

What is the Domestic Animal Management Strategy and Why is Council undertaking it?

Council is developing a Domestic Animal Management Strategy to provide a framework for the delivery of animal management services and initiatives over the next 10 years, and to help achieve the purposes of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and FCRC Local Laws. The Strategy is a living document and will be reviewed annually.

The purpose of the engagement process will be to ensure residents living in the FCRC region whether animal owners or not, have an opportunity to provide feedback on what they believe is important in a domestic animal management strategy; services Council provides versus services wanted or needed; within the constraints of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008 and Council's Local Laws.

When is the consultation period & what's involved?

The second Community Consultation Component of this Strategy will be conducted from 27 May until 19 June. During this time the community are invited to complete the Community Consultation Survey either online via the Council website, or in person/hard copy at Libraries and Customer Service Centres.

- Engagement will include a varied approach of both face to face, online and print communications
- Provide timely targeted engagement to key stakeholders
- The engagement activities will focus on moving the stakeholders through a process of providing input into the strategy, and then reviewing the draft strategy when it is made available.

How long does the survey take to complete?

The survey is designed to be quick and simple and should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. The survey is a mixture of multiple-choice questions and options to provide feedback/comment. The survey is comprised of 7 key focus areas that each respectively have a suite of questions tailored to review the communities appetite, wants and needs in relation to these topics.

What if I don't have internet access?

Hard copies of the survey will be available at our Customer Service Centres and Community Libraries. Customers are able to take these hard copies and return during the consultation period specified. Please note that surveys returned after consultation periods will not be accepted.

What are the focus areas of the strategy?

Customer Service

Council seeks to provide a high level of customer service interactions and offer alternative service delivery options where appropriate.

Education

Council strives to ensure animal owners are educated and aware of the principles of responsible domestic animal ownership. Council further seeks to provide a proactive education program with a high level of community engagement and participation.

Enforcement

Council seeks to utilise enforcement action to bring about attitude and behaviour changes of owners in instances where more traditional or education approaches have been unsuccessful. Council further seeks to apply increased and proportionate enforcement response to matters of continued non-compliance.

Community Facilities/Off-leash Areas

Community Facilities/Off-leash Areas - Council seeks to improve and increase community-based facilities for dog owners.

Animal Management Facilities (Pound)

Council seeks to provide an animal management facility appropriate for the housing and reclaim of impounded animals.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Council seeks to encourage animal owners to embrace responsible pet ownership with respect to registration, microchipping and desexing with a focus of improvement animal identification and reunite in cases where animals are wandering or lost.

Training of Authorised Officers

Council seeks to provide staff to respond to matters of domestic animal management of whom are competent, knowledgeable, and experienced in investigating matters brought to the attention of council

Who can I speak to for more information?

Whilst all relevant information regarding the consultation and strategy itself will be available via the council website and information collateral developed, Regulatory Services Staff are readily available to discuss and provide information where required.

Internal ONLY Key Contacts :

Jessica Mckean – Community Ranger & Education Coordinator – 0460 005 173
Tiffany Palmer – Animal Facilities & Education Coordinator – 0460 013 916
Tracey Dean - Business Support Coordinator (Regulatory Services) – 0436 856 595
Steven Gatt – Executive Manager Regulatory Services – 0428 051 462
Christine Kelly – Community Engagement Officer – 0460 019 610