

District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula

Animal Management Plan



2018-2023

Executive Summaries

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula is located on the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula approximately 650km from the Adelaide CBD. The council covers an area of 4658 square kilometres with a population base of approximately 5000.

Within the district there are two main townships, Cummins and Coffin Bay, a number of smaller settlements which include North Shields, Tulka, Edillilie, Wangary, Kapinnie, White Flat, Louth Bay, Wanilla, Yeelanna, Mt Dutton Bay, Coult, Poonindie, Mt Hope, Karkoo and the Lincoln Fringe area which is predominantly rural living allotments.

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula in response to the Council adopting a planned approach to animal management and to undertake its responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, and will guide domestic animal management by the Council over the next 5 years.

The plan builds on the foundation of the previous plan, it identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for domestic animals management, and relates these back to the wider policy context. The Strategy has been prepared by Council staff on behalf of Council, drawing information from a broad range of stakeholders, with the community asked to comment on the draft prior to its adoption by the Council.

This Plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council. These actions will enable Council to maintain a balance between competing interests and to reposition domestic animal management to accommodate new requirements.

The Plan's Mission is to promote and facilitate responsible animal ownership, animal welfare and the benefits of animal companionship focusing on the legitimate needs of pets and their owners while respecting the rights of other members of the community and protecting the environment.

The Plan aims to:

- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.
- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.
- Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership.
- Ensure that the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.
- Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.
- Promote the effective management of other domestic animals.

Council's Strategic Plan requires council to ***maintain and improve effective animal management practices.***

The Dog and Cat Management Act was enacted in 1995 and brought in a new legal framework to South Australia covering both dogs and cats. The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats, and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats

Animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviour is now a requirement of working in the field.

There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and improved signage.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets. This implies a potentially new role for Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats. In this new environment, it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. This strategy will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next 5 years.

Current Council Statistics

	2016	
Population	5510	
Area	4,658 Km	
Rateable Properties	4055	
No. Authorised Persons (FTE)	1	
Dogs	Registered	1256
	Official Wandering Complaints	38
	Impounded	5
	Returned to Owner	28
	Rehomed	1
	Declared Nuisance	0
	Declared Menacing	2
	Declared Dangerous	0
	Harass	14
	Attack	10

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
STATISTICS	3
DEFINITIONS	5
THE LAW AND GUIDELINES	6
MISSION STATEMENT	6
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
STRATEGIES	7
Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs	7
Officers to operate within the provisions of the Act	7
Officers to operate within the guidelines of the Act	7
Education of Dog and Cat owners	8
Maximise dog registrations	8
Minimise dogs wandering at large	9
Microchipping and Desexing of dogs	10
Encourage the reporting of attacks/harassments	11
Provide suitable on and off leash areas	12
Dog and Cat Management Officers community profile	12
Limit the number of dogs and cats per dwelling	13
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	13
Provide education materials to residents	13
Enforce the provisions of the Act	13
Increase public safety/reduce public and environmental nuisance	15
Barking Dogs	15
Dog attack/harassment	15
Faeces control	16
Nuisance caused by Cats	17
Microchipping and Desexing of cats	17
Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats	17
Impounded Dogs and Cats	17
Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society	19
Provide for public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats	20
Expenditure of registration fees	20
Provide effective management of other domestic Animals	21
METHODOLOGY	22
MAPS – On/Off leash areas	23
Map – 1 Railway Triangle Reserve, Cummins	24
Map – 2 Play Ground, Louth Bay	25
Map – 3 Camp Ground, Louth Bay	26
Map – 4 Caravan Park, Farm Beach	27
Map – 5 Dorward Reserve, North Shields	28
Map – 6 Play Ground, Tulka	29
Map – 7 Stan Morgan Reserve, Coffin Bay	30
Map – 8 Town Centre Foreshore Area, Coffin Bay	31
Map – 9 North Shields Beach	32
Map –10 Lions Park	33

Definitions

Act the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;

Cat has the same meaning as in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;

Council means the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula;

Dog has the same meaning as in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995:

Effective control means a person exercising effective control of a dog either

- By means of physical restraint ; or
- By command – the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times;

Lead restraining device to keep control of a dog by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed two (2) meters;

On-leash the dog is restrained by means of physical restraint;

Off-leash the dog is unrestrained but under effective control by command;

Park means a park, garden, reserve or other similar public open space, or foreshore area, within the area of the Council;

Public place means a place to which the public has access (whether an admission fee is charged or not) and includes streets, roads, footpaths, shopping centre car parks, ovals and sporting arenas;

The Law and Guidelines

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Dog and cat Management Act 1995. Under the Act Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within its area. Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register, the appointment of an Authorised Officer and to make arrangements for dogs seized, and its other obligations under the Act. A Council is also able to make By-Laws relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board, which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats in the State, to monitor Councils management of their responsibilities, to issue Guidelines for Councils, to advise and assist Councils to undertake their responsibilities. The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister, to keep the Act under review, to undertake research into companion animal management and to provide education programs for dog management officers and community awareness information. The Act also provides that a Council may appoint a cat management officer for its area of responsibility.

While these provisions provide the legal framework for the Councils responsibilities and the penalties that can be imposed on dog owners for non compliance, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to everyone's needs that will not only benefit dogs and their owners as a group with legitimate needs but also the wider community as well as those charged with the responsibility of animal management By-Laws.

Mission Statement

“To promote responsible pet ownership within the District whilst ensuring that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of all members of the community such as non pet owners”.

Aims/Objectives

- Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community whilst recognizing the needs of pet owners and non pet owners.
- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.
- Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.
- Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.
- Provide suitable public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats.
- Ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.
- Provide effective management of other domestic animals.

Strategies

Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community whilst recognising the needs of pet owners and non pet owners.

Ensure that Council and its appointed Officer (s) operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and within predetermined guidelines in accordance with that Act.

The strategies to ensure that Officers of Council operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act are to create a set of guidelines for use by Staff and to ensure that regular training and development of skills are provided on an ongoing basis. Consistency of advice is critical and must be a high priority.

Council Staff cannot operate consistently without clear direction and guidelines, as individuals will often interpret Legislation in differing ways. The Dog and Cat Management Act is the primary Legislation, by-laws introduced by Council are subordinate Legislation and Procedures are the mechanism to implement the Act and by-laws.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Create a set of guidelines and procedures for use by staff. Ensure that regular training and development of skills are provided for on an ongoing basis. Ensure consistency of advice. Introduce procedural guidelines for all staff to follow.	Review guidelines and procedures on a bi-annual basis. Review staff training and development as part of annual performance review process.

Encourage Education of dog and cat owners.

Generally speaking most dog and cat owners want to do the right thing. Registration of dogs and general compliance with the Act is relatively high throughout the community. Council will do everything in its power to ensure that residents and visitors understand their obligations to act responsibly with their pets.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Display and make available up to date educational material at both Council Offices.</p> <p>Utilise Councils web site and Focus Page to remind dog owners of general compliance with the Act.</p> <p>Staff to take an educational and promotional approach to their day to day interactions within the community.</p> <p>Present information sessions to School and community groups.</p>	<p>Ongoing review of educational material, including Dog and Cat Management Board material.</p> <p>Web site reviewed and updated on a regular basis.</p> <p>Newspaper Articles provided where considered appropriate.</p> <p>Review and seek feed back following any presentations.</p>

Maximise dog registration.

Legislation in SA requires all dogs of or over 3 months of age must be registered. Councils cannot expect to obtain an acceptable level of dog management without obtaining maximum registration. This can therefore be seen to be the most important issue at hand and is the key factor controlling all other effective and successful dog management strategies. Dog registration ensures that:

- Owners are registered as well as their dogs.
- Maximum funding is available for Councils to carry out responsibilities under the Act.
- Responsible dog owners and the rest of the community do not have to financially support irresponsible and unthinking dog owners.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Educate pet owners that registration and identification assist with the prompt return of their pet.</p> <p>Promote registration concessions.</p> <p>Follow up on owners who fail to re-register their dog/dogs.</p> <p>Introduce a dog registration door knock program on a bi-annual basis.</p>	<p>Compare registration compliance with previous year.</p> <p>5% increase in the number of captured dogs returned to their owner.</p> <p>Follow up on those owners who fail to register their dogs.</p> <p>Implementation of door knock programme on bi annual basis.</p>

Minimise dogs wandering at large.

A dog wandering at large can be a threat to livestock, native fauna and members of the public, particularly children and older people and Council is aware that serious attacks can arise in these circumstances. Council will therefore implement strategies to minimize its occurrence in the community.

Under the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act it is an offence to allow a dog to wander at large. A dog will be taken to be wandering at Large if it is in a public place, other than a park, or a private place without the consent of the occupier and no person is exercising effective control by way of a physical restraint.

A dog will also be considered to be wandering at large if in a park and no person is either exercising physical restraint or by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

The strategies are in two parts; the first to encourage owners to have adequate fencing and control over their dog and the second is the actions of the Council to the dogs ‘wandering at-large’.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Promote owners responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequately fence their property to control their dog. • Train their dog so as not to leave their premises. • Keep their dog under effective control when in a public place. <p>The Authorised Persons conduct random (day of the week and times of day) patrols of public areas and detain dogs wandering at large.</p> <p>Respond to reports from public of a wandering dog and impound the dog in accordance with the Act unless it can be returned to its owner.</p>	<p>A reduction in expiations issued compared to previous years data.</p> <p>Review procedures and documentation annually to ensure procedures are adopted in line with the Act.</p>
<p>Unclaimed dogs, which are unsuitable as pets, will be euthanased.</p>	

Microchipping and Desexing of Dogs

Council actively encourages responsible dog ownership including microchipping and desexing of dogs.

It is a requirement of the Dog and Cat Management Act that dog owner's microchip their dog prior to 1 July 2018. All dogs being sold must be microchipped prior to being sold. It is also a requirement that any dog be microchipped before it reaches 12 weeks of age or within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the dog. The Act requires dogs to be desexed before they reach 6 months of age or within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the dog and that the dog must be desexed by a registered veterinary surgeon.

Owners will not be required to desex dogs born before 1 July 2018 however; Council will still encourage this to be undertaken.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Authorised Officers to enforce identification of dogs.</p> <p>Educate residents/owners about the mandatory microchipping requirements</p> <p>Participate in microchipping days.</p> <p>Educate residents about mandatory desexing.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of desexed dogs in our Council area.</p> <p>Enforce the 'Standard Dog' registration rebate by requiring proof of desexing for rebate</p>	<p>5% increase in captured dogs reunited with the owners.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of expiations issued for non-compliance with mandatory desexing requirements.</p> <p>Higher percentage of 'Standard' Dog registrations.</p>

Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to Council.

Knowledge is the Councils best tool to reduce the number of dog attacks on domestic animals, native fauna and humans that occur in the community. Due to the high number of visitors to the area it is difficult for Council to implement a strategy to reduce dog attacks and harassment. The collection of data will enable Council to understand the situations that lead to such attacks and therefore the community must be encouraged to provide information regarding all attacks regardless of there severity.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Continually reinforce the importance of reporting all dog attack/harassment through Councils Focus page, web site and community news letters. Encourage the reporting of all attacks regardless of the severity. Utilise Dog Attack/harassment forms to assist Council in better understanding and reducing attacks/harassments.	Increased community awareness, increase in reporting. 5% decrease in the number of reported attack/harassments.

Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas.

Providing suitable on and off leash activity areas is vital to the success of animal management in the area. Dog owners must have suitable areas to exercise their dogs safely.

Equally, other members of the community must have the ability to use the amenities without fear of harassment by uncontrolled dogs. In areas such as streets, roads, and places the public congregate such as shopping areas, dogs must be restrained effectively. In parks assessed by Council for their suitability, dog owners should be able to exercise their dogs without physical restraint providing the owner exercises effective control.

Pursuant to the Act, all dogs in public places are required to be on a leash except in areas deemed to be a park where effective control still needs to be maintained by either physical restraint or by command whereby the dog is in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

The **on leash** areas within the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula are the park areas known as;

- Railway Triangle Reserve, Cummins (Map 1)
- Playground, Louth Bay (Map 2)
- Camping Ground, Louth Bay (Map 3)
- Caravan Park, Farm Beach (Map 4)
- Dorward Reserve, North Shields (Map 5)
- Playground, Tulka (Map 6)
- Stan Morgan Reserve, Coffin Bay (Map 7)
- Town Centre Foreshore Area, Coffin Bay (Map 8)
- North Shields Beach (Map 9)
- Lions Park (North Shore) (Map 10)

Unless otherwise prescribed by the Council, all park areas and foreshores are considered '**off leash**' areas, and all other public areas are 'on leash'.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Provide suitable off leash areas where dogs can be exercised.	Conduct bi-annual reviews of Council's 'on leash' and 'off leash' areas.
Identify all on leash areas.	Conduct annual sign audits of all on leash areas.

Maximise the public's understanding of the Authorised Officers and the Council's role in the community.

Many people have little or no understanding of the role performed by Authorised Officers and Council in the Community. This can lead to mistrust and in the worst cases a total lack of respect for the Officers and the Council.

Officers must become better at providing information regarding the very important role they perform in the Community on behalf of Council.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Authorised Officers to attend Community and Council events where possible.</p> <p>Promote the roll of Authorised Officers through Councils Focus Page</p>	<p>Review public meetings conducted during the year.</p>

Limit the number of dogs and cats per dwelling.

Council Policy 6.02.05 Dogs and Cats

This policy was introduced to limit the number of dogs and cats kept on an allotment in the Residential, Settlement, Coastal (Settlement), Coastal (Coffin Bay) Town centre and Rural Living zones within the Council area.

The number of dogs or cats per allotment is limited to two. It is possible however, under certain circumstances to obtain permission to keep more than prescribed number of dogs or cats with the written consent of the Council.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Monitor the effectiveness of the policy.</p> <p>Ensure the public are aware of Councils policy</p>	<p>Review effectiveness of the policy.</p>

Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.

Provide Education material to residents and visitors to the Council area.

There are three factors that contribute to successful pet ownership. They are:

The *Owner*, who needs to be aware of responsibilities of pet ownership, ensures that the dog is registered, immunized, and desexed.

The owner is also responsible to ensure that the dog is trained, and to be aware of the dogs behaviour at all times, including when away from the home such as at work. The owner is also responsible to ensure that the dog has adequate food, water and shelter and that the dog is regularly exercised.

The *Breed* determines the size, and often the temperament of the dog and its susceptibility to genetic defects. When selecting a pet it is important to seek appropriate advice on the soundness of animals being considered and their suitability to the home / yard that the dog will be kept in and the family that the dog will be joining, particularly if small children are involved.

The *Home environment* is made up of the part of the home that the dog will have access to.

In most cases this will include an enclosed yard and possibly part of the house. Important factors are the adequacy of the fencing, whether the dog can see out of the yard through a gate, adequacy of shelter, food / water and whether there are children, closeness of neighbours and other dogs and access to on leash and off leash exercise areas are all important factors.

Successful pet ownership has both financial and time commitments and it is therefore important that people contemplating pet ownership endeavour to match their choice of pet for their particular home and family circumstances.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Enforce the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act.</p> <p>Educate residents/owners about the mandatory microchipping/desexing requirements</p> <p>Encourage owners to train and socialise their dogs. (offer registration discounts for dog that have undertaken approved training)</p> <p>Ensure educational material is available at Council offices.</p> <p>Promote online information regarding breeds and assistance in pet selection – The Dog and Cat Management Board of SA www.dogandcatboard.com.au</p>	<p>Data collected of expiations issued compared to previous year.</p> <p>5% increase in the number of dogs either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microchipped • Desexed or • Trained

Consistent enforcement of the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act is an important factor in educating the public to act responsibly with their pets. Responsible pet owners expect irresponsible pet owners to be dealt with through the provisions of the Act. Effectively there cannot be an incentive to act responsibly with our pets unless there is a disincentive for those who are not responsible.

Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

Reduce the following detrimental impacts of dogs and cats;

Barking dogs

Barking dog complaints are one of the most difficult and time consuming areas of Council responsibility. Barking dog complaints are subjective depending on an individual’s tolerance for dog noise. Having said that, Council must investigate and resolve this type of complaint. In order for Council to resolve the complaint they require full cooperation from the complainant to collect meaningful evidence suitable to a Court of law. Council has a standard operating procedure to deal with all dog noise nuisance complaints.

The complainant must follow these standard operating procedures, as failure to do so will result in the matter being set aside by Council. On receipt of a complaint Council will provide information to the dog owner and diaries to the complainant. If and when the diaries are returned, an investigation will follow. Upon substantiation the Council will take the appropriate course of action.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Investigate and resolve Barking dog complaints in line with Councils procedures.</p> <p>Display and make available up to date educational material at both Council Offices.</p>	<p>Review guidelines and procedures on an annual basis.</p> <p>Data collection and analysis of expiations issued compared with previous year.</p> <p>Annual report to Council identifying the proposed strategies for the coming year.</p>

Dog attacks/harassment on humans and other animals

As previously stated all dog attacks/harassment must be recorded and investigated. In order to reduce the incidence of dog attacks on humans, domestic animals and native fauna Council must educate the public to act responsibly. The issue of dog attacks and harassment is of great concern to the general community, particularly in relation to children and the elderly. Also of great concern is the number of unreported attacks and the fact that the majority of attacks (85%) occur on private property.

While a minority of dogs are involved in attacks and harassment, all dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective or possessive. How to avoid being bitten or how to read a dog’s body language are important issues on which to educate the public.

During recent times the majority of attacks and harassments on other animals have occurred in the Lincoln Fringe area. This is mainly due to relocation of urban dogs housed in secure yards to insecure Rural Living allotments bounded by rural stock type fencing.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Promote the need to report all dog attacks/harassments whether on private property or in public places.</p> <p>Promote educational material about dog behaviour.</p> <p>Educate the public, especially children about bite avoidance.</p> <p>Educate the public about the consequences of their dog wandering onto properties which house farms animals.</p> <p>Educate property owners in the Lincoln Fringe area of the importance of adequate fencing to prevent dogs from leaving the property.</p> <p>Promote the need to report dog and wildlife interactions, especially in areas of increased wildlife habitation.</p> <p>Promote the level of risk relating to litigation and public safety.</p> <p>Conduct regular patrols to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.</p>	<p>Compare dog harassment/attacks reports with previous year.</p> <p>Data collection and analysis of expiations issued compared with previous year.</p> <p>Annual promotion in Council's Focus Page in local paper.</p> <p>5% reduction in dog attacks on stock.</p> <p>Analysis of information and reports received from the public and where a recurring issue is identified a strategy is developed to address the issue.</p>

Dog faeces in public places

The management of dog faeces is an important environmental and health issue. Anecdotally, large amounts of dog faeces pollute our waterways and public places each year and it is an issue on which the community has strong feelings.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Educate dog owners about their responsibility pursuant to the Act.</p> <p>Animal Management Officers to enforce compliance.</p> <p>Continually monitor areas and develop strategies to control dog faeces when required.</p>	<p>Analysis of information and reports received from the public and where a recurring issue is identified a strategy is developed to address the issue.</p> <p>Data collection and analysis of expiations issued compared with previous year.</p>

Nuisance caused by cats

Uncontrolled cats can cause damage to the environment, property, other animals and wildlife. Under the provision of the Dog and Cat Management Act an un-owned cat can be trapped when found wandering on private property. If an occupier traps a cat and it is identifiable the cat must be released unless the cat is more than one kilometer from a genuine place of residence. Under the provisions of the Act a cat must be identified by way of a collar with ownership details or by way of a microchip.

Microchipping and Desexing of Cats

Council actively encourages responsible cat ownership including microchipping and desexing of cats.

It is a requirement of the Dog and Cat Management Act, that all cats must be microchipped before being sold. Cats must be microchipped before they reach 12 weeks of age or within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the cat. The Act also requires cats to be desexed before they reach 6 months of age or within 28 days after the owner takes possession of the cat and that the cat must be desexed by a registered veterinary surgeon.

Owners will not be required to desex cats born before 1 July 2018 however; Council will still encourage this to be undertaken.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Educate the public on the nuisance caused by uncontrolled cats.	Monitor cat activity and in the event of a recurring issue being identified an appropriate strategy be developed to address the issue.
Encourage keeping cats in at night.	
Encourage the public to report all nuisance caused by cats.	
Offer the use of Council cat traps free of charge.	

Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.

Ensure that impounded dogs are returned to owners as soon as practical.

Ensure that all impounded dogs and cats have clean safe facilities while impounded

To ensure that this continues the Council must operate its dog holding facilities in accordance with the Auditing requirements as set down by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Council's dog holding facility is of a particularly good standard; however its location is not ideal. An additional facility within closer proximity to the AMO's office would be more efficient.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
<p>Ensure that all impounded dogs and cats have clean safe facilities while impounded.</p> <p>Ensure pound facilities are maintained to a reasonable standard.</p> <p>Research the possibility of establishing an additional facility within the Port Lincoln area or</p> <p>The possibility of sharing a facility with the City of Port Lincoln.</p>	<p>Review pound procedures.</p> <p>Conduct annual audits of pound facilities.</p>

Ensure compliance with breeder registration laws.

From 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed dogs and cats for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board as a breeder. Breeders and sellers must now adhere to new industry standards and guidelines, which stipulate the minimum welfare conditions that must be met to comply with the state's animal welfare laws. More information can be found at **environment.sa.gov.au** or www.dogandcatboard.com.au

Acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.

Provide residents and visitors with up to date information regarding the benefits of responsible dog and cat ownership.

There is a wealth of scientific evidence to support the benefits of owning pets and their use in therapy. However, until recently this evidence has not been considered by local government, which has focused instead on the negative aspects alone.

Evidence of a link between pet ownership and better health has been demonstrated by a range of different studies. More work needs to be done to determine whether this link is causal or merely correlational (ie, do pet owners share some other factor which yields health benefits?), and not all studies demonstrate a link between pet ownership and better health outcomes. However, as the evidence mounts, the public health profession is starting to take note, eg:

- The National Health and Medical Research Council's Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity is considering dog walking as one key to getting overweight and obese people moving.
- A public health symposium was hosted by the National Centre for Health Promotion in Sydney in 1998 to generate a research agenda for dog ownership and public health.

Dogs encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. They have been shown to stimulate conversation between strangers in public places and they improve people's sense of security - both in the home and with their owner in public places. Pets are also wonderful companions. In some cases helping combat loneliness and social alienation. These benefits are as important for the elderly and single person households as they are for households with children.

Part of the challenge involves removing barriers to owning pets.

Local government has a role to play in harnessing these benefits - not to encourage people to buy a pet but to even up the balance in the consideration of domestic animals issues and by removing unnecessary barriers to pet ownership.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
That Council promote the benefits to the community of responsible pet ownership by promoting the Dog and Cat Management Boards publications. Provide residents and visitors with up to date information regarding the benefits of responsible dog and cat ownership.	Review information provided to the residents and visitors to the council area.

Provide for public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats.

*Conduct regular patrols to ensure compliance with Legislative requirements.
Invite regular input regarding dog and cat management issues from interest groups throughout the community.*

Council has one full time Officer and several Support Staff. These Staff are trained in various areas of animal management and are the public face of animal management in the area. The officers educate, mediate and enforce the provision of the Act and have a good understanding of the issues effecting public safety and amenities in relation to dogs and cats. Council is providing adequate patrols for non-compliance with the Act.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Conduct regular patrols of the Council area to ensure compliance with the Act.	Data collection and analysis of expiations issued compared with previous year.
Council encourage public feedback regarding dog and cat management issues.	Review public feedback and develop appropriate strategies as deemed necessary.

Ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.

Conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds.

Under the provisions of the Act Council must utilise money generated from dog registrations in the area of dog and cat management. The implementation of this plan is a clear demonstration of Councils desire to fulfil this obligation. In addition Council's Accountant is responsible to ensure that an independent ledger of funds is kept and is available for scrutiny by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds.	3 yearly audit conducted by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Provide effective management of other domestic Animals, Birds and Insects.

Council is responsible for the effective management of other domestic animals, birds and insects within the community.

These may include:-

- Horses
- Poultry
- Bees
- Sheep
- Goats
- Birds

All animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as not to cause a nuisance or hazard. All complaints involving other animals, birds and insects are dealt with by staff in accordance with the relevant legislation and Council policies.

- Section 254 of the Local Government Act
- Policy 36.02.01 – Poultry in Townships
- Policy 36.02.02 – Horses on Residential allotments.
- Policy 36.02.03 – Keeping of Bees

During 2017, Council is considering the introduction of the necessary by-laws in order for its Authorised Officers to have the powers to police all of its animal management related policies.

Action	Performance Measures/Review
Develop guidelines and procedures to deal with complaints. Educate the public on the nuisance caused by other animals. Utilise Councils web site and Focus Page to remind animal owners of their responsibilities.	Monitor and review council policies for effectiveness and amend as necessary.

Detailed Methodology to prepare an Animal Management Plan

Phase One – Information and Data Collection prepare a draft Animal Management Plan

Stage	Description	Outcomes
1	Collect information and available data relevant to the Animal Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed
2	Prepare a Draft Animal Management Plan for consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed
3	Provide a copy of the draft Animal Management Plan for Council to approve in principal prior to public consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to consider Draft Plan 21 July 2017

Phase Two – Public Consultation

4	Establish the community consultation model to be applied for the consultation and approval process for the Council Animal Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council website and hard copy provided at Council Offices
5	Public consultation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/08/2017 – 31/08/2017
6	Council consider written submission regarding the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/09/2017
7	Amend draft Animal Management Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/09/2017

Phase Three – Adoption of the Animal Management Plan By Council

8	Submit the draft Animal Management Plan to Council for approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/09/2017
9	Present the draft Animal Management Plan to the Dog and Cat Management Board for approval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Phase Four – Implementation of the Plan

10	Implementation of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Dog and Cat Management Board approval of Plan
11	Review of the plan after six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Months from Dog and Cat Management Board approval of Plan

Appendix A – On Leash and Off Leash Areas

On Leash Areas

Location/Address	Comments
Railway Triangle Reserve (Map 1) Playground, Louth Bay (Map 2) Camping Ground, Louth Bay (Map 3) Caravan Park, Farm Beach (Map 4) Dorward Reserve, North Shields (Map 5) Playground, Tulka (Map 6) Town Centre Foreshore, Coffin Bay (Map 8)	Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Dogs must be on-leash on any park or reserve during times when organised sport is being played.
Stan Morgan Reserve, Coffin Bay (Map 7) North Shields Beach (Map 9) Lions Park (North Shore) (Map 10)	EXCEPT between the hours of 9pm and 8am (all year round) when the dog may be off-leash but must still be under effective voice control.

Off Leash Areas

Location/Address	Comments
All Beaches	Dogs are allowed to be off-leash but must be under effective voice control all year round.



MAP 1

**RAILWAY TRIANGLE
CUMMINS**

Umlauf Street

Kille Street

BRUCE Tr.

ON LEASH AREA



MAP 2

**PLAY GROUND
LOUTH BAY**

Louth Tc.

ON LEASH AREA

MAP 3

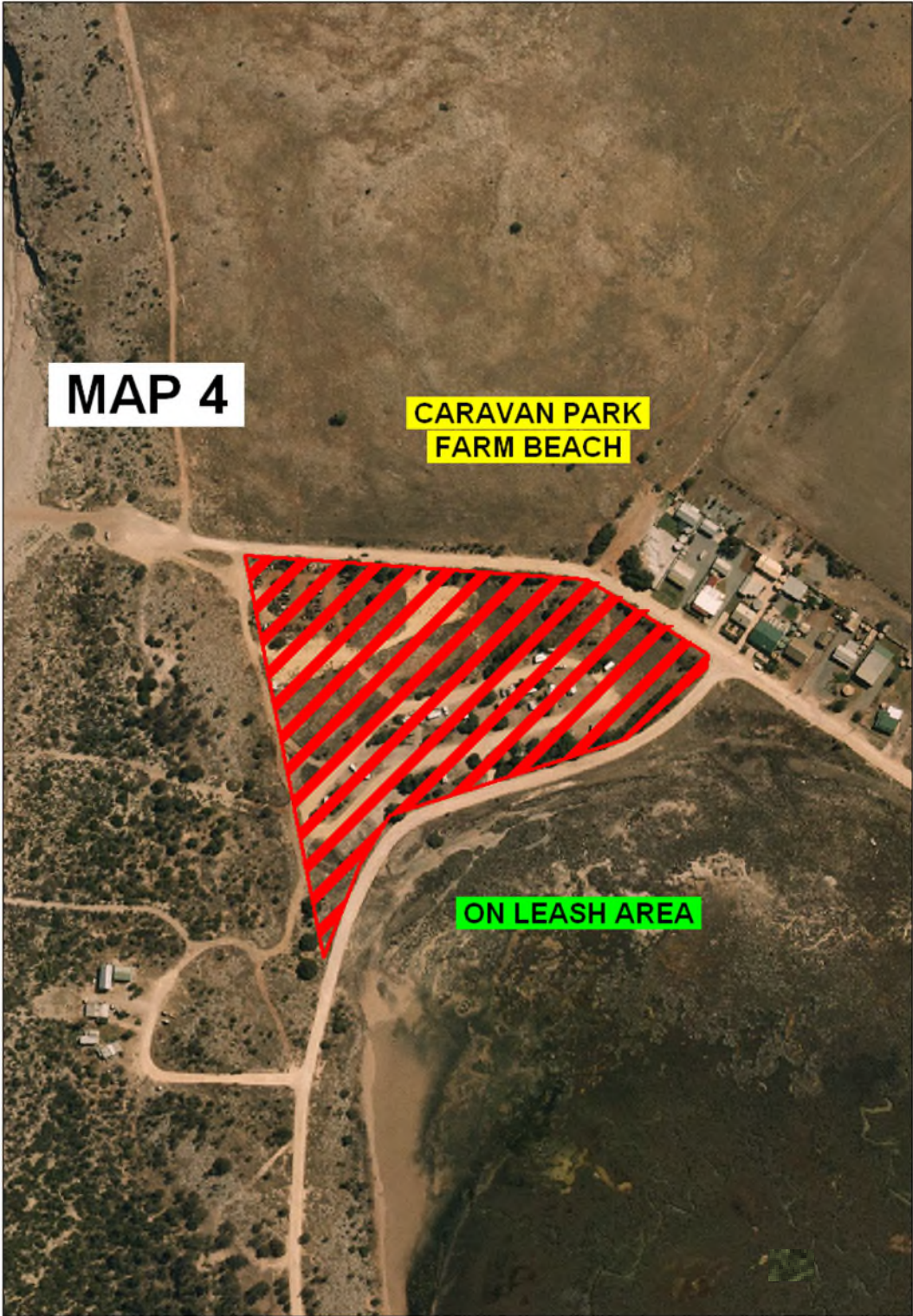
CAMP GROUND
LOUTH BAY



Louth Tc.

ON LEASH AREA





MAP 5

**DORWARD RESERVE
NORTH SHIELDS**

Dorward Street

Easton Road

ON LEASH AREA

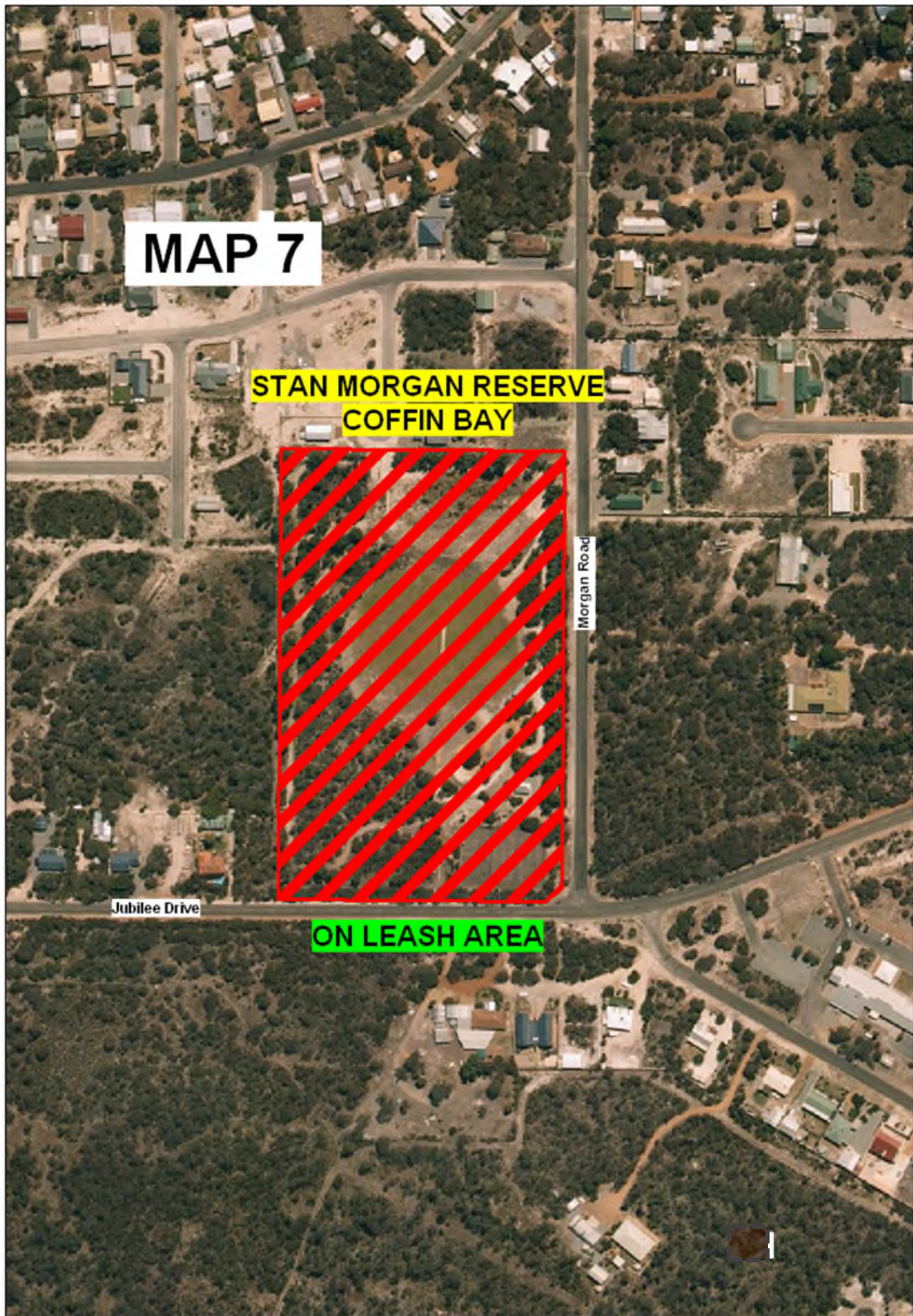


MAP 6

PLAY GROUND
TULKA

ON LEASH AREA









MAP 9

**NORTH SHIELDS
BEACH**

ON LEASH AREA

MAP 10

LIONS PARK

ON LEASH AREA

