

Memorandum

19 June 2019

To: Councillor Linda Cooper, Chair of Regulatory Committee
Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore, Deputy Chair of Regulatory Committee

Cc: Michael Sinclair, Manager Social Policy and Bylaws
All Waitematā Local Board members

Subject: Auckland Council Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw.

From: Waitematā Local Board

Purpose

1. To provide Waitematā Local Board's feedback on Auckland Council Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw.

Summary

- The Waitematā Local Board support local boards retaining decision making on local dog access rules
- The board support the local variations option aimed at allowing local boards to make variations to the regional time and season definition
- The board note that the proposed time and season definition, Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March, from 10 am to 7pm, aligns with the current status quo for the Waitematā Local Board area
- The board is generally supportive of the changes proposed for multiple dog ownership, menacing dogs, clarification of the enforcement requirement to neuter uncontrolled dogs and extension to protect flora
- The board support the regional default rule to be dogs under control on leash
- The board support distinct rural and urban rules if there remains good reason to take a different approach to deal with specific rural issues
- The board request that signage is clear and comprehensive, a greater focus on enforcement of the Dog Management Bylaw and an improved ability for the council to respond
- A total of 302 submissions were received through public consultation for the local board area

- A majority of submissions supported the proposals 1 and 2, aimed at communicating dog access rules better. A majority of submitters also supported proposals 3 (multiple dog ownership), 5 (protection of flora) and 7 (menacing dogs)
- In relation to the time and season definition, a majority of respondents said they preferred the local variations option (156 responses) versus a standardised regional definition (120 responses)

Context/Background

2. At the 3 July 2018 workshop, staff from council's policy and bylaws team discussed the Dog Management Bylaw and Policy review with staff, where the following matters were discussed:
 - multiple Dog Ownership Licence: requiring owners to obtain a licence for more than one or more than two dogs.
 - time and season rule: proposing a new time and season definition to: Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March, from 10am to 7pm.
 - regional default rule: proposing a regional default rule of under control on leash, in parks and reserves not listed in the schedule of access rules.
3. At the November 2018 Regulatory Committee meeting it was resolved that while the current Auckland Council Policy 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 are effective in managing dogs; some improvements can be made to address existing and emerging problems.
4. Auckland Council reviewed its policy on dogs and related bylaw, and the statement of proposal for public consultation was adopted at the Governing Body meeting on 28 February 2019.
5. Public consultation on these changes took place from 1 April – 10 May 2019, with a hearing scheduled for 21 June 2019.
6. On the 16 April 2019, the local board resolved to delegate to the chair and Parks Portfolio leads to finalise the local board views once the public submissions have been received on the Auckland Council Policy and Dog Management Bylaw Statement of Proposal and attend the hearing panel on 21 June 2019 (resolution number WTM/2019/61).

Public feedback for the Waitemātā Local Board area

A total of 302 submissions were received for the Waitemātā Local Board area. Of those 302, 185 were dog owners and 73 were not, with 44 not responding to this question. A majority of submissions supported the proposals 1 and 2, aimed at communicating dog access rules better. A majority of

submitters also supported proposals 3 (multiple dog ownership), 5 (protection of flora) and 7 (menacing dogs).

In relation to the time and season definition, a majority of respondents said they preferred the local variations option (156 responses) versus a standardised regional definition (120 responses).

Waitematā Local Board Feedback

That the Waitematā Local Board:

- a) note the local board has decision making on
 - i. where a time and season rule applies (location)
 - ii. the type of dog access (i.e prohibited, on-leash, off-leash or designated dog exercise area)
 - iii. what the winter time access rule will be.
- b) support the local variations option aimed at allowing local boards to make variations to the regional time and season definition
- c) note that the proposed time and season definition, Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March, from 10 am to 7pm, aligns with the current status quo for the Waitematā Local Board area
- d) support the regional default rule to be dogs under control on leash.
- e) support establishing a regionally consistent approach for dog owners to obtain a Multiple Dog Ownership License.
- f) support distinct rural and urban rules if there remains good reason to take a different approach to deal with specific rural issues.
- g) support promoting responsible dog ownership amongst owners of dogs classified as 'menacing' on the basis of their behaviour and encouraging owners to undertake steps towards responsible dog ownership to be eligible to have the classification of their dog(s) reviewed.
- h) support clarifying the enforcement requirement to neuter uncontrolled dogs.
- i) support extending environmental protection to include flora.
- j) request that signage is clear and comprehensive (e.g. include dog access information on directional signage).
- k) request greater focus on enforcement of Dog Management Bylaw and an improved ability for the council to respond.