate body or organisations; and*
  - (c) consider any submissions and results of any consultation before finalising the policy.*
- (4) A council is to review its dog management policy at least once every 5 years.*
- (5) In reviewing its dog management policy, a council is to take the actions referred to in subsection (3).”*

A review of the Policy has been concluded to assess the key issues resulting from the community consultation process, as follows:

- review of complaints received in relation to dog control since the 2008 - 2013 review;
- submissions received from the community and dog associations during the formal consultation period;

# POLICY APPROACH

## 1.1 SCOPE OF THE DOG MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This section provides a policy framework for dog management within the Hobart City Council's Municipal area for the years 2014-2018 in accordance with the Council's strategic planning framework, eight (8) Principles of the Council's Excellence Hobart Framework. These Principles are used to assess and improve any aspect of an organisation with a focus on leadership, strategy and planning, people, information and knowledge, safety, service delivery, product quality, social inclusion and bottom-line results.

The Dog Management Policy has been prepared in accordance with the Dog Control Act 2000 and Council's Policy Manual.

The Dog Management Strategy has been developed following consideration of the submissions received from the community to assist in developing the planning of the operations of the Animal Management Unit for the next five (5) years. The key issues in the Strategy will be included in the Council's planning framework by listing the priorities for each year for inclusion in the annual budget and unit plans.

## 1.2 POLICY PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Identify the Council's role/response to the effective management of dog control.
- provide a framework that places a focus on responsible dog ownership which involves an owner taking personal responsibility for their dog(s) and managing this responsibility in a way that is in the best interests of neighbours, the local community, the environment and the dog itself.
- Enforce the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000.



### **1.3 POLICY STATEMENT**

The Hobart City Council recognises the importance of having a positive community relationship to educate, promote and enforce responsible dog ownership.

The Dog Management Policy for 2014-2018 sets out the priorities for Council after taking into consideration the views expressed by the community and the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000 and to balance these with other influences such as budgetary constraints to make informed decisions.

In applying this policy, the Council will demonstrate its values of leadership, community involvement, responsiveness, equity and excellence.

### **1.4 PRINCIPLES**

To achieve the aims of the Policy, the Council will be guided by the following three (3) principles to guide the application of the policy and strategy:

#### **Principle 1**

The Council recognises the significant contribution a well-trained and cared for dog can make to contribute to building a strong and healthy community.

#### **Principle 2**

Council's role will be consistent with the desires of the community to achieve a compatible relationship between dogs, dog owners, neighbours, the local community; to minimise impact on the environment; and to achieve legislative compliance.

#### **Principle 3**

All dog owners residing and visiting the City abide by the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000 and the Council's Dog Management Policy.

## **1.5 OBJECTIVES**

The policy objectives are to:

- Ensure all dogs in the Hobart Municipal area are registered.
- Actively educate and promote the responsibilities of dog ownership and the benefits attributed to a healthy lifestyle for individuals, the dogs and the positives that can be gained by the community.
- Actively communicate, consult and involve dog owners and the community in the ongoing delivery of dog control services.
- Develop partnerships with like minded organisations to educate dog owners of the importance of being a responsible owner and having a well trained dog.
- Provide exercise areas and supporting infrastructure that are as safe as possible for dogs, people (dog owners and non-dog owners), wildlife and the surrounding environment.
- Provide patrols throughout the Municipal area to enforce the Dog Control Act 2000 and the Council's Policy.

## **1.6 KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The key management issue set out in the plan have been raised as a result of the responses received from the community as having merit. Other issues were also submitted by Council Officers and these have been considered in conjunction with the community feedback.

Each key management issue sets out the background, objective, summary of the key issues from the responses received and the key actions to be undertaken during the life of the Management Strategy. Each of these actions has been prioritised in terms of importance.

## **1.7 POLICY REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed at least once every five (5) years in accordance with Section 7(4) of the Dog Control Act 2000. The next review is due in 2018.

# CODE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

Dogs can be important members of the family as well as great companions and protectors. Not only do they depend on you to be a great owner, the Council depends on you to be a responsible owner.

The Code for Responsible Dog Ownership has been developed to help dog owners or prospective dog owners to understand the importance of being a responsible owner and to encourage more responsible behaviour by dog owners.

Whilst this code is voluntary it outlines best practices to achieve a caring and responsible environment for dogs and their owners with the aim of minimising neighbourhood inconveniences, animal welfare concerns (including oversupply and homelessness) and the destruction of wildlife and its habitat.

## 2.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the code of responsible dog ownership is to provide dog owners with guidelines to assist in providing a caring, happy and safe environment for their dog(s) and providing a harmonious community environment for all residents.

Responsible dog ownership means accepting full responsibility for your dogs needs and the standards set in relation to dog management within our community.

## 2.3 BEING A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

The privilege of owning and enjoying the companionship of a dog carries responsibilities of care for the animal, and respect for your neighbour and the local community.

***As a responsible dog owner, it is expected that:***

- Your property, lifestyle and budget are suited to a dog.
- Your property is secure to ensure your dog is confined and any impacts on public safety are minimised.
- You understand the needs and requirements of the breed of the dog including correct practices in relation to exercise, housing, dietary requirements and grooming.
- When you are in public places ensure that the dog is under effective control by means of a lead (except in off-lead areas).
- When you are exercising your dog in bushland reserves you understand that the dog has an impact on bushland habitat and wildlife. To minimise the impact you will ensure that your dog remains on a lead at all times (except in declared off-lead areas), stay on established tracks and trails, only exercise off-lead during daylight hours and keep away from wildlife.
- You register your dog annually with the Council and comply with the Dog Control Act 2000 and Council's Dog Management Policy.
- You secure the dog registration tag to the dog's collar to assist in returning the animal if it becomes lost or escapes from your residence.
- Your dog is micro-chipped to enable quick identification and returning of the animal if it becomes lost or escapes from your residence.
- Consider de-sexing your dog to minimise nuisance behaviour and unwanted animals.
- Always clean up after your dog.

***As a Council we will:***

- Recognise the significant contribution of a well-trained and cared for dog can contribute to building a strong and healthy community.
- Promote and educate dog owners and the community on responsible dog ownership.

- Ensure Council's dog policy, plan and procedures are consistent with the desires of the community to achieve a compatible relationship between dogs, dog owners and non-dog owners, and to minimising impact on the environment.
- Provide exercise areas for dogs that are as safe as possible for dogs and people (dog owners and non-dog owners).
- Work to provide a broad range of experiences for people with dogs across all areas of the Council area.
- Provide patrols throughout the municipal area to enforce the Dog Control Act 2000 and Council's Policy.

# DECLARED AREAS

A well exercised dog is less likely to create a nuisance within the community.

Dog exercise areas have been designated in each suburb of the City and are categorised as either off-lead or on-lead. In addition there are a number of areas that have been designated as 'no dogs allowed' due to their location or environmental or cultural significance.

Certain dog exercise areas are also subject to time restrictions.

The following section identifies each of these areas. Schedule 1 of the Plan contains detailed maps indicating the prohibited, off-lead and on-lead areas for each park, reserve or bushland reserve within the Hobart Council area. The time restrictions and designated area issues raised by the community have been taken into account including time restrictions.

## 3.1 PROHIBITED AREAS

The following areas are listed as being prohibited:

- The Dog Control Act 2000 specifies prohibited areas, as follows:
  - grounds of a school, pre-school, kindergarten, crèche or any other place for the reception of children without the permission of a person in charge of the place;
  - shopping centres and shops;
  - grounds of public swimming pools;
  - playing area or a sports ground on which sport is being played or leisure activities are being undertaken; and
  - any area within ten metres of a children's playground
- The Wellington Park Management Plan 2005 prohibits dogs from any area of Wellington Park with the exception of:

Approved walking tracks, roads and vehicular tracks in the Recreation Zone (defined as the lower eastern foothills of Mount Wellington, below Pinnacle Road from The Springs to the Old Hobartians Track), but not including:

The Silver Falls Track (from the Pipeline Track to Middle Track);

Radfords Track;

North South Track (Shoobridge bend to Old Hobartians Track);

Lost World Track;

The Springs Zone (unless making a connection to approved tracks and trails); and

The Pinnacle Zone (unless the dog is confined within a vehicle).

- Queens Domain, Hobart Regatta Grounds – Cenotaph and approaches, the helicopter and medical emergency landing area
- Sports facilities - North Hobart, New Town, TCA, Queenborough oval and surrounds, New Town Netball Centre, The Hobart Aquatic Centre and surrounds, and the Domain Athletics Centre
- All areas that provide sensitive habitat for wildlife other than on permitted tracks and trails or off-lead areas where designated, and

Cornelian Bay – from the restaurant to the boat sheds including the playground

Cartwright Point Reserve, Sandy Bay – area above Sandy Bay Road.

New Town Bay Reserve – wetlands

Red Chapel Beach, Sandy Bay

Skyline Reserve – Lambert Gully section, Churchill Avenue to Mt Nelson

Ten (10) metres from any creek or rivulet edge except on formal tracks and trails

- Battery area at Alexander Battery

- Marieville Esplanade – grassed area between the entrance to the boat sheds and the Royal Hobart Yacht Club
- Elizabeth Mall, Elizabeth Street (between Collins and Liverpool Streets)
- Wellington Court including the Bank Arcade
- Mathers Place (between Liverpool and Bathurst Streets)
- Salamanca Market and Salamanca Square during market hours of 5.30am and 3.00pm
- Mawson Place – whilst events are being held
- Intercity cycleway - Regatta Grounds to municipal boundary
- Waterworks Reserve – due to Southern Water operations and sensitive wildlife habitat
- McRobies Road Gully – 10 metre exclusion zone around the perimeter of the waste management site
- Long Beach, Sandy Bay
- North Hobart Skate Park

### **3.2 OFF-LEAD EXERCISE AREAS**

The following areas are listed as off-lead exercise areas and subject to ensuring a dog off-lead is under effective control:

- Sports fields when sport is not being played or activities undertaken
- Surrounds of sports fields except where prohibited
- Cornelian Bay – the foreshore car park to Cornelian Bay Point
- John Turnbull Park, Lenah Valley – lower area below the oval
- Kalang Avenue Reserve, Lenah Valley
- Rangeview Crescent Reserve, Lenah Valley
- Queens Domain – The Wireless Station (area bounded by the Summit Loop Road) and mowed area to the east of the summit loop



- road, and the area between the Hobart Aquatic Centre and the Domain Tennis Centre
- Ross Patent Slip, Battery Point – grassed area off Napoleon Street
  - Short Beach and Errol Flynn Reserve, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy Bay
  - MacFarlane Street, South Hobart – public open space over footbridge alongside the Hobart Rivulet (linear park track on-lead). Entry off Tara or MacFarlane Streets
  - Wellesley Park, South Hobart – area below the sports field
  - Skyline Reserve – area off 27 Brinsmead Road, Mt Nelson
  - Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay – open space adjoining Churchill Avenue
  - Alexandra Battery, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay – Alexandra Battery except the Battery, the lookout and the car park
  - Blinking Billy Point Reserve, Sandy Bay
  - Cartwright Point Reserve, Sandy Bay – area below Sandy Bay Road
  - Queens Domain, Regatta Grounds – area surrounding the Cenotaph and approaches
  - Ridgeway – old recreation oval (track to oval on-lead)

### **3.3 ON-LEAD EXERCISE AREAS**

The following areas are permitted as on-lead dog exercise areas:

- All road pathways and road related areas within the municipal area
- Unless otherwise indicated, dogs can only be exercised on-lead on all established tracks and trails, and grassed areas in all Council parks, reserves and bushland areas
- Wellington Park – unless otherwise sign posted or notified, exercise of dogs on-lead is permitted on:

Approved walking tracks, roads and vehicular tracks in the Recreation Zone (defined as the lower eastern foothills of Mount

Wellington, below Pinnacle Road from the Springs to the Old Hobartians Track), but not including:

The Silver Falls Track (from the Pipeline Track to Middle Track);

Radfords Track;

North-South Track (Shoobridge bend to Old Hobartians Track);

Lost World Track;

The Springs Zone (if making a connection to other approved tracks and trails); and

The Pinnacle Zone (if the dog is confined within a vehicle)

- The Pipeline Track (between Fern Tree and the municipal boundary)  
Note: the Pipeline Track extends into the Kingborough municipality
- Ancanthe Gardens, Lenah Valley
- New Town Bay Reserve
- Franklin Square
- St Davids Park

### **3.4 RESTRICTED AREAS**

A selection of the Council's parks, beaches and bushland are permitted as off-lead exercise areas within certain timeframes, subject to the dog being under effective control, as follows.

#### **Parks**

- Princes Park
- Cascade Gardens
- Fitzroy Gardens
- Soundy Park
- Benjafield Terrace

Dogs are permitted off-lead from 7.00pm to 9.00am during daylight savings time and between 3.00pm and 9.00am at all other times.

Dogs are permitted on-lead between 9.00am and 7.00pm during daylight savings time and between 9.00am and 3.00pm at all other times.

### **Beaches**

- Nutgrove Beach

Dogs are permitted off-lead between 7.00pm and 9.00am during daylight savings time and between 3.00pm and 9.00am at all other times.

Dogs are permitted on-lead between 9.00am and 7.00pm during daylight savings time and between 9.00am and 3.00pm at all other times.

### **Bushland**

- Knocklofty Reserve – Tracks and trails in the area between Forest Road car park, Poets Road, Fielding Drive reservoir and the walking track to the west.

Dogs are permitted on-lead between 8.00pm and 6.00am during daylight savings time and between 5.00pm and 7.00am at all other times.

Dogs are permitted off-lead between 6.00am and 8.00pm during daylight savings time and between 7.00am and 5.00pm at all other times.

All other areas of Knocklofty Reserve are on-lead at all times.

## **3.5 TRAINING AREAS**

Soldiers Memorial Oval (formally, the Domain Cross Roads Oval) is declared as an off-lead dog training area during dog training hours.

# FEE STRUCTURE

The Dog Control Act 2000 requires that “*the owner of a dog that is over the age of six (6) months must register the dog*” if the owner of the dog resides in the municipal area.

Council also sets a fee structure for the registration of dogs and the evidence required in order to claim a discounted registration fee.

## 4.1 FEE STRUCTURE

The fee structure for the Hobart City Council is as follows:

- Standard Registrations
- Desexed Dogs
- Pensioners
- Purebreeds
- Greyhounds
- Working Dogs
- Obedience Trained
- Guide Dogs/Assistance Dogs
- Puppywalkers
- Kennel Licences
- Impounding Fees
- Formal Complaint

The fees applicable to the fees structure are reviewed as a component of the Council’s annual review of fees and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

# KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Seven key issues have been identified that relate to the effective and efficient management of dogs in the Hobart municipal area. This section sets out the actions to be undertaken for each of the issues.

## 5.1 REGISTRATION OF DOGS

The Dog Control Act 2000 requires that “*the owner of a dog that is over the age of six (6) months must register the dog*” if the owner of the dog resides in the Municipal area, the owner must attach the registration tag or disc to the collar of the registered dog.

All fees payable under the Dog Control Act 2000 are set annually in line with the Hobart City Councils review of fees and charges.

Council also sets the fee structure as required by the Dog Control Act 2000 and the evidence required in order to claim a discounted registration fee.

### Objective

Ensure all dogs in the Hobart Municipal area are registered.

### Key Issues

- Micro-chipping is compulsory
- Conduct registration checks
- Encourage de-sexing of dog(s) to minimise nuisance behaviour and unwanted animals
- Free dog tidy bags provided following dog registration.

### Key Actions

1. Undertake a review of the registration categories, incentives to encourage and reward responsible dog ownership, discounted fees for adopting dogs.
2. . Conduct registration checks to ensure compliance with the Act.

## **5.2 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION**

Public education and the promotion of responsible dog owner have been identified as an issue. The success of the education and promotion activities will assist with increasing community awareness of the benefits of owning or sharing exercise areas with dogs and dog owners. Education and promotion will assist the Council with effective patrols and enforcement through the increased awareness of being a responsible dog owner.

### **Objective**

Actively educate and promote the responsibilities of dog ownership and the benefits attributed to a healthy lifestyle for individuals, the dogs and the positives that can be gained by the community.

### **Key Issues**

Education and promotional initiatives including:

- Explanation of what is meant by responsible dog ownership the benefits to the owners, dogs and the community
- Exercising dogs with other reserve users and the sharing of sports fields
- Cleaning up after your dog
- Providing a safe and suitable home for your dog
- Enforcement details, penalties for non-compliances
- Information about training facilities and organisations
- Make better use of the Council's web site

### **Key Actions**

1. Develop a Communications Plan including a schedule of promotional activities.
2. Work with neighbouring Council's to undertake joint promotions.
3. Following adoption of the Dog Management Policy and Plan update the Council's web site.

### **5.3 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Consultation and communication will create an active and informed dialogue that will seek an understanding of the views and aspirations of dog owners and the community.

Council's community engagement policy provides a framework that facilitates understanding and decision making between the Council and the Hobart community.

The actions contained in this section aim to achieve open, fair and constructive dialogue, allows for informed decision making through community involvement and improve quality of life for all.

#### **Objective**

Actively communicate, consult and involve dog owners and the community in the ongoing delivery of dog control services.

#### **Key Issues**

- Establish processes for ongoing community consultation and engagement both externally and within the Council
- Continue review and improvement of the development and provision of Council information, electronically (email, internet) and paper copy

#### **Key Actions**

1. Undertake a review of the current provision of information, identify gaps in information provision and the methods information is provided. Develop a program and annual budget for the production of information.
2. Identify and meet regularly (at least six monthly) with Council's key Asset Managers to discuss and resolve dog management issues.

### **5.4 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships with like minded community groups are a positive to educate and promote excellence in dog welfare, responsible ownership and the benefits to a community. Community partnerships can also assist the Council in its registration, enforcement and dog management activities.

The Council currently supports the Hobart Dogs Home (includes an annual grant), through the Tasmanian Canine Defence League and the Hobart Dog Walking Association. The Groups use Council facilities and participate in the promotion of responsible dog ownership through the annual “Dogs on the Domain Event”.

### **Objective**

Develop partnerships with like minded organisations to educate dog owners of the importance of being a responsible owner and having a well trained dog.

### **Key Issues**

- Partnerships should be developed and/or further enhanced to promote responsible dog ownership and share knowledge with the following organisations:

Hobart Dog Walking Association

Hobart Canine Obedience Club

Tasmanian Canine Defence League (operates the Dogs' Home of Tasmania)

RSPCA Southern Area

Delta Dog Safe Tasmania

Develop a closer working relationship with the media.

- Source and apply for external funding to support initiatives

### **Key Actions**

1. Continue to develop closer working partnerships both formal and informal with the following organisations:

Hobart Dog Walking Association

Delta Dog Safe Tasmania

Hobart Canine Obedience Club

Tasmanian Canine Defence League

RSPCA Southern Area



2. Work with the partnered organisations to source funding to support Management Plan initiatives.
3. The Delta Dog Safe Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation that educates the community on safe behaviour around dogs. Opportunities for partnership arrangements to be further explored.
4. Where possible involve the media to assist with education and promotion, and creating positive discussions on dog management in the community.

## **5.5 SIGNAGE**

Signage can be categorised into two types – regulatory and interpretative. To date the Council has focussed on installing regulatory signage to enable enforcement in the designated dog exercise areas. Focussing on both types of signage will underpin the enforcement of dog control and the interpretative signage will support education and promotion through educating the community of the impact of dogs in parks, reserves and bushland.

Regulatory and information signage installed will be consistent with the Australian Standards, the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) Standards and the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the HCC Parks Signage Manual.

### **Objective**

Provide exercise areas and supporting infrastructure that are as safe as possible for dogs, people (dog owners and non-dog owners), wildlife and the surrounding environment.

### **Key Issues**

- Review current signage and where it is placed in all parks, reserves and bushland to increase public awareness. This includes the restrictions, designated areas and owner responsibilities (e.g. cleaning up after your dog, straying into neighbouring properties, prohibited zones).
- Signage with buffer zones from rivulets and adjoining bushland area to protect wildlife sensitive habitats.
- Ensure all signage in each of the parks, reserves and bushland is consistent and appears at all entrance and exit points.

### **Key Actions**

1. A review of all existing animal control signage (including updating the HCC Parks signage manual) be undertaken, gaps identified.
2. A replacement schedule for all signage be developed and costed and included in the annual budget process.
3. The Parks Signage Manual for interpretative signage be reviewed for its currency regarding responsible dog control for dogs exercising in parks, reserves and bushland. Any new or replacement interpretative signage being prepared for parks, reserves and bushland to incorporate responsible dog control.
4. Regulatory and interpretative signage be integrated with other HCC park information signage.

## **5.6 PROTECTING THE URBAN AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Council's Vision statement encompasses the City's natural beauty and quality environment, achieving good quality development and urban management. This section contributes to the Vision of protecting the urban and natural environment by supporting dog owners to care for these areas when exercising their dog.

To support dog owners, the Council has implemented a number of initiatives. The installation of dog tidy dispensers in its parks, reserves and bushland increases the amenity for all Reserve users and thereby protecting our environment. The placement of the tidy dispensers contributes to

enforcement of the Dog Management Policy and the management of the Council's assets.

### **Objective**

Provide exercise areas and supporting infrastructure that are as safe as possible for dogs, people (dog owners and non-dog owners), wildlife and the surrounding environment.

### **Key Issues**

- The installation of dog tidy dispensers located in and at entrance and exit points in parks and reserves.
- Provision of dog tidy dispensers along streets and roads in the municipal area.
- Owners cleaning up after their dogs

### **Key Actions**

1. Ensure dog tidy dispensers provided at all major entry points for all popular dog exercise areas are in a serviceable condition.
2. Work with the Environmental Services Unit on the stocking of the dog tidy dispensers
3. The location of the dog tidy dispensers to be promoted in all relevant promotional material produced.
4. Work with the Bushland and Reserves Unit on animal related projects resulting from the Bushland Strategy.

## **5.7 PATROLS AND ENFORCEMENT**

The Council responds to complaints and proactively patrols for straying dogs in public places, nuisance barking and ensure the declared dog exercise areas are being correctly used.

An infringement system is operated by the Council that underpins the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000 and the Council's Dog Management Policy.

Patrols and enforcement are undertaken according to the resources available.

## Objective

To provide patrols throughout the municipal area to enforce the Dog Control Act 2000 and the Council's Policy.

## Key Issues

- Enforcement increased across the municipal area taking into account peak usage periods in the areas of:
  - Owners cleaning up after their dogs
  - Straying or dogs not under effective control in public places
  - Ensuring dogs are being exercised in accordance with the designated dog exercise areas, the policy and signage installed in parks and reserves
  - Owners controlling their unleashed dogs
  - Dogs causing nuisance in the municipal area
  - Sports fields
  - Beaches, parks and reserves during day light savings time
- When a formal complaint is made, and on receipt of the appropriate bond the owners be investigated accordingly. Complainant to be encouraged to talk to owners.
- Monitoring of dog numbers, nuisance barking, location usage, dog owners and behaviours.
- Dog breeding and commercial selling of dogs.

## Key Actions

1. Undertake a review of the current patrols and enforcement processes and the resourcing impacts. Outcomes to form part of the annual budget and planning cycle.
2. Review the complaints handling procedure, related penalties and charges, and opportunities.
3. To review the current animal control procedures and provide training to Council Officers to ensure that the principles of the

Customer Service Charter are adhered to when receiving and handling complaints.

4. Collect statistical data to assist with the ongoing management of patrols and enforcement by working with managers of Council's parks, reserves and bushland.
5. Council to participate and lobby the Local Government Association's (LGAT) Legislative Committee for legislative changes to the Dog Control Act 2000.

# KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES – ACTION PLAN

## 6.1 REGISTRATION OF DOGS

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Ensure all dogs in the Hobart Municipal area are registered.	1. Undertake a review of the registration categories, incentives to encourage and reward responsible dog ownership, discounting of fees and application of charges for irresponsible ownership.	High	Review completed by February 2014 for inclusion in the 2014/15 Fees and Charges.
	2. Conduct registration checks to ensure dogs are registered in accordance with the Act.	Medium	February 2014

## 6.2 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Actively educate and promote the responsibilities of dog ownership and the benefits attributed to a healthy lifestyle for individuals, the dogs and the positives that can be gained by the community.	1. Develop a Communications Plan including a schedule of promotional activities.	High	Completed by February 2014
	2. Work with neighbouring Council's to undertake joint promotions.	Medium	Networks established, investigate opportunities for joint promotions.
	3. Following adoption of the Dog Management Policy and Plan update the Council's web site.	High	Completed by January 2014

### 6.3 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Actively communicate, consult and involve dog owners and the community in the ongoing delivery of dog control services.	1. Undertake a review of the current provision of information, identify gaps in information provision and the methods information is provided. Develop a program and annual budget for the production of information.	High	Program included in the 2013/14 budget
	2. In accordance with the Council's internal community consultation manual identify impacts on dogs and dog walkers when asset management planning is being undertaken.	Low	Key asset managers aware to consider when planning is undertaken.
	3. Identify and meet regularly (at least six monthly) with Council's key Asset Managers to discuss and resolve dog management issues. Develop partnerships with like minded organisations to educate dog owners of the importance of being a responsible owner and having a well trained dog	Medium	Maintain membership and attendance at meetings.



## 6.4 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Develop partnerships with like minded organisations to educate dog owners of the importance of being a responsible owner and having a well trained dog	1. Continue to develop closer working partnerships both formal and informal with the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hobart Dog Walking Association</li> <li>– Hobart Canine Obedience Club</li> <li>– Dogs Home of Tasmania (Tasmanian Canine Defence League)</li> <li>– RSPCA Southern Area</li> </ul>	High	Have initial meeting with each of the organisations prior to June 2014
	2. Work with the partnered organisations to source funding to support Management Plan initiatives.	Medium	Related to identifying funding opportunities.
	3. The Delta Dog Safe Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation that educates the community on safe behaviour around dogs. Opportunities for partnership arrangements to be further explored.	Medium	Initial meeting by June 2014
	4. Where possible involve the media to assist with education and promotion, and creating positive discussions on dog management in the community.	Medium	As opportunities are identified. Measured by the number of positive, negative and neutral editorial received

## 6.5 SIGNAGE

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Provide exercise areas and supporting infrastructure that are as safe as possible for dogs, people (dog owners and non-dog owners), wildlife and the surrounding environment.	1. A review of all existing animal control signage (including updating the HCC Parks signage manual) be undertaken, gaps identified.	High	Signage to be updated prior to the implementation of the Dog Management Policy.
	2. A replacement schedule for all signage be developed and costed and included in the annual budget process.	High	Develop a replacement schedule and if required seek budget allocation at time of review process.
	3. Interpretative signage for responsible dog control for dogs exercising in parks, reserves and bushland be reviewed within the Parks Signage Manual. Any new or replacement interpretative signage being prepared for parks, reserves and bushland to incorporate responsible dog control.	Medium	Signage Manual to be reviewed by June 2014.
	4. Regulatory and interpretative signage be integrated with other HCC park information signage.	Medium	Review current signage by June 2014.

## 6.6 PROTECTING THE URBAN AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Provide exercise areas and supporting infrastructure that are as safe as possible for dogs, people (dog owners and non-dog owners), wildlife and the surrounding environment.	1. Dog tidy dispensers will be provided at all major entry points for all popular dog exercise areas.	High	Undertake an audit of existing dispensers for condition and usability. Completed by June 2014.
	2. The location of the dog tidy dispensers to be promoted in all relevant promotional material produced.	Medium	Following audit.
	3. Work cooperatively with the Bushland and Reserves Unit on animal related projects resulting from the Bushland Strategy.	Medium	Life of the Bushland Strategy.

## 6.7 PATROLS AND ENFORCEMENT

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
To provide patrols throughout the municipal area to enforce the Dog Control Act 2000 and the Council's Policy.	1. Undertake a review of the current patrols and enforcement processes and the resourcing impacts. Outcomes to form part of the annual budget and planning cycle.	Medium	Review of patrols will form part of the review of resource requirements.
	2. Undertake a review of the complaint handling procedure.	Medium	Completion by June 2014.
	3. Review the current animal control procedures and provide training to Council Officers to ensure that the principles of the Customer Service Charter are adhered to when receiving and handling complaints.	Medium	Compliance with Quality Assurance AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000. Ensure officers are appropriately trained in animal handling.
	4. Obtain data to assist with the ongoing management of patrols and enforcement from user surveys by working with managers of Council's parks, reserves and bushland.	Medium	Surveys include a dog management section where relevant.
	5. Council to participate and lobby the Local Government Association's (LGAT) Legislative Committee for legislative changes to the Dog Control Act 2000.	Low	Record areas for improvement within Dog Control Act 2000 that can be forwarded for legislative review.