

SUBJECT: <i>DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY</i>	FILE NO:	ANI/0204
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON: 15 th May 2008	MINUTE NO:	218.05.08
AMENDED BY COUNCIL ON: 21 st February 2013	MINUTE NO:	446.02.2013
AMENDED BY COUNCIL ON: 20 th October 2016	MINUTE NO:	237.10.2016

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- articulate the Council's role/response to the effective management of dogs; and
- implement the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Policy Statement

The Flinders Council recognises the value of companion animals and the importance of encouraging a relationship with the Community through which it can promote and enforce responsible dog ownership.

The Dog Management Policy sets out the priorities for Council after taking into consideration the views of the Community, the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the need to balance these with other considerations such as budget constraints.

Principles

To achieve the aims of the Policy, the Council will be guided by the following principles:

1. The Council recognises the significant contribution a well-trained and well cared for dog can make to build a healthy community.
2. Council's role will be consistent with the desires of the Community to achieve a compatible relationship between dogs, dog owners and the local community in order to minimise effects on neighbours and the environment and to achieve legislative compliance.
3. All dog owners residing and visiting the Municipality with their dogs will abide by the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the Council's Dog Management Policy.

Objectives

The dog management objectives are:

- Promoting responsible dog ownership and the welfare and safety of dogs;
- Promoting the effective management of dogs (including registration, microchipping and de-sexing);
- Reducing public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs;
- Responding to calls from the general public of a dog wandering at large;
- Impounding unidentified dogs in accordance with the Act with the priority being to return the dog to the owner;

- Reinforcing complying behaviour; that is to give warnings to first offences that are of a minor nature where no harm to a person or property has occurred. Penalties prescribed by the Act will be applied for re-offenders;
- Applying fees collected from registration to address dog management; and
- Actively communicating, consulting and involving dog owners and the community in the on-going delivery of dog control services.

Responsibility

The General Manager is responsible for the operation of this policy.

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least once every four (4) years in accordance with Section 7(4) *Dog Control Act 2000* and the Flinders Council Policy Manual Policy.