



## Thames-Coromandel District Council

### Annual Dog Control Report 2022-2023

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. This report is required to be submitted annually to the Secretary for Local Government.

#### 2. Dog control bylaw and policy

##### Policy on Dogs, Kaupapa mō ngā Kurī

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Policy on Dogs, Kaupapa mō ngā Kurī provides for dogs and their owners in a way that protects animals, wildlife and the community by focusing on the following objectives:

##### Objective 1

Minimising potential danger, distress and nuisance to the community generally and to native wildlife.

##### Objective 2

Encouraging and supporting responsible dog ownership.

##### Objective 3

Enabling people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and providing for the controlled exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their Owners.

##### Objective 4

Enabling, to the extent that it is practicable, the public to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs.

##### Review of bylaw and policy

On 16 May 2023, Council resolved to adopt both the Revised Policy on Dogs Kaupapa mō ngā Kurī (the Policy) and the Dog Control Bylaw 2023 Te Ture ā-Rōhe mō ngā Kaupapa Kurī (the Bylaw).

##### The key changes included:

###### *District-wide*

- removing Kings Birthday and Matariki from holiday weekend restrictions on dogs
- extending the wildlife protection restrictions from Labour weekend to include Easter and Anzac holiday weekends



#### *Coromandel-Colville Community Board area*

- establishing the WW1 Memorial Forest in Coromandel Town as a dog exercise area
- prohibiting dogs from Tuatēawa Beach and the walkway from Waihirere Drive to protect the Kiwi population

#### *Mercury Bay Community Board area*

- amending the restrictions on the south end of Hot Water Beach (where dogs are prohibited from Labour weekend to 1 March including Easter and Anzac holiday weekends) to allow dogs to be walked on leash for the sole purpose of accessing the north end of the beach

#### *Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board area*

- prohibiting dogs from all public places on Whakahau/Slipper Island including the Ōtara accessway in the existing Ōtara Bay beach prohibition (Both of these restrictions are in place for the protection of wildlife)

#### *Thames Community Board area*

- prohibiting dogs from the southern end of the Hauraki Rail Trail, from south of the Kōpū Bridge to Hikutaia, for the protection of public health and safety

#### *Whangamatā Community Board area*

- clarifying the area description for Patiki Bay Reserve
- removing the current off leash area in Ōpoutere (This area on DOC land is no longer safe or suitable for recreation).

The Bylaw was designed to ensure dogs and their owners have sufficient opportunities for exercise, recreation and socialisation while also minimising any potential danger, distress or nuisance to wildlife or people. Public consultation was undertaken and the Policy and Compliance Teams worked with key stakeholders such as the Department of Conservation through the review of the Policy and Bylaw.

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

The animal control functions of the Act are managed by Council's Compliance Team which consists of a manager, team leader, six compliance officers and two pound keepers. There is always an officer on call and staff are rostered on over weekends.

#### **Annual Registration**

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. For the 2022/2023 year, our reminder messaging tagline was "ALL GO FOR DOG REGO" (example of communications creative is below). We also had this reminder messaging on the side of the compliance officer's vehicles.



On-line payments and PDF fillable forms make it easy for dog owners to renew their registration. For the 2023-2024 year dog owners can submit renewal and new registration forms through the Council's website.

### **Response and Engagement within our Community**

The "Lead the Way" campaign continues to assist with the promotion of responsible dog control across the Thames-Coromandel District. We engage with dog owners who we see exercising their dogs in public places and often provide them with TCDC branded leads and brochures to increase the understanding of our dog rules and responsible dog ownership.

We proactively patrol and monitor for dog control issues across the district. The patrols are focussed on public places such as beaches, town centres, children's playgrounds, and sports areas. These patrols increase over the summer period when additional restrictions are in place.

Response is provided quickly to complaints (requests for service) about dog control issues including reports about concerns for dog 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. The compliance team undertake annual property inspections to ensure every owner of a dog classified as menacing or dangerous is compliant with requirements of the Act. We also continue to offer a competitively priced microchipping service to assist dog owners in meeting s36A of the Act, which requires a microchip transponder to be implanted in certain dogs.

We encourage the re-homing of all dogs that pass temperament testing. This includes advertising dogs available for re-homing on the Council website, social media pages and working closely with adoption agencies. If dogs are unable to be re-homed, we use qualified vets to ensure they are euthanised in a humane manner.

### **Work with the Department of Conservation**

Each year, prior to the dotterel nesting season, we work with the Department of Conservation to identify areas that require additional restrictions. Clause 10 of the bylaw provides the ability for the Chief Executive to establish temporary area restrictions when considered necessary for the



protection of wildlife. Prior to the 2022/2023 breeding season we partnered with DOC to create new signage for temporary area restrictions. An example of our signage is below.



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

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

There were 5152 registered dogs in the district.

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

There were no new disqualified owners. There are two existing disqualified owners and no probationary owners in the district.

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

There were four dogs classified as dangerous under s31 of the Act.

##### (2)(d) Menacing dogs

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

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

We issued 159 infringement notices over the year.

Offence type and description	Number
Failure to comply with bylaw/20(5)	1
Failure to implant microchip transponder	20
Failure to keep dog controlled or confined / 52A	24
Failure to comply with class as dangerous	1
Failure to advise change of address/49	1
Failure to keep dog under control / 53(1)	27
Failure to register Dog / 42	85
<b>Total infringements</b>	<b>159</b>

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

There were 1106 incidents/requests for service over the year.



Category	Number
Dog attack person	34
Dog attack animal	55
Dog aggressive / rushing	79
Dog barking	241
Dog collection	111
Dog fouling	15
Dog loose / uncontrolled	342
Dogs microchipping	104
Miscellaneous dog issue	75
Dog ownership	7
Dog in a prohibited area	7
Welfare check	34
Unregistered dog	2
<b>Total incidents / request for service</b>	<b>1106</b>

**(2)(g) Dog prosecutions**

One prosecution was lodged. This is currently progressing through the District Court.

**Comparison to 2021-2022 year**

Category	2021-2022	2022-2023
Registrations	5057	5152
Dangerous	5	4
Menacing	7	6
Infringements	85	159
Requests for service	952	1106
Prosecutions	3	1