

ADOPTION OF THE DOG CONTROL POLICY AND BYLAW

PURPOSE

This report seeks the Council's agreement to adopt the Dog Control Policy (Attachment 1) and Dog Control Bylaw (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

1. Receive the report
2. Agree that dogs on Plimmerton Beach (south of the Fire Station from the sandy beach at Sunset Parade and south to Taupō Stream) will be on leash 1 April to 31 October and prohibited from 1 November to 31 March
3. Agree that dogs on Te Ara Piko Pathway will be on leash at all times apart from those areas where it is considered essential to prohibit dogs to protect wildlife
4. Agree that dogs be allowed under control on leash by the owner or dog handler or safely tethered, in all suburban shopping centres (not Porirua City Centre) provided the dog does not become a nuisance, is prevented from entering premises (apart from working assistance dogs) and owners immediately clean up and appropriately dispose of any faeces
5. Agree to adopt the Dog Control Policy and Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs as amended by deliberations
6. Note that the Dog Control Policy and Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs will take effect from 21 September 2017
7. Agree that the current Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs is revoked
8. Agree that the General Bylaw 1991, Part 5A - 'Pooper Scooper' Bylaw is revoked
9. Note that a review of the adequacy and location of signs for on and off leash dog areas will occur within existing budgets and with further budget to be considered for inclusion in the development of the Long-term Plan 2018-38
10. Agree to include fenced dog park options in the development of the Long-term Plan 2018-38

Reports contain recommendations only. Refer to the meeting minutes for the final decision.

PCC #5128368

BACKGROUND

1. At its meeting of 7 September 2017, the City Delivery Committee agreed to recommend that the Council:
 - Adopt the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw as amended by deliberations
 - Agree that the Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs is revoked
 - Agree that the Part 5A 'Pooper Scooper' Bylaw is revoked
 - Note that a review of the adequacy and location of signs for on and off leash dog areas will occur within existing budgets and with further budget to be considered for inclusion in the development of the Long-term Plan 2018-38
 - Agree that dogs on Plimmerton Beach (south of the Fire Station from the sandy beach at Sunset Parade and south to Taupō Stream) will be on leash 1 April to 31 October and prohibited from 1 November to 31 March
 - Agree that dogs on Te Ara Piko Pathway will be on leash at all times apart from those areas where it is considered essential to prohibit dogs to protect wildlife
 - Agree that dogs be allowed under control on leash by the owner or dog handler or safely tethered, in all suburban shopping centres (not Porirua City Centre) provided the dog does not become a nuisance, is prevented from entering premises (apart from working assistance dogs) and owners immediately clean up and appropriately dispose of any faeces
 - Agree to include fenced dog park options in the development of the Long-term Plan 2018-38
2. The Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs must be reviewed and adopted by 21 September 2017, otherwise it will be revoked.
3. The Dog Control Policy and Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs have been amended in line with City Delivery Committee deliberations and recommendations of this report and are ready for adoption. If the Council resolves to make any further changes, these will need to be reflected in the policy and bylaw, otherwise the only further changes will be in format.
4. Under the Dog Control Act 1996, the policy and bylaw contain some similar information, e.g. off leash dog exercise areas and areas where dogs are prohibited. The policy and bylaw now have schedules for these areas that can be amended at any time by Council resolution with information to support the decision, including the outcome of appropriate engagement and consultation.

DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

5. While most of the policy and bylaw will come into effect immediately from 21 September 2017, some aspects will take effect later, for example in relation to Te Ara Piko Pathway.
6. Ecological advice is required on the areas of Te Ara Piko Pathway where it is considered essential to prohibit dogs to protect wildlife. Once that advice is received, the Council will be asked to agree to amend schedule two of the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw to prohibit dogs on specific sections of Te Ara Piko Pathway for the protection of wildlife.

PCC #5128368

7. Information on the policy and bylaw requirements and new provisions will be applied across the Council (website, Geographic Information System (GIS), review of signs, information for dog owners etc).
8. Submitters on the revision of dog rules and idea of a fenced dog park will be advised of the outcome of consultation and Council decisions.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Dog Control Policy (2017) #5130581

Attachment 2 – Porirua City Council General Bylaw 1991, Part 5 - Control of Dogs (2017) #5129669

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