



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Animal Management Plan 2018-2022



VERSION: 1

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*Community
Wellbeing*

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHY ARE WE PREPARING THIS PLAN?

In South Australia, the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) provides for the management of dogs and cats in the community. Its purpose is to:

- + Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- + Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- + Promote the effective management of dogs and cats (including through the encouragement of the desexing of dogs and cats).

Mount Barker District Council is responsible for implementation of most of the requirements in the Act.

The Act requires all Councils to produce a Plan of Management relating to dogs and cats within their local area. They are called Animal Management Plans and they are produced every 5 years.

This is the Mount Barker District Council's Animal Management Plan for 2018-2022.

It includes strategies to manage dogs and cats and sets out how Council's responsibilities under the Act will be addressed.

Section 2 describes the current state of play. It provides an overview of the Council's existing animal management service and identifies the stakeholders who are involved in or may have an interest in animal management. Council is keen to build effective partnerships with these groups and organisations.

Section 3 describes our investigations involved in developing the plan. It includes animal management data for the last 4 years and a profile of the Mount Barker District Council area and population.

Section 5 provides an overview of the Plan.

Section 6 provides the objectives, strategies and key performance measures that make up our Animal Management Plan.

Appendix 1 contains a list of the parks and public reserves where dogs may be exercised off-leash, those where they are required to be under effective control by means of physical restraint and the parks and public reserves in which dogs are prohibited from entering.

Appendix 2 describes the community engagement process whilst Appendix 3 provides a more detailed analysis of on the feedback received from the community in relation to the Plan.

1.2 FEATURES OF THE LAST PLAN

The achievements of the 2012-2017 Animal Management Plan are :

- + Creation of 'Barka Park' Council's first off leash dog park.
- + Branding of Public Safety vehicles.
- + Microchipping days.
- + After Hours work relating to dogs is now conducted by a third party (Contract).
- + Increased focus on education relating to dogs and cats – Hills Radio interviews, media releases and utilizing Council's website more efficiently
- + Performing regular reserve and park patrols to monitor dog related issues
- + Bird breeding season in Laratinga Wetland – performing patrols during this time.
- + Staff involvement in working groups, officer level networks.
- + Establishing stronger relationships with nearby Councils.
- + Establishing stronger relationships with RSPCA, Housing SA and Dog & the Cat Management Board (the Board)

2 CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ACT 1995

The Act provides the foundation for the Council's animal management service. Key features of the Council's responsibilities under the Act are that:

- + Dogs must be registered and identified.
- + Dogs are not allowed to wander at large, attack a person or animal, cause a nuisance or defecate in a public place unless the owner immediately removes the faeces and disposes of them in a lawful and suitable manner. Dogs are required to be leashed on streets and roads.
- + Councils have the power to make a range of orders in relation to the keeping of dogs.
- + Councils have the power to seize and detain dogs.

There are specific requirements in relation to the detention/removal of cats from remote or fragile areas and in relation to unidentified cats in other areas. The registration of cats remains a council-by-council decision.

FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

The South Australian Government has made changes to the Act that are expected to be introduced in 2018. These are discussed below. Most of the changes will need to be managed and enforced by the Council.

Microchipping

All dogs and cats over the age of 3 months will be required to be microchipped. The new provisions are intended to commence on 1st July 2018.

It is intended that the requirement to microchip will be enforced as part of the annual registration process.

A separate process would be required for Councils that don't require cats to be registered.

Desexing of dogs and cats

Dog and cat owners will be required to desex all new generations of dogs and cats born after the prescribed date of 1st July 2018 and by the age of 6 months. Owners will not be required to desex dogs and cats born before the prescribed date. Exemptions will apply and be possible. This will help to reduce the large number of unowned and unwanted cats in the community.

Sale of dogs and cats

Sellers of dogs and cats to give the new owner a written notice setting out the identity of the seller, the identity of the breeder, details of vaccinations and other treatments, information relating to the microchip, desexing and other relevant medical information and in the case of a dog subject to control orders, details of the order.

Dog and Cat breeders

Anyone who breeds a dog or cat for sale will be required to register as a breeder with the Board

Assistance dogs

The term Assistance Dog replaces the terms Disability Dog, Guide Dog and Hearing Dog. There will be changes to who can accredit animals.

Council officers

The current terms Dog Management Officer and Cat Management Officer has been replaced with Authorised Person. Under the new provisions, Authorised Persons will be granted additional powers to improve their ability to enforce the Act.

CHANGES TO REGISTRATION - DOGS AND CATS ONLINE (DACO)

At present, all dogs are required to be registered with the respective local Council.

From 1st July 2018, a new state-wide online portal will replace individual council registers. Dog owners will pay registration fees online. The new system, to be known as Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) will send owners renewal and reminder notices, and their registration discs. It will be managed by the Board.

DACO information will be available 24/7 to Council's Authorised Persons. The state-wide registers will enable Authorised Persons to identify the homes of dogs from other council areas.

The Board expects an increase in the number of people registering their dog each year (which could increase council revenue). It also expects animals to be returned to their owners more quickly than is possible now.

The Board will fully fund DACO through an increase in the percentage of the dog registration fees remitted to the Board. For Country councils such as Mount Barker District Council the increase in the percentage of fees remitted to the Board will increase from 10 to 12%.

Councils will need to review its systems and processes to capture the new information. The existing database may not have the necessary functionality. There will also be an opportunity to integrate other databases (microchipping, dog incidents, breeder registration).

The new microchipping requirements will require cat owners to upload their details into DACO. DACO would then become a tool Council could use to manage cats.

COUNCIL BY-LAWS

Mount Barker District Council has a By-law relating to dogs. Council adopted a new By-law on 5 June 2017, which came into effect on 13 October 2017 (By-law No 5 of 2017).

By-law No 5:

- + Provides a permit requirement for premises wishing to keep more than 1 dog in a small dwelling in townships, 2 dogs in a dwelling other than a small dwelling in townships, 3 dogs outside townships (other than working dogs), and 2 working dogs outside townships.
- + Provides for dog exercise areas, dog on leash areas and dog prohibited areas. The parks and reserves in each category are listed in Appendix 2.
- + Requires people to carry a bag or other suitable container for removing their dog's faeces from public spaces.
- + Outlines enforcement orders of this By-law.

By-law No 5 of 2017 is largely the same as the existing by-law, but with more definition of terms in the Interpretation Section 6, notably the definitions of small dwelling and working dog are more detailed and restrictive.

Council does not have a cat by-law.

POUND SERVICE

Council's pound service (for dogs) is provided by the Hahndorf Interim Animal Shelter.

FUNDING

All monies received from dog registrations and expiations are spent on dog management. Council's finances relating to dog management are routinely audited by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Council pays 10% of funds received from dog registrations to the Dog and Cat Management Board. This will rise to 12% with the commencement of the state-wide registration portal (DACO).

COUNCIL PARKS AND RESERVES- LEASH AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS, DOG PARK

The list of on and off leash areas and areas from which dogs are prohibited from entering is provided in Appendix 1.

2.2 STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

The organisations with an involvement in or interface with animal management are listed below. Building partnerships and clarifying the Council's role can improve outcomes and achieve a more effective use of resources.

THE DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD

The functions of the Dog and Cat Management Board are to:

- + *Plan for, promote and provide advice about, the effective management of dogs and cats;*
- + *Oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of [the] Act relating to dogs;*
- + *Inquire into and consider all proposed by-laws referred to it under [the] Act, with a view to promoting the effective management of dogs and cats, and, to the extent that the Board considers it appropriate, the consistent application of by-laws throughout South Australia;*
- + *Advise the Minister or the LGA, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister or the LGA, on the operation of [the] Act or issues directly relating to dog or cat management in South Australia;*
- + *Undertake or facilitate research relating to dog or cat management;*
- + *Undertake or facilitate educational programs relating to dog or cat management;*
- + *Keep [the] Act under review and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the Act and regulations made under the Act; and*
- + *Carry out any other function assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under [the] Act.*

A proportion of the funds collected from the Council's animal registrations are paid to the Board.

The Board audits the Council's animal management service.

From 2018 the Board will be responsible for the new DACO registration system.

NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

There is potential to share information and resources with neighbouring Councils; whether formally or informally.

The Council is a member of the Southern and Hills Local Government Association, which is a regional association of Councils under Part 4 of the constitution of the Local Government Association of South Australia. Its member councils are Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, Kangaroo Island Council, Mount Barker District Council, City of Victor Harbor, and the District Council of Yankalilla.

Council also has a collaborative relationship with the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

These include (but are not limited to):

- + The Hahndorf Interim Animal Shelter;
- + The RSPCA South Australia;
- + The Animal Welfare League of South Australia;
- + Lost Dogs of Adelaide;

- + Lost Pets of South Australia;
- + Cats Assistance to Sterilise (C.A.T.S.); and
- + The National Desexing Network.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Local Government Association provides services, support and leadership to South Australian Councils.

It has introduced the *My Local Services* App which can provide a range of Council information including Council facilities, events, and procedures.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORISED PERSONS ASSOCIATION (APA)

The APA facilitates professional development of members and seeks to facilitate sharing of information and resources and standardised work practices amongst Councils.

MICROCHIP IMPLANTERS AND VETERINARIANS

Approved microchip implanters (including veterinarians) will be required to upload the details of the animals they microchip on to DACO. Veterinarians will also be required to upload the details of the animals they desex.

Veterinarians are usually an early point of contact for owners of puppies and kittens and could assist with making the Council's education material available.

Some veterinary clinics run puppy pre-school classes which provide owners of puppies with information on raising dogs and early socialisation classes.

HOUSING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The housing and property development sector including companies active in Mount Barker have a role to play in designing new housing and communities suitable for pet owners and improving outcomes where possible.

DOG OBEDIENCE CLUBS AND TRAINERS

Dog obedience clubs help dog owners to train their dogs.

There are also private dog training companies that provide private training and group classes.

There are several operating in the Mount Barker District Council area.

EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

Organisations such as the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) attend fires and provide help during declared and other emergencies and bushfire incidents. Pet owners should have a plan for how their pets will be managed in an emergency.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

There is a number of community groups such as the sporting clubs and Friends of groups that can have an interest in and interface with Council's management of dogs and cats.

The Mount Barker District Council area has high levels of volunteering compared to other parts of Adelaide. This is an opportunity that the Council could capitalise on to improve animal management outcomes.

PET OWNERS

Pet owners have a number of obligations in relation to their pets. These include caring for the pets' health and wellbeing and compliance with relevant legislation.

3 INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT DATA

The main animal management figures are set out below. There is a clear upward trend in the number of registered dogs that no doubt reflects the increase in the general population. There was a 44% increase in the number of registered dogs in the 3 years after 2012/2013.

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Dog registration	5518	6646	7824	7937
Wandering at large	424 ¹	422 ¹	258	261
Barking dog complaints	50	60	50	64
Reported dog attacks	46	41	47	42
Impounds	-	-	149	161
Cat complaints	4	6	3	11

3.2 COUNCIL PROFILE

SIZE AND DIVERSITY OF THE COUNCIL AREA

The Council area covers 595sqkms.

It is predominantly a rural area. Residential development varies from the more urban areas of Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne to the numerous smaller townships and villages. Rural land is used mainly for crop growing, general farming and viticulture.

The implications of these features of the municipality are:

- + There is an extensive area to manage and distances to travel (for both the community and Authorised Persons); and
- + There are different animal management challenges in urban as compared to rural areas.

SIGNIFICANT POPULATION GROWTH

¹ HIGH DUE TO POTENTIAL DATA COLLECTION ERRORS

In 2017, Mount Barker's population is 33,915. It is expected to grow to 55,416 by 2036. This will be a 63.4% increase in population. Mount Barker is destined to become the second largest city in South Australia over the next 25 years.

Between 2011 and 2036, it is expected that there will be an 89.2% increase in the number of dwellings. All areas of the Council district will grow but 78% of the growth will occur in the town of Mount Barker.

The implications of significant population growth are:

- + Growth in the number of registered animals (corresponding with population growth);
- + Opportunity to include planning of off leash areas in planning new Council parks and reserves.
- + Opportunity to use pet friendly housing design to better accommodate pets in new housing (Refer for example: http://more-like-home-workshop.com/Uploads/four_legs_four_walls.pdf)
- + Opportunity to engage with new residents to promote responsible pet ownership, build social capital and promote healthy lifestyles associated with dog walking.
- + Increase in medium density housing will place pressure on Council parks and reserves as residents will rely on these areas to exercise their dogs.

HOUSING TYPE

Separate dwellings are the predominant housing type in the Mount Barker district (some 90% of all dwellings). However, the size of the average house in Adelaide² has increased by 28% since 1980 whilst the average lot size has decreased by 11% over the same period.

The implications of the increase in the ratio of dwelling size to lot size are:

- + Smaller backyards mean less outdoor space for pets.
- + Greater indoor space means more space for indoor pets.
- + Greater relative proximity to neighbours due to smaller backyards means greater potential for nuisance.
- + Opportunity to use pet friendly housing design to better accommodate pets in new housing (Refer for example: http://more-like-home-workshop.com/Uploads/four_legs_four_walls.pdf)

Many dwellings in Mount Barker's growth areas don't have front fences which can create a challenge to confine dogs. Rear fences adjacent to Council reserves are generally required to be permeable – this can trigger barking at passers-by and activities occurring in the reserve.

² AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, 2016, FEATURE ARTICLE: SUBURBAN LANDUSE CHANGE ADELAIDE, TABLE 4 HOUSE TO BLOCK SIZE CHANGE, ALL DWELLINGS, ADELAIDE UCL, 1980 – 2014,
[HTTP://WWW.ABS.GOV.AU/AU\\$STATS/ABS@.NSF/LATESTPRODUCTS/4609.4.55.001FEATURE%20ARTICLE1002006%20-%202011?OPENDOCUMENT&TABNAME=SUMMARY&PRODNO=4609.4.55.001&ISSUE=2006%20-%202011&NUM=&VIEW=](http://www.abs.gov.au/AU$STATS/ABS@.NSF/LATESTPRODUCTS/4609.4.55.001FEATURE%20ARTICLE1002006%20-%202011?OPENDOCUMENT&TABNAME=SUMMARY&PRODNO=4609.4.55.001&ISSUE=2006%20-%202011&NUM=&VIEW=)

MOBILE POPULATION

The resident population is very mobile, with 38% having moved into or within the District between the 2006 and 2011 censuses.

The implications of a mobile population are:

- + Greater relative need for community education because of the high number of residents who are new to the Council area.
- + Challenges relating to capturing the dog registrations of new residents to the Council area.

BIODIVERSITY

80% of the Council district is situated within the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management region, with the remainder in the Mount Lofty Ranges, which is a Commonwealth Biodiversity Hotspot.

Many walking trails in the district traverse zones of high biodiversity value.

The implications of biodiversity and conservation values are:

- + That the potential for cats and dogs to adversely affect biodiversity needs to be considered.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The entirety of the Mount Barker District Council area falls into the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District.

The implications of fire and other emergency risks are:

- + Pet owners need to have a plan for how their pets will be managed in an emergency.

HIGH RATES OF VOLUNTEERING

There is a very high rate of community involvement in the District as measured by volunteering rates, with 26% of the population volunteering compared to 18% for greater Adelaide.

The implications of high rates of volunteering are:

- + A potential to capitalise on high rates of volunteering to improve animal management and related outcomes.

4 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

There were two opportunities for the community and stakeholders to provide input and comment on the draft Plan.

4.1 MARCH-APRIL 2017

The first round of community engagement occurred in March-April 2017. It consisted of an online survey (also available in paper format if required). Three “drop in sessions” were also held so the community could meet with Council staff to find out more about the animal management service and the animal management plan.

Two hundred and sixty-five surveys were completed. Very little feedback was obtained from the drop in sessions.

Appendix 2 describes the consultation process in more detail. Appendix 3 analyses the survey results.

The following is a summary of the feedback received.

CAT MANAGEMENT

The breakdown of cat owners to non-cat owners was 40/60 ie 40% of respondents are either cat owners now or are intending on getting a cat in the next year or so.

Respondents were asked if they thought Council should introduce cat registration.

72% said Yes

17% said No

5% said Don't know

6% did not respond.

There was a different emphasis in the qualitative comment that followed with more respondents seeking desexing and microchipping than registration. Some saw registration as a revenue raising exercise.

Respondents were asked about what aspects of cat management should be priority for the Plan. The responses were:

84% Microchipping of cats

77% Educating the community in responsible cat ownership

74% Lost, unwanted and unowned cats

73% Introduction of a cat registration by-law

71% Impacts of cats on the environment

62% Nuisance from cats straying on private property

40% Providing services for cat owners

There was a different emphasis in the qualitative comment that followed with respondents seeking confinement and mandatory desexing of cats.

DOG MANAGEMENT

The breakdown of dog owners to non-dog owners was 67/33 ie 67% of respondents are either a dog owner now or are intending on getting a dog in the next year or so.

Respondents were asked about what aspects of dog management should be priority for the Plan. The responses were:

High priority response

86% Aggressive dogs

79% Registration and micro-chipping of dogs

75% Dogs wandering at large

71% Educating responsible dog ownership

65% Enforcement of animal management controls and laws

63% Lost and unwanted dogs

58% Compliance with leash requirements and effective control in off leash areas

54% Removal of dog faeces from parks, streets and footpaths

54% Barking dogs

33% Planning new dog parks

33% Providing services for dog owners

32% Impacts of dogs on the environment

There was a different emphasis in the qualitative comment that followed with more respondents focusing on barking dog complaints and removal of dog faeces from public spaces.

DOG PARK

Respondents were asked if they had visited Council's dog park, Barka Park, which opened in July 2015. 35% said they had visited Barka Park. Assuming only existing dog owners had visited the park, this appears to equate to 100% of the existing dog owners who participated in the survey. The park has been generally well received and number of suggestions were made about its design and management.

The survey asked where a second dog park could be located. Nairne and Littlehampton were the most common responses, followed by Glebe Land and Hahndorf. Some said that it should be on the other side of the Princes Highway, giving access to the townships north of the Princes Highway.

OTHER COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PROVISION OF ANIMAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Other issues raised include:

- + Council needs to enforce animal management laws better;
- + Subsidised microchipping & desexing;
- + Enforce responsible cat ownership to the same standards as dogs. Registered, encourage microchipping and desexing, they must be under control and kept to their property;
- + Limit pet numbers to make sure pets are looked after properly due to the financial commitment required;
- + Too many stray animals roaming the streets;
- + Enforcement of laws against uncontrolled breeding;
- + Council's process for barking dogs is too slow and places the burden on the victim instead of the offenders; and
- + Better enforcement of leash laws and owners disposing of dog faeces.

4.2 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

The second round of community feedback occurred in September-October 2017 when the draft Animal Management Plan was made available for review and written comment.

4 written responses were received.

1. The Dog and Cat Management Board provided written comment. Their submission said the plan "appears to be well researched, covers the areas the Board expects to see and includes KPIs".

The Board provided a number of minor suggestions (mainly terminology and clarification) which were taken up in the final plan.

2. A submission from Primary Industries and Regions SA recommended an all hazards approach be taken to encompass any emergency situation that pet owners might face (instead of the Plan's initial focus on planning for pets during bushfire incidents). This recommendation was adopted in the final plan.

3. One submission from a resident was concerned about cats wandering on to their property. This issue will be considered by the Cat Management Working Group that will consider a range of possible cat controls.

4. A submission from a resident sought concessions for pensioners including the possibility of a once off registration fee instead of an annual fee. Unfortunately this is not possible under statewide registration requirements. However Council does provide reduced dog registration fees for concession card holders Should Council decide to introduce a cat registration requirement concessions fees would also be considered.

5 OVERVIEW OF OUR PLAN

MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION AND DESEXING

In July 2018 it will become mandatory that all dogs and cats are microchipped and all new generations of dogs and cats are desexed.

These are significant changes to current requirements that will need to be an early focus of the Plan. New procedures and community education will be required.

DACO

The move to state-wide online dog registration (DACO) is another significant change to animal management. New systems and procedures and community education will be required to inform the community on how to access and use DACO.

EDUCATION IN RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Council's focus is on educating the community in responsible pet ownership in the first instance. Its education activities, delivery and programs will be reviewed, upgraded and improved where warranted.

In addition, and for the life of this Plan, it is proposed to focus on disseminating and educating the community about the new requirements outlined above. The reason for this is that it is thought there is already confusion in the community about different animal management requirements³ eg what is a state-wide versus a local requirement, what is required compared to what is only encouraged, differences between municipalities and different requirements applying to dogs compared to cats. Even the difference between registration and microchipping is a known cause for confusion. Added to that, the new desexing requirements will only apply to new generations of dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018. Finally, Mount Barker has and will continue to have a high number of new residents at any one time which adds to the potential for misunderstanding.

A comprehensive and integrated program designed to educate the community about the suite of existing and new requirements applying in Mount Barker will be developed. This will be undertaken in association with neighbouring Councils and other stakeholders where possible to share resources and disseminate a consistent message tailored to local requirements.

³ CONFUSION ABOUT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS WAS CONFIRMED IN THE 2014 CAT OWNERS SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOARD.

CAT REGISTRATION AND CONFINEMENT

There was strong support for cat registration in the survey (70% of respondents said it should be a high priority). If introduced, it would provide a funding stream for cat management that would otherwise need to be drawn from general revenue.

There was also strong concern for the impacts that cats have on wildlife - 69% of respondents said it should be a high priority. Confinement to the home property is generally regarded as the most effective means of reducing the risk to wildlife. 60% of respondents also said that the nuisance from cats wandering on to private property was a high priority issue.

The case for cat confinement is not conclusive however there is support for it in the literature. It is known that cats roam and that they prey on wildlife. However, the level of predation depends on the cat, cat density and wildlife density.

The risk to wildlife populations is less certain. However many ecologists believe the risk is real.

A 2014 survey of cat owners undertaken by the Board found that 7 in 10 respondents believe that cats hunting wildlife is a problem. It also found that many cat owners already confine their cat for all or part of the day. Only 16% of respondents allowed their cat free outdoor access. This demonstrates a level of acceptance for confining cats.

Council will establish a Cat Working Group in 2017 to consider cat control and management including the case for cat registration and confinement in the Mount Barker District Council.

POUND SERVICE

The existing pound service for dogs is provided by Hahndorf Interim Animal Shelter. It may not have the capacity to handle the expected growth in population. Council will need to consider providing a detention facility for cats.

DOG PARK

It is considered that the Council's first Dog Park is a success and that a second Dog Park should be considered during the life of the Plan.

COUNCIL PARKS AND RESERVES

Given the rapid pace of urban development in Mount Barker, an audit of Council's parks and reserves is required to ensure a comprehensive and accurate list of on the on and off leash areas is available. Existing signage is likely to warrant review.

The process for determining on and off leash areas during the planning, development and handing over of new public open space also needs to be reviewed.

DOG ATTACKS

In the 2017 Council survey, 86% of respondents said they believe that aggressive dogs were a high priority issue. The result is not surprising given minimising dog attacks is a core activity of the Council's management service.

Fortunately the number of dog attacks is not high compared to the state average.

Council has standard operating procedures for dealing with dog attacks. It picks up dogs that are wandering at large both during business hours and a contractor picks up dogs after hours.

The Board supports school visits that aim to teach children how to behave around dogs.

The Board also expects that the mandatory desexing of dogs will lead to a reduction in dog attacks.

POPULATION GROWTH AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Significant growth is occurring in and around the town of Mount Barker. This is expected to continue. Between the 2006 and 2011 censuses, the District's population increased by 3,338 or 12.6%. This was an average population change of 2.4% per year over the period, more than double the State's growth rate.

In 2014/2015 Council approved 317 new dwelling and a further 284 residential allotments. The population is expected to increase from 31,950 in 2014 to 41,000 in 2025 and 51,000 in 2035. Almost 75% of this growth is expected to occur in the Mount Barker township.

The implications of significant population growth and urban development are:

- + Continued growth in the number of dogs and cats. Staffing? Capacity of the existing pound service? Increased funds from registration.
- + Greater relative need for ongoing community education because there will always be a high number of new residents living in the district.
- + Ongoing roll out of new public open space.
- + Opportunity to use housing design to better accommodate pets eg some minor changes can make a substantial difference eg window sills that are wide enough for a cat to sit on. Refer: http://more-like-home-workshop.com/Uploads/four_legs_four_walls.pdf
- + Opportunity to engage with new residents to promote responsible pet ownership, build social capital, promote healthy lifestyles associated with dog walking.

Council will aim to achieve best practice integration of dogs and cats into new urban areas. We will involve a range of stakeholders with an interest in animal management and urban development. The aims of the project will include i) testing theories of best practice integration of dogs and cats into new urban areas and ii) finding ways to achieve improved outcomes on the ground. It could consider the following challenges:

- + Design of the private realm – pet friendly housing design that might improve animal welfare and reduce nuisance.
- + Planning public open space – balancing on and off leash areas, dog parks, ways to use design to improve compliance outcomes.
- + Responsible pet ownership – opportunity to engage with newly arriving communities in a different way given so many people are moving into an area at once.
- + Social capital – opportunity to build community cohesion through activities provided for new pet owners.
- + Assisting needy pet owners eg the elderly, Housing SA clients.

6 THE PLAN

This section contains our animal management objectives, strategies and key performance measures for 2018-2022.

Section 6.1 contains our plans applying to both dog and cat management.

Section 6.2 contains our plans applying specifically to dog management.

Section 6.3 contains the plans applying specifically to cat management.

Section 6.4 contains our plans for urban growth.

Section 6.5 contains the plans for staffing Council's animal management service.

Section 6.6 contains our plan for ensuring the Plan is implemented, monitored and reviewed.

6.1 DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT

MICROCHIPPING

All dogs and cats will be required to be microchipped from 1st July 2018.

These measures will assist with the return of pets to their owners and help to distinguish between owned and unowned animals.

Approved microchip implanters will be required to upload the details of the animals they microchip on to DACO.

New procedures will be required to manage and enforce these requirements including a facility to detain unidentified cats.

Extensive community education will be required. This will be included in a comprehensive Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program (DCM-CEP). In addition to a range of promotion and education activities, it could also include holding of microchipping days. Veterinarians will have an important role to play as they are an early point of contact for new pet owners.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Ensure Council systems will accommodate the new requirements.	Review and modify procedures and records and data collection to accommodate the new requirements.	Council systems reviewed and modified.
Educate residents about the mandatory	Incorporate mandatory microchipping into the Dog	Dog and Cat Management – Community Education

microchipping requirements.	and Cat Management – Community Education Program. Work with local vets to promote the mandatory microchipping requirement for all dogs and cats.	Program developed and implemented. Percentage of residents surveyed who indicate correct awareness and understanding of the requirement. Increase in the percentage of dogs and cats found to be microchipped over time.
Enforce compliance with the mandatory microchipping requirements.	Send Authorised Persons to randomly monitor parks/other locations commonly used by dog owners and conduct microchip scan checks to identify non-compliance.	Number of random checks made by Authorised Persons. Increase in the percentage of dogs and cats found to be microchipped over time. Increase in the proportion of microchipped dogs and cats arriving in the pound shelter used by Council over time.

DESEXING

All dogs and cats born after 1st July 2018 will be required to be desexed.

This will help to reduce the number of unwanted and unowned animals and has the potential to reduce dog attacks and dogs found wandering at large.

Procedures will be required for dealing with animals found not to be desexed including time limits for it to be carried out and the release of animals from shelters.

Veterinarians will be required to upload the details of the animals they desex on to DACO.

Councils will be able to cross reference animals included on the database to check for animals that are identified but not desexed and follow up as appropriate.

Extensive community education will also be required. This will be included in a comprehensive Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program (DCM-CEP). In addition to a range of promotion and education activities, it could also include partnerships with local vets to provide discounted desexing eg for low income earners, pensioners and other concession card holders. Veterinarians will have an important role to play as they are an early point of contact for new pet owners. The National Desexing Network is an important stakeholder in efforts to increase rates of desexing of dogs and cats.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Ensure Council systems, procedures and records and data collection will accommodate the new requirements to best effect.	Review and modify systems, procedures and records and data collection to accommodate the new requirements.	Council systems reviewed and modified.
Educate residents about the mandatory desexing requirements.	Incorporate mandatory desexing into the Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program. Work with local vets to promote the mandatory desexing requirement for all dogs and cats.	Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program developed and implemented. Percentage of residents surveyed who indicate correct awareness and understanding of the requirement. Increase in the percentage of dogs and cats found to be desexed over time.
Enforce compliance with the mandatory desexing requirements.	Review DACO database to uncover animals that are not listed as desexed.	Increase in the percentage of dogs and cats found to be desexed over time. Increase in the proportion of desexed dogs and cats arriving in the pound shelter used by Council over time.
Review DACO database to		

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

The primary aim of the Council’s animal management service is to educate the community in responsible dog and cat ownership and as a result achieve compliance with relevant legislation and Council by-laws.

In most cases, where a minor breach occurs, officers will issue a warning if necessary. In more serious cases and where there are repeated breaches for minor offences, enforcement action will be considered. Enforcement activity will be consistent with Council’s Enforcement Policy.

Council will improve the information provided on its website and printed material. Some information can also be provided on the My Local Services app recently implemented by Council and through social media.

In addition, for the life of this Plan there will be a comprehensive program designed to lift the understanding and knowledge of the specific requirements applying to dogs and cats in the Council district. Initially known as the Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program, it will be given a purpose designed title. It will include the new state-wide requirements, existing by-laws and any changes that might occur arising from the Cat Working Group report.

A comprehensive program will be designed drawing on partnerships with the Board, neighbouring Councils, veterinarians and a range of other stakeholders where appropriate.

Its primary objective in the first instance will be to ensure members of the community understand the requirements or at least know how to easily access the requirements that apply in the Mount Barker District Council area.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Educate the community in the broad range of responsible pet ownership requirements and community expectations.	Continue to provide education material on Council’s website and in other promotional formats. Continue to educate for initial minor breaches of Council requirements.	Reduction over time in the number of certain expiations over time.
Focus on educating the community in the suite of existing and new animal management requirements that apply in Mount Barker District Council.	Develop a comprehensive and integrated dissemination and education program designed to ensure the community understands existing and new animal management requirements in Mount Barker District Council.	Over time, a higher proportion of residents report correct understanding of state-wide and local requirements that apply in Mount Barker District Council.
Encourage the community to plan for how pets will be managed during an emergency	Provide information on Council’s website including links to information provided on state government websites.	Information provided on Council’s website.

POUND SERVICE

Council's pound service for dogs will need to be able to accommodate the projected increase in the number of dogs living in the district. The existing service provided by the Hahndorf Interim Animal Shelter may not be adequate. Council is also likely to require a facility or service to accommodate cats.

A review of Council's short and long term needs for both dogs and cats is required. This will be undertaken during the life of this Plan and if appropriate, a feasibility study will be undertaken of one or more options.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Review Council's short and long term animal pound requirements.	Undertaken a review of Council's short and long term animal pound requirements.	Review undertaken.
	Undertaken a feasibility study.	Study undertaken.

6.2 DOG MANAGEMENT

REGISTRATION

Council has had a steady increase in dog registrations in line with population growth. At the end of the 2016-2016 financial year, there were 7,937 dogs registered with Council, with unregistered dogs resulting in 100 expiations.

DACO will be introduced in 2018. It will be managed by the Board who will send out registration reminders and tags.

Councils will be able to set their own registration fees including any rebates. They will need to enter their registration fees into DACO to allow the system to charge the correct fee.

Councils will be responsible for promoting and enforcing registration.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Ensure the transition to DACO is appropriately managed.	Review systems, procedures and information/data base requirements.	Review undertaken. Systems, procedures and database updated.
	Review and confirm registration fees including any rebates.	Review undertaken. Registration fees entered into DACO.

Increase/maintain the number of registered dogs	Include registration requirements in the DCM-CEP.	Registration requirements included in the DCM-CEP.
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BARKING

All dogs bark, it is when it occurs repeatedly and excessively that a problem arises.

Excessive barking has several causes: separation anxiety, boredom, external stimuli, territorialism and for communication. It often occurs when the owners are not at home.

Council provides a range of information to assist people to reduce the incidence of problem barking. Authorised Persons can also assist owners with suggestions on reducing a barking problem.

Council received 64 barking dog complaints in the 2015-2016 financial year, higher than the previous three financial years (in part a reflection on the increase in the number of registered dogs). Council has standard operating procedures for dealing with barking dog complaints.

Most complaints are resolved in a few weeks. However, some complaints can be difficult to identify as a problem, diagnose and/or resolve. These difficult cases can take up extensive officer time.

Council will continue to monitor and update in best practice for dealing with excessive dog barking.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Reduce the impact of barking dogs in the community.	<p>Continue to use the Council's Standard Operating Procedure for investigating barking dog complaints.</p> <p>Review the way front counter staff deal with initial complaints from the community.</p> <p>Monitor best practice for dealing with dog barking complaints.</p>	<p>Number of complaints received and resolved.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of barking dog complaints over time.</p>

DOG ATTACKS AND WANDERING AT LARGE

Each year dogs bite more than 100,000 Australians. Fortunately, the rate in any one Council is not high, however reducing risk and responding to attacks that do occur is a core animal management function. This includes dogs that attack, harass or otherwise endanger the health of a person or animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person (whether or

not actual injury is caused). Council also needs to implement the requirements of the Act with respect to prescribed breeds of dogs and those dogs that have a control order placed on them.

Council receives an average of 44 dog attack reports each year. Council has standard operating procedures for dealing with dog attacks.

A higher number of dogs are found to be wandering at large. Wandering dogs are one of the risk factors for dog attacks.

Key initiatives to reduce the incidence of dog attacks include early socialisation and training of dogs, ensuring dogs are not permitted to wander at large and educating the community (especially children) in bite avoidance ie how to behave around dogs and the need to supervise children around dogs. Council responds promptly to reports of dogs wandering at large and patrols parks and streets for unsupervised dogs.

Material is available on the Board’s website on the benefits of socialisation and training of dogs. Improved links to this material could be provided.

Mandatory desexing has the potential to reduce dog attacks and wandering at large.

Living Safely with Pets is a structured learning program that aims to teach children how to live responsibly and safely with dogs and cats. It is delivered by the Board free of charge to school children from Reception to Year Three across the state (following a school request).

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.	Provide links to the Dog and Cat Management Board’s material designed to reduce dog attacks.	Number of dog attacks reported.
Minimise the incidence of dogs found to be wandering at large.	Provide links to the Dog and Cat Management Board’s material designed to reduce dog attacks.	Number of dogs found to be wandering at large.

COUNCIL PARKS AND RESERVES

Council has a list of on and off leash areas and areas from which dogs are prohibited from entering.

The list needs to be audited and updated and the material provided to the community needs to be improved (to be more user friendly). The information should be included on the My Local Services app which Council has recently implemented.

There needs to be an agreed procedure for establishing the requirements applying to dogs in new Council parks and reserves.

There is a case for considering a second off leash dog park and this review will occur during the life of this Plan.

There are concerns about dogs being leashed where required and under effective control in off leash areas. These are perennial issues across Australia. The information provided on the Council’s website will be updated to include Council’s expectations in this regard. To this end, Council will consider developing a series of typical scenarios associated with the issues of dogs in Council reserves and parks. The scenarios will look at the issue, its impacts, why the preferred behaviour is important and what Council expects from the community. The scenarios will be disseminated to the community via Council’s website, posters, social media and general media coverage.

It is considered that the current initiatives to remove dog faeces are appropriate. This includes the by-law requirement that dog owners carry a pooper scooper or similar device suitable for removing their dog’s faeces and the provision of dog poo bag dispensers throughout the municipality. The by-law was recently reviewed and the requirement to carry a dog faeces bag or container was confirmed.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Audit the list of on and off leash areas in Mount Barker Council area.		Audit completed and information updated. By law amended (if applicable)
Develop a procedure for establishing the requirements applying to dogs in new Council parks and reserves.	Liaise with the stakeholders involved in the planning and roll out of new Council parks and reserves.	Procedure developed.
Review the case for a second Dog Park in the Mount Barker District Council area.	Review the case for a second Dog Park in the Council area.	Review with action plan completed
Educate the community on the requirements and issues associated with dogs in Council parks and reserves.	Improve the information available on Council’s website and in other promotional material with regard to the requirements applying to dogs and Council parks and reserves. Develop a series of typical scenarios associated with dogs in Council parks and reserves.	Information reviewed. Scenarios developed. Information disseminated.

	Consider ways to disseminate the information eg via social media and the My Local Services app	
Enforce the requirements applying to dogs and Council parks and reserves.	Continue to patrol Council's parks and reserves to ensure dog owners are complying with the requirements applying to dogs.	Routine patrols of parks and reserves. Responding to concerns raised by the community. All actions captured in Council's Customer Request Module (CRM).

6.3 CAT MANAGEMENT

Council received 21 cat related complaints in the 2016-2017 financial year, up from 4 complaints in 2012/2013. Whilst the number of complaints received is low, this might reflect the fact that Council has only a limited role to play in cat management now. The concern is nevertheless increasing and the low number of complaints doesn't necessarily reflect a lack of concern in the community. Concerns about cats were prominent in the survey responses.

Council will need to determine how it will deal with cats found to be un-microchipped including a facility or service for dealing with seized/impounded cats. This may include an arrangement with an external organisation.

Council will establish a working party to review the case for increasing cat control in the Mount Barker District Council area. The options to consider would include a permit requirement for keeping a certain number of cats, cat registration, a cat confinement requirement ie confined to the home property whether that be a curfew or 24/7 and a range of other education options. It is envisaged that there would be further consultation with the community and that any new requirements would be introduced by a new by-law.

If cat controls were introduced they would need to be planned for, resourced and disseminated to the community. This could be incorporated into the Dog and Cat Management – Community Education Program.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Review how to deal with cats found to be un-microchipped.	Create procedures. Review options for accommodating seized/impounded cats.	Review undertaken and facility arranged.

Review cat management options and the case for their introduction in Mount Barker District Council.	Cat Management Working Group set up and report completed.	Report with recommendation completed.
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6.4 PLANNING FOR URBAN GROWTH

Significant population growth poses both challenges and opportunities for the Council. The challenges include staffing requirements, capacity of the existing pound service and keeping up with the roll out of new public parks and reserves (all dealt with elsewhere in the Plan).

The opportunities include considering best practice integration of dogs and cats into new urban areas. This could address the design of new homes, the planning and provision of public open space and the different ways we might engage with new communities to achieve responsible pet ownership, social cohesion and healthy lifestyles.

In the first instance, an initial review will be undertaken to identify the opportunities and challenges, uncover best practice if it exists, uncover examples of where it might have been implemented and how best practice could be applied in Mount Barker. The review should occur with relevant stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Achieve best practice integration of dogs and cats in Mount Baker's new urban areas.	Undertaken a review of best practice urban and community development.	Review undertaken.

6.5 STAFFING THE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Council's animal management service needs specialist staff will need ongoing training to ensure that they provide a high level of service and are up to date with legislation changes.

Council also needs to review its animal management team to ensure that they are able to service the projected increase in pet ownership.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Ensure Authorised Persons acting under the Dog and	Staff to attend training relevant to Authorised Persons (eg animal	Type and number of training sessions attended by staff.

Cat Management Act 1995 have appropriate training.	handling, conflict resolution). Review skills of staff to identify areas where additional training would be of benefit to the staff and council.	
Ensure Council is prepared for a substantial increase in dog and cat numbers associated with projected population increases.	Undertake a strategic review of Council's long term staffing requirements.	Review undertaken.

6.6 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

The plan requires a mechanism to ensure the Plan is implemented, monitored, reviewed and amended where appropriate.

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Ensure the Plan is implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated where appropriate.	Obtain Board approval of the Plan. Assign responsibility for implementing the Plan to a nominated Council officer. Establish an internal project team and meet quarterly to review progress. Conduct an annual review and report on the Plan's currency, implementation and performance against KPIs.	Plan is implemented as planned.

APPENDIX 1:

ON AND OFF LEASH AREAS, AND AREAS FROM WHICH DOGS ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING IN MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

DOG FREE AREAS: (dogs prohibited)

CALLINGTON:

- Callington Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

ECHUNGA:

- Echunga Golf Course
- Echunga Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

HAHNDORF:

- Hahndorf Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

HARROGATE:

- Harrogate Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

LITTLEHAMPTON:

- Anembo Park (Playing surfaces)

MACCLESFIELD:

- Macclesfield Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

MEADOWS:

- Meadows Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

NAIRNE:

- Nairne Golf Course
- Nairne Recreational Grounds (Playing surfaces)

MT BARKER:

- Dunn Park (Playing surfaces)
- Mt Barker Show Grounds (Playing surfaces)

DOGS ON LEASH AREAS:

CALLINGTON:

- Callington Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm)

ECHUNGA:

- Echunga Cemetery
- Echunga Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)

HAHNDORF:

- Alec Johnston Park
- Hahndorf Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)
- Pioneer Memorial Gardens

HARROGATE:

- Harrogate Cemetery
- Harrogate Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)

KANMANTOO:

- Hutton Reserve

LITTLEHAMPTON:

- Anembo Park (Oval surrounds)
- Coppins Bush Reserve
- Miel's Park
- Turner's Bush Reserve

MACCLESFIELD:

- Davenport Square (Between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm)
- Day Paddock Reserve
- Macclesfield Cemetery
- Macclesfield Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)

MEADOWS:

- Meadows Cemetery (2)
- Meadows Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)

MT BARKER:

- Dunn Park (Oval surrounds)
- Keith Stephenson Park
- Laratinga Wetlands
- Mt Barker Cemetery
- Mt Barker/Laratinga Linear Trail (excluding the section from Bollen Road to May Road)
- Mt Barker Show Grounds (Oval surrounds)

NAIRNE:

- Byethorne Park
- Jeffrey Street Reserve
- Nairne Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds)
- Mick Murphy Park
- Mt Barker Summit Reserve

PROSPECT HILL:

- Prospect Hill Cemetery

WISTOW:

- Wistow Cemetery

DOGS OFF LEASH AREAS: (dog friendly areas)

BRUKUNGA:

- Brukunga Hall Reserve Area (including the Playground)
- Brukunga and District CFS Reserve (Whibley Reserve)

CALLINGTON:

- Callington Recreational Grounds (Oval surrounds between 6:00pm and 8:00am)
- Murray Street Reserve

DAWESLEY:

- Water Reserve (McIntyre Road)

ECHUNGA:

- CFS Reserve
- RSL Gardens of Remembrance
- Echunga Scout Club
- Woodgate Reserve

HAHNDORF:

- Hahndorf 'Old Quarry' (Blueberry Hill)

KANMANTOO:

- Drainage Reserve

LITTLEHAMPTON:

- Junction Road Reserve
- Glebe Paddocks
- Fulford Terrace Reserve
- Miels Avenue Reserve
- Andrewville Reserve
- Spring Park Farm Estate Reserve

MACCLESFIELD:

- Parklands Reserve
- Davenport Square Reserve (between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00am)
- Stone Reserve

MEADOWS:

- Battunga Park
- Mill Street Reserve

MT BARKER:

- Mountain Glen Reserve (Big Green)
- Mt Barker/Laratinga Linear Reserve (from May Road to Bollen Road)
- Flaxley Road reserve
- Waterford Estate Reserves
- Martindale Estate (Burnbank Way Reserves – South)
- Martindale Estate (Bessie May park)
- Martindale Estate (Alan Bell Reserve)
- Yaktanga Way Reserve

- Weld Park
- Gallasch Reserve
- Downing Street Reserve
- Mt Barker Heights Reserve
- Paterson reserve
- Zanker Drive Reserve
- Donaghue Road Reserve
- Alexander Drive Reserve
- Albert Road Reserve
- Separation Avenue Reserve
- Charles Street Reserve
- Edward Street Reserve
- Jubilee Crescent Reserve
- Hawthorn Farm Reserve
- Dumas Street Reserve
- Mann Street Reserve
- Dutton Road Reserve
- Bernhardt Close Reserve
- Manor Crescent Reserve

NAIRNE:

- Mathew Smillie Reserve
- Market Place Reserve
- Hay Crescent Reserve
- North Road Reserve
- Mathew Road Reserve
- Webber Road Reserve
- Parr Street Reserve

PROSPECT HILL:

- Memorial Hall and Associated Park
- Morris Road Reserve
- Summit Hill Reserve

APPENDIX 2:

HOW WE CONSULTED

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Drop in sessions:

- + Tuesday 28th March 3pm-5pm / Meadows Bowling Club.
- + Thursday 30th March 5pm-7pm / Council Chambers.
- + Wednesday 5th April 11am-1pm / Callington Recreation Grounds.

Hills Radio interviews and adverts

Online poll – received 255 responses.

Postal poll.

Council's website.

Council's Offices (6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker) or Library (Dumas Street, Mount Barker) – received 5 responses.

Social media.

Courier and Weekender Herald.

Hard copy surveys in Veterinary Clinic – received 5 responses.

Information stall at Mount Barker Central.

Top H.A.T. Community Forum – 29th March

APPENDIX 3:

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

SURVEY RESPONSES

QUESTION 1: WHAT IS THE POST CODE OF YOUR NORMAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

POSTCODE	SUBURBS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
5251	Mount Barker, Mount Barker Junction, Wistow	99
5252 ¹	Brukung, Dawesley, Kanmantoo, Nairne	59
5250 ¹	Littlehampton	16
5153 ¹	Biggs Flat, Bradbury, Echunga, Flaxley, Heathfield, Ironbank, Longwood, Macclesfield, Mylor, Scott Creek	15
5245 ¹	Hahndorf, Verdun	9
5254 ¹	Buccleuch, Callington, Caloote, Monarto, Monarto South, Monteith, Murray Bridge, Mypolonga, Pallamana, Rockleigh, Tepko, The Point	5
5244 ¹	Charleston, Harrogate, Inverbrackie, Mount Torrens, Woodside	3
5201 ¹	Blackfellows Creek, Meadows, Paris Creek, Prospect Hill	3
5253 ¹	Avoca Dell, Brinkley, Burdett, Chapman Bore, Etrick, Gifford Hill, Greenbanks, Long Flat, Mobilong, Murrawong, Murray Bridge, Murray Bridge East, Murray Bridge North, Murray Bridge South, Northern Heights, Riverglades, Riverglen Rocky Gully, Sunnyside, Swanport, Toora, White Hill, White Sands, Willow Banks, Woods Point	1
5255 ²	Angas Plains, Belvidere, Bletchley, Finnis, Gemmells, Hartley, Highland Valley, Lake Plains, Langhorne Creek, Mount Observation, Mulgundawa, Nalpa, Red Creek, Salem, Sandergrove, Strathalbyn, Tooperang, Willyaroo, Woodchester	2
5152 ²	Cleland, Crafers, Crafers West, Mount Lofty, Stirling	2
5241 ²	Lobethal	2
5242 ²	Balhannah	1
5240 ²	Lenswood	1
5161 ²	Old Reynella, Reynella, Reynella East	1
5019 ²	Exeter, Semaphore, Semaphore Park, Semaphore South	1
No response		45

Note: Postcode 5251 is the only postcode completely inside of Mt Barker District Council boundary, the remainder are:

- partly situated in Mt Barker District Council¹,
- completely outside the council boundary².

QUESTION 2: HOW MANY DOGS AND/OR CATS BELONG TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH YOU NORMALLY RESIDE?

NUMBER OF PETS	CATS	DOGS
0	167	98
1	49	103
2	32	52
3+	17	12
DID NOT RESPOND	0	0
TOTAL	265	265

QUESTION 3: IF YOUR ANSWER IS 0, ARE YOU PLANNING ON GETTING A DOG AND/OR CAT IN THE NEXT YEAR OR SO?

PLANNING ON GETTING NEW DOG/CAT	CATS	DOGS
YES	7	12
NO	146	91

QUESTION 4: DOGS: OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS, WHICH DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE HIGH, MEDIUM OR LOW PRIORITY IN REGARDS TO COUNCIL'S ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

ISSUE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Aggressive dogs	219	29	8
Registration and micro-chipping of dogs	202	42	11
Dogs wandering at large	192	50	14
Educating responsible dog ownership	177	61	13
Enforcement of animal management controls and laws	163	81	7
Lost and unwanted dogs	160	79	13
Compliance with leash requirements and effective control in off leash areas	149	89	19

ISSUE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Removal of dog faeces from parks, streets and footpaths	138	82	35
Barking dogs	136	94	24
Planning new dog parks	85	110	60
Providing services for dog owners	83	122	46
Impacts of dogs on the environment	81	114	58

OTHER DOG ISSUES (PLEASE SPECIFY)

THEME	COMMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	<p>Dog owners not carrying plastic bags to pick up dog faeces.</p> <p>Dog owners not putting plastic bags with dog faeces in the bin.</p> <p>Install more bins in parks with litter bags attached to them.</p> <p>Plastic bags in dispensers should be compostable.</p> <p>People should be able to take photos of owners who do not pick up their dog's faeces.</p> <p>Better enforcement of laws (and fines) requiring owners to dispose of their dog's faeces.</p>
NOISE	<p>Dogs barking all day and night.</p> <p>Dogs should be kept inside at night to minimise noise from barking.</p> <p>Council could do nothing effective about neighbour's barking dogs.</p> <p>Council should have more robust barking laws.</p> <p>Better, quicker enforcement and harsher fines for owners who have dogs with ongoing barking issues.</p> <p>Replace dog diaries with a sound recorder.</p> <p>Dog diary not sent by Council when requested.</p> <p>Dog diaries are onerous and victim blaming.</p> <p>A clearer definition of what is deemed excessive barking and intermittent barking.</p>
DESEXING	<p>Desexing should be compulsory.</p> <p>Desexing female dogs should be compulsory unless the dog is a working dog or a registered breeding dog.</p> <p>Incentives or rebates to register, microchip, and desex dogs.</p> <p>Desexing all dogs in first year unless bond is payed to deal with unwanted pregnancies.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATIONS	<p>Enforcement of laws should be more timely and efficient.</p> <p>Dogs roaming onto neighbours' property and into public areas.</p> <p>Lack of council support after being attacked by a dog.</p> <p>Better enforcement of leash requirements.</p> <p>Better council response and enforcement of laws following dog attacks.</p> <p>Require owners of dogs that have attacked other dogs or people to pay medical/veterinary bills of victims.</p> <p>Dogs killing chickens and cats.</p> <p>Better enforcement of effective control in off leash areas.</p> <p>Laws are adequate, better enforcement is needed.</p> <p>Illegal "backyard" breeding.</p> <p>More dog faeces bins in residential areas.</p> <p>All males should be trained.</p> <p>Limit number of pets on smaller properties.</p> <p>Limit number of dogs per household to one.</p> <p>No cross breeding.</p> <p>Dogs should not be allowed in properties with no yard.</p> <p>Large dogs should not be allowed on smaller properties.</p> <p>Increase limit of dogs per dwelling allowed.</p> <p>Better enforcement of the number of dogs per household.</p> <p>Require owners to sign a contract committing to walk their dogs daily.</p> <p>Banning dogs from outdoor seating areas of establishments that serve food.</p> <p>Dog free development area.</p> <p>All dogs should be on leashes when in public, there should not be off leash areas.</p> <p>Laws that require owners to provide, water, food and vet care for their dogs.</p> <p>Large breeds of dogs should wear a muzzle at all times in public.</p> <p>Council not taking complaints seriously.</p> <p>Limit or ban the most common poisons.</p> <p>Vet should email Council to notify when an owner's dog has died.</p>
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	<p>More off leash areas.</p> <p>Allow dogs to be off leash on local ovals during restricted hours.</p> <p>More dog parks.</p> <p>Dogs should only be allowed off lead in dog parks.</p> <p>More activities for dogs in the large dog park in Mount Barker, i.e. agility runs.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>More parks allowing dogs, especially larger parks, preferably with a dam for dogs to swim in.</p> <p>Council should host community events for dogs to socialise.</p>
EDUCATION	<p>Educate people on responsible pet ownership.</p> <p>Educate people on choosing a dog to suit their lifestyle and ability to make the financial commitment.</p> <p>Educate people how to care for and entertain dogs that are often left home alone.</p> <p>Educate people with aggressive dogs on how to control aggressive dog behaviour.</p> <p>Educate owners about the importance of picking up their dog's faeces.</p> <p>Educate non-dog owning people to be more tolerant.</p> <p>Educate non-dog owning people on normal dog behaviour.</p> <p>Educate owners on the danger of retractable leads, especially excessively long leads.</p> <p>Educate owners that there should be adequate shade for dogs that are home alone.</p> <p>Compulsory basic training for all new dog owners.</p>
ANIMAL RESCUE	<p>As much support as possible should be given to animal rescue centres.</p> <p>Banning breeding of dogs, with all dogs in shelters given to households who want pets.</p> <p>Keeping dogs at the pound until owners come and retrieve them.</p>
OWNER RESPONSIBILITY	<p>Owners should ensure that dogs have social interaction and exercise every day.</p> <p>Owners should ensure that dogs should be kept warm and dry in winter.</p> <p>Owners of fertile female dogs should advise neighbours in 5-6km radius.</p>

QUESTION 5: CATS: OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS, WHICH DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE HIGH, MEDIUM OR LOW PRIORITY IN REGARDS TO COUNCIL'S ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

ISSUE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Microchipping of cats	216	32	9
Educating the community in responsible cat ownership	194	47	10
Lost, unwanted and unowned cats	187	56	11
Introduction of a by-law requiring cats to be registered	187	25	44

ISSUE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Impacts of cats on the environment	182	55	19
Nuisance from cats straying on private property	158	60	38
Providing services for cat owners	98	91	58

OTHER CAT ISSUES (PLEASE SPECIFY)

THEME	COMMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	Feral and stray cats are adversely affecting the environment through killing native wildlife.
DESEXING	<p>Compulsory desexing.</p> <p>Council should provide rebates for desexing.</p> <p>Desexing should be more affordable.</p> <p>All cats from breeders to be desexed.</p> <p>People should be fined for not desexing or registering their cat.</p> <p>All cats should be desexed and any caught not identified to be euthanised.</p> <p>Fines should be given to people who dump undesexed cats.</p>
ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATIONS	<p>Registration of cats introduced to sort out the stray and wild cats from the cared for ones.</p> <p>Registration to stop owners from letting cats wander.</p> <p>Limit number of cats on a property and require registration, microchipping, vaccination and desexing.</p> <p>Fine people whose cats get taken to the shelter after being trapped or caught on neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Registration and destruction with no questions if not registered and microchipped and causing nuisance and or killing fauna.</p> <p>Registration for cats should be introduced because it is unfair for only dog owners to be required to register their pets.</p> <p>Cat laws should have the same restrictions as dog laws.</p> <p>Council could set up temporary wildlife surveillance cameras for areas with feral or dumped cat problems. Council officers trapping the cats should follow this up.</p> <p>Compulsory micro-chipping is a far more effective method of identification and control than any registration program could be, especially due to the difficulty of keeping the identification on cats. Adding extra costs through registration could lead to more owners with financial issues dumping their cats.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Registration is just revenue raising exercise by Council, instead only desexing and microchipping should be mandatory.</p> <p>Affordable vaccination.</p> <p>Provide rebates for microchipping.</p> <p>If cats are to be registered, make it free or very cheap for desexed and microchipped cats.</p> <p>Make certain areas cat free, i.e. opposite golf courses, near wetlands.</p>
<p>CONFINEMENT</p>	<p>Introduce a cat curfew whereby all cats are locked in at night.</p> <p>A curfew, and all cats outside after curfew should be caught, owners fined, and cats euthanized humanely.</p> <p>Cats should be confined to owner's property either indoors or outdoors by enclosures, a cage system, cat runs, or fence attachments.</p> <p>Council should promote cat runs.</p> <p>Cat cages should not be enforced, instead cats should be locked indoors at night.</p> <p>Cats should not be confined during the day as they have a right to exercise outside.</p> <p>Fines for failing to confine cats at night should be given to repeat offenders only.</p> <p>If cats are taken off their property, they must be on-leash or respond to voice commands the same as a dog would.</p> <p>Cats should not be able to wander and kill wild animals, especially on other people's property.</p> <p>Wandering cats are a risk to drivers and the cats themselves.</p> <p>Cats defecating and spraying on other people's property.</p> <p>Cats making noise by mating and fighting at night.</p> <p>Cats damaging vehicles by sleeping on them and marking their territory.</p>
<p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>Educate people on responsible pet ownership regarding desexing and cat curfews in terms of reducing nuisance to neighbourhood and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Cat related issues are due to ignorant cat owners, owners should be educated to change their attitude towards cats.</p> <p>Cat owners in the council area have a problem with "vigilante" justice, people threatening the lives of cats.</p>
<p>ANIMAL RESCUE</p>	<p>Any returned pet cats should incur a cost recovery fee this would help reduce wandering pet cats.</p> <p>Council should employ a dedicated officer to trap stray cats.</p> <p>Abandoned cats.</p>
<p>OWNER RESPONSIBILITY</p>	<p>Owners should be made more responsible of the animals they wish to keep.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	Owners should be taught or made accountable for the behaviour of their pets.
STRAY AND FERAL CATS	<p>Stray cats should be trapped and desexed.</p> <p>Stray cats need to be trapped, and then homed or euthanised.</p> <p>Home owners should have ability to protect their property from strays because of the danger they pose to other animals.</p> <p>Council has no solutions for stray cats wandering onto other people's property and causing nuisance.</p> <p>Stray and feral cat eradication program should be put in place.</p> <p>There should be a cat trapping management plan in place to control wandering cats who destroy wildlife, and cat traps available for hire.</p>

QUESTION 6: CAT REGISTRATION: DO YOU THINK A BY-LAW SHOULD BE INTRODUCED OR NOT?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	DID NOT RESPOND
192	45	13	15

QUESTION 7: HAVE YOU VISITED THE COUNCIL'S DOG PARK, BARKA PARK?

YES	NO	DID NOT RESPOND
84	156	15

QUESTION 8: IF YES, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT ITS DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT?

THEME	COMMENT
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT	<p>Needs more shade and wind protection, will be better when trees have grown.</p> <p>Needs taps, bins, and bags to pick up faeces at both exits.</p> <p>Frequently there have been no dog poo bags available.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>The water bowl is way too small and there should be more than one.</p> <p>Needs public toilets, shelter and seating.</p> <p>Great idea, should be flat, smaller and green. Too large, should be flat so you dog can be sighted at all times. Shrubs shield dogs from their owners.</p> <p>Not big enough to give medium to large dogs lots of running room.</p> <p>The smaller dog park is very small, with no logs, tunnels or anything to stimulate the dogs if they are there as the only dog.</p> <p>Separation of small and large dogs is a good idea, but there needs to be a display at entrance explaining what small and large mean. What about medium dogs?</p> <p>Lack of disease control considerations.</p> <p>Signs needed to warn about bitches in heat and infectious diseases, especially eye infections or heart worm.</p> <p>Different types of activities could be reviewed/introduced.</p> <p>More dog play equipment bridges and obstacle course.</p> <p>Too much dust, a real issue in wetter months. Car park should be sealed. Road access has potholes.</p> <p>Maintenance could be better, the washing away of the bark chips and erosion issues from winter/summer rains is unacceptable.</p> <p>It is completely washed out after the storms last year, needs repair.</p> <p>Bark chips make it difficult to see and pick up dog faeces.</p> <p>Prickly grass in some areas getting stuck in dog's paws.</p> <p>Requires more events, e.g. micro-chip day.</p> <p>It's not a very good name. Perhaps consider renaming the park after a notable person in the district.</p> <p>Didn't know it existed.</p> <p>There should be solar powered lighting so the area can be utilised after dark like the West Torrens Dog Park at Marleston.</p> <p>For the money spent on Barka Park, it could've been much better equipped and finished off.</p> <p>Develop the nearby swamp area as a playground and BBQ area with toilets. The Happy Valley dog park could act as a model for this.</p>
OUTSTANDING ISSUES	<p>Requires more enforcement of non-socialised dogs to not be taken.</p> <p>Biggest issue is owners who don't control their dogs.</p> <p>Dog owners will not visit park due to worries about dog attacks.</p> <p>Small dog owners worry for their dog's safety at Barka Park.</p> <p>Dog attacks at Barka Park leading to victim dogs becoming less social.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	Large breed dog owner will not take dog to Barka Park as other dog owners tend to unnecessarily panic when a large breed dog is let off leash, even if the dog is well socialised.
GENERAL PRAISE	Great design and well utilised. Excellent facility especially separating large from small. Congratulations to council for this facility. Great – much used and needed. Great, dog had fun. It seems to work very well for exercising and socialising dogs. Well laid out. Mt Barker Park is excellent. Thank you. There should be one in every town. Very good park. Good location. Love the separation for large and small dogs. It's a great facility that we use almost daily. The facility is great, but I personally prefer to run or walk with my dog.
OTHER	Is this use of this public land in proportion to the rate of dog owners in the district? Concerns that the park is next to a power station. Unavoidable, but you can smell it before you get to it. Did not like it. Rather boring for the dogs.

QUESTION 9: IF WE WERE TO BUILD A 2ND DOG PARK, WHERE SHOULD IT BE LOCATED?

THEME	COMMENT
LOCATION SUGGESTIONS	Nairne. Littlehampton. Hahndorf. Glebe Land. Aston Hills. Echunga, as there is nowhere to take your dog. Dogs are not allowed on the oval. Also, it is unsafe to walk along the side of the main roads that converge in the town, as there are so many barriers. Bluestone. Callington/Kanmantoo. Brukunga Martindale.

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Harrogate. Meadows. Macclesfield. Woodside. Totness. Hospital area. Adjacent Anembo Park. Adjacent Keith Stephenson Park. Other side of Mount Barker, closer to Freeway (gives access from Littlehampton and Nairne). In or near to one of the townships on the northern side of the freeway, possibly in Littlehampton on the community land adjacent to the Princes Highway. In a tree shaded park well fenced on the Eastern side of Mt Barker Area where there is a large dog population other than Mount Barker. There is an open space in the wetlands in the corner where the roundabout is on Bald Hills Road. That would be good. In the huge area where the new Bald Hills Road interchange is. Large area, rear Light Cres. Near the Springs Road. Nairne near the playground on Matthew Smillie Drive. A lot of people walk their dogs in this area and some are off leash. The park across from Mitre 10 in the housing estate would be great to turn into a dog park. There is a great location on Barker Road where a gorgeous gum tree has already been partially fenced off. Lack of parking could be a problem, but it would be a great stop off for those people who frequently walk their dogs along that road. Somewhere like the walking path around the big dam over at Totness. Bush park in Totness fence it and put in walking trails. Dunn Oval. The round about side of the showgrounds would be perfect. It is a public space that isn't utilised enough. Near the wetlands. Somewhere established trees reside. Not in a bird abundant area. Away from a town and residential properties. Where ever possible if you have spare land. Not two in Mt Barker.</p>
OTHER RESPONSES	<p>Not necessary. No where. One is enough.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>No where, ratepayers who choose not to own dogs should not have to pay for other people's lack of responsible dog ownership. People should choose suitable dogs for their yard size and exercise them regularly.</p> <p>People could just walk their dogs instead of driving them somewhere and then watching them play.</p> <p>Waste of land.</p> <p>No spraying of round up.</p>

QUESTION 9: IF WE WERE TO BUILD A 2ND DOG PARK, HOW SHOULD IT BE DESIGNED OR WHAT FACILITIES SHOULD IT INCLUDE?

THEME	COMMENT
FACILITIES	<p>Faeces bags and bins.</p> <p>More water taps and bowls.</p> <p>Seating, shelter and shade.</p> <p>More trees and established trees.</p> <p>Public toilets.</p> <p>Similar to Barka Park.</p> <p>Larger space.</p> <p>Separation of large and small dogs.</p> <p>Separate area for puppies and young dogs.</p> <p>Small dog park.</p> <p>Medium dog area.</p> <p>Training equipment, obstacle and agility course.</p> <p>Include standard obedience equipment to encourage training.</p> <p>Games and tunnels.</p> <p>Community toy basket.</p> <p>Room to run, especially for larger dogs.</p> <p>Mounds and grass.</p> <p>Different terrains.</p> <p>Flat and no shrubs so small dogs are in sight.</p> <p>Some wide open space to run and play ball.</p> <p>Water features and water for swimming.</p> <p>Dog washing station, which owners pay to use.</p> <p>Along a creek.</p> <p>Information boards about socialising and managing your dogs in public.</p> <p>Separate area for aggressive dogs.</p> <p>Fencing off different areas for different dog types.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Off lead and on lead areas.</p> <p>The dog park should have smaller areas as you enter for the dogs to prevent overcrowding and over excited dogs getting into trouble. This should lead into bigger area when the owners trust the other dogs.</p> <p>Split in two with open up one end, like a 'U' shape</p> <p>Signage indicating that it is an off leash park.</p> <p>Doesn't need many facilities besides a fence and a bin for dog faeces.</p> <p>Paths/walking trails.</p> <p>Long singular runs.</p> <p>Make it a longer area so dogs can be walked at distance too.</p> <p>Walking track surrounding the park would be a good idea.</p> <p>Double gates.</p> <p>Access for mobility impaired people, including disabled parking near entrance.</p> <p>Picnic areas or gazebo with bbq.</p> <p>Children's playground.</p> <p>Easy access and parking.</p> <p>Trees for shade in car park so cars don't get too hot.</p> <p>Drinking water outside of the park too.</p> <p>Similar to dog park in North Adelaide and Stirling.</p> <p>Ban certain breeds to prevent harm to other dogs.</p>
OTHER RESPONSES	<p>Not necessary. One dog park is enough.</p> <p>Dogs transmit fleas at dog parks to other dogs.</p> <p>Maybe have a competition for people to submit plans & choose a winner.</p> <p>Research and investigate what other councils are implementing regarding dog park design.</p>

QUESTION 8: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PROVISION OF ANIMAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES?

THEME	COMMENT
CATS	<p>Cat registration, desexing, and microchipping.</p> <p>Medium priority to have cats registered and very high priority to have cats microchipped and desexed.</p> <p>Cat curfew.</p> <p>Cats should not be able to wander onto other people's properties as they are causing a nuisance and killing wildlife.</p> <p>Enforce responsible cat ownership to the same standards as dogs. Registered, encourage microchipping and desexing, and they must be under control and kept to your property.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>Registration does not achieve anything other than increased dumping of cats outside town. Fees to Council will not cover this.</p> <p>If you are going to introduce by laws to register cats it should only be for outdoor cats.</p> <p>Cat registration is not feasible and a waste of council time.</p> <p>If there is to be a limit on the number of cats per dwelling, consideration needs to be given to owners already over the limit. They should not have to euthanise their cats and the cats should be able to live out their natural life with their owners.</p> <p>Property owners should be allowed to trap wandering cats and owners should be fined, just as dog owners get fined for wandering dogs.</p> <p>Euthanise non-identifiable cats.</p> <p>Cat owners need to be educated on responsible ownership as much as dog owners do.</p>
DOGS	<p>Enforce laws regarding barking and owners disposing of dog faeces.</p> <p>Better enforcement of leash laws.</p> <p>Dogs being kept secure on property. Not able to walk dogs due to so many unconfined dogs in Macclesfield.</p> <p>Controlling barking dogs should be a high council priority. They are an annoying problem in the Macclesfield township area.</p> <p>Barking dogs is a great problem in the townships and seems to be worsening.</p> <p>It is awkward to report nuisance dog barking. People don't want to make enemies out of their dog-owning neighbours.</p> <p>Limits on dog numbers, especially due to accumulative impacts of neighbouring dogs barking.</p>
GENERAL PET LAWS AND REGULATIONS	<p>Pet desexing compulsory in non-commercial situations.</p> <p>Limit on pet numbers to make sure pets are looked after properly due to financial commitment required.</p> <p>Too many stray animals roaming the streets.</p> <p>Pets locked up at night.</p> <p>Enforcement of laws against uncontrolled breeding.</p> <p>All pets should be restricted to owner's property.</p> <p>Combined rates and registration costs should be capped, especially if cat registration is made compulsory.</p> <p>Need solutions for rodents.</p> <p>Pet owners should be enforced to have enclosures to contain their animals on their properties at their own expense.</p> <p>Council animal management plan should have a main heading for desexing cats or dogs.</p> <p>If Council's planning is to allow for greater population increase and greater densities, appropriate By-laws need to</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	<p>be introduced to remove the negative impact of pets while retaining the positives.</p> <p>Council's animal management plan is a good document.</p> <p>Better animal management controls will prevent the incidence of vigilante action by cat or dog haters.</p> <p>Animal management could never be policed and is just silly.</p> <p>Vigilantes need to also be cracked down on, as this discourages owners of both animals from taking ownership of issues caused by their pet's behaviours.</p> <p>Frequent list of pet owners to be fined if it is not the first time they have lost pets.</p> <p>Any animal that is not native to the area should be registered or have some by laws regarding them.</p> <p>Registration is just revenue for council.</p> <p>Registration serves no purpose.</p>
COUNCIL SERVICES	<p>Council needs to enforce animal management laws better.</p> <p>Council should employ rangers to patrol or get local residents to do in an offender.</p> <p>Council should subsidise desexing and microchipping.</p> <p>Council should have a lost pets page on their website or social media, along with retrieval information on a 24/7 basis.</p> <p>Not enough information on Council's website regarding animal management, especially lost pets.</p> <p>Barka Park is a good start.</p> <p>Council helpful with assistance with stray dogs in the past.</p> <p>Field officers were lovely and thorough, but there is too much red tape and faceless decisions by office staff.</p> <p>Continue working hard on this important area for the community and rate payers.</p> <p>Dog faeces bags in township area of smaller satellite town please.</p> <p>Council should be able to scan and return animal to its owner without having to put the animal in the shelter.</p> <p>More funding and staff for quicker animal services responses in Council due to high population growth in the area.</p> <p>Animal management services should be respectful of animal owners and speak clearly and informatively with them, and help to resolve issues within a reasonable time frame.</p> <p>Especially chronic nuisance barking coming from bored or scared dogs being left alone outside at home all day.</p> <p>Council's process for barking dogs is too slow and places the burden on the victim instead of the offenders.</p> <p>Council should watch out for difficult people who complain about everything to do with normal dog behaviour, and irresponsible pet owners at the other end of the spectrum.</p> <p>Thank you for your survey.</p>

THEME	COMMENT
	Very satisfied with the provision of Council's animal management services. Excellent.