



## **Thames-Coromandel District Council**

### **Annual Dog Control Report 2020/21**

Section 10A report in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996

#### **1. Requirement to report**

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires every territorial authority to report each financial year on the administration of its dog control policy and its dog control practices. The report is to be submitted annually to the Secretary for Local Government.

#### **2. Dog control policy**

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Dog Control Policy sets out the Council's approach to supporting responsible dog ownership and dealing with the effects of irresponsible dog ownership so as to ensure wider public safety. Policy objectives are to:

- Enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
- Encourage and support responsible dog ownership.
- Minimise potential danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally and native wildlife.
- Enable, to the extent that it is practicable, the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

#### **3. Summary of dog control practices**

The animal control functions of the Act are managed by Council's Compliance Team consisting of a manager, team leader, six compliance officers and two part time dog pound keepers.

We have a proactive communication approach to remind all registered dog owners of the need to re-register their dogs annually. This includes messaging via the Council website, social media, and letters to all dog owners.

We had dog registration reminder messaging, "RED-gistered yet?", on the side of our bylaw's vehicles.

On-line payments and PDF fillable forms make it easier for dog owners to renew their registration.

We provide brochures and leaflets to support understanding of our dog rules and about responsible dog ownership.

We continue to engage with dog owners who we see exercising their dogs in public places and often provide leads to people. This assists wider promotion of responsible dog control with 'TCDC' branded leads increasingly on display throughout the district.

We proactively patrol and monitor for dog control issues across the district particularly in public places such as beaches, town centres, children's playgrounds and sports areas.

Response is provided quickly to all complaints (requests for service) about dog control issues including reports about concerns for welfare, roaming dogs, excessive barking, dogs rushing and dog attacks on people and animals. Priority response is provided where there is immediate danger to people and animals.

We actively use all powers available to ensure all dogs classified as menacing and dangerous are neutered and muzzles are worn when these dogs are in a public place. We make annual property inspections to ensure every owner of a dog classified as menacing or dangerous is compliant with requirements of the Act.

A big focus for us this year has been microchipping dogs as under the Act dogs are required to be microchipped. We offer a competitively priced microchipping service which has been taken up extensively this year and included a series of 'Microchip Monday' events throughout the district.



We encourage the re-homing of all dogs that pass temperament testing. This includes advertising dogs available for re-homing on the TCDC website, social media pages and working closely with adoption agencies. Our proactivity in this area is reflected in the low numbers of euthanasia and high numbers of adoption.

We use qualified vets to ensure all dogs that are to be euthanised, due to their inability to be re-homed because of assessed risk to the community, are done so in a humane manner.

#### 4. Dog control statistics required under section 10A(2) of the Act

##### (2)(a) Registered dogs

There were 5349 registered dogs in the district.

##### (2)(b) Disqualified and probationary dog owners

There was two disqualified owners and one probationary owner in the district.

##### (2)(c) Dangerous dogs

There were 16 dogs classified as dangerous (under s31 of the Act).

##### (2)(d) Menacing Dogs

There were 46 dogs classified as menacing under s33A and s33C of the Act.

##### (2)(e) Infringements issued

We issued 128 infringement notices over the year.

Offence type and description	Number
Failure to comply with bylaw / 20(5)	5
Failure to comply with class as dangerous / 32(2)	3
Failure to comply with class as menacing / 33EC(1)	4
Failure to register Dog / 42	57
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined / 52A	10
Failure to keep dog under control / 53(1)	23
Failure to carry leash in public / 54A	3
Failure to implant microchip transponder / 36A(6)	22
Failure to comply with barking dog abatement notice / 55(7)	1
<b>Total infringements</b>	<b>128</b>

##### (2)(f) Dog related incidents / requests for service

There were 1,145 incidents / requests for service over the year

Category	Number
Dog attack person	22
Dog attack animal	48
Dogs rushing	53
Dog collection	18
Dog barking	209
Dog lost	126
Dog found	153
Dog fouling	20
Dog loose / uncontrolled	250
Dogs Microchipping	146
Miscellaneous dog issue	60
Dog ownership	5
Dog in a prohibited area	6
Un-registered dog	3
Welfare check	26

<b>Total incidents / request for service</b>	<b>1145</b>
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**(2)(g) Dog prosecutions**

There is one prosecution in progress which began in the 2020-21 year.