



# Animal Management Plan

Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board:  
Adopted by Council:  
Review Date:

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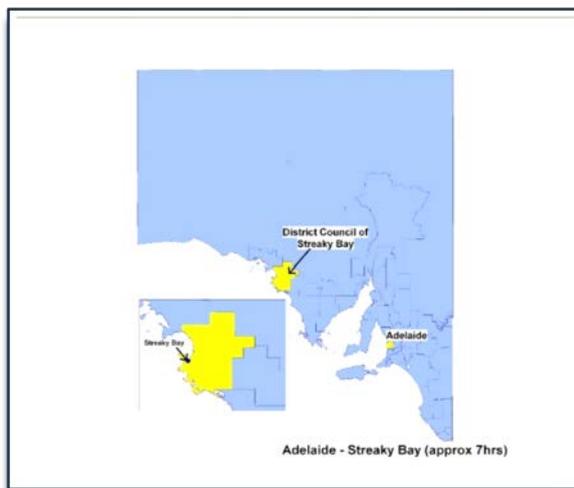
# DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREAKY BAY ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District Council of Streaky Bay is located some 720 kilometres by road from Adelaide on the picturesque shores of Blancheport. It is situated on the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and is surrounded by some of the region's most spectacular and unique coastal attractions and experiences. The Council shares its boundaries with the District Councils of Ceduna in the North West, Ananga Pitjantjatjara Lands in the north east, Wudinna in the east and Elliston in the south.



The Council area includes the townships of Streaky Bay (which is the main service and business centre), Wirrulla, Poochera, Haslam, Sceale Bay, Baird Bay, Eba Anchorage, and Perlubie Landing, covering an area of 6,232 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 2,100.

The main industries are agriculture (predominantly grain crops, sheep and cattle) aquaculture, tourism and fishing.

This Animal Management Plan (the Plan) has been developed after a review of the previous Plan and is required pursuant to section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The Plan will be effective for the next five year period from 2017 to 2022 and will set the strategic direction for dog and cat management within the District. A further review of the Plan may be undertaken at any time during that period as Councils strategic directions change.

The Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement council's vision, aims and objectives for dog and cat management.

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

### ***Vision Statement***

*Dogs and cats are part of the community and contribute to its quality of life. We, as a community organisation must ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated whilst recognising that pet owners and non-pet owners have different needs and judge the role of dogs and cats within the community from a different viewpoint.*

### **AIMS**

The District Council of Streaky Bay aims to:

- Promote responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats;
- Ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment and provide for the needs of pets and owners;
- Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The objectives of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 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.

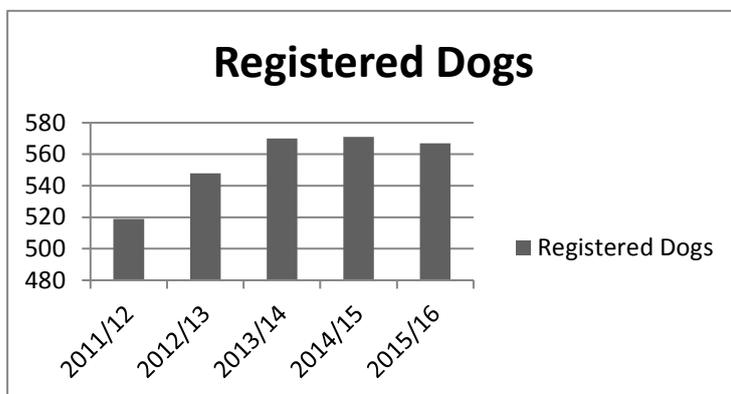
Dog and cat management has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviour is now a requirement for those working in this field. There is growing recognition that enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour. It needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and promotion.

There is now considerable evidence to support our understanding of the benefits of owning pets so it is essential that Council take a strategic approach to managing dogs and cats. 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 five years.

## 3. EVALUATION OF PREVIOUS PLAN OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1 - Maximise dog registration

Since the previous plans adoption Council achieved a rise in dogs registered.



OUTCOME 2 - Dog re-housing rate

Council rehomed 100% of suitable impounded dogs.

OUTCOME 3 - Encourage micro-chipping and de-sexing of dogs and cats

Council undertook one day of discounted microchipping, which was advertised heavily. However only 19 animals were implanted, and no noticeable increase in de-sexing and microchipping has been achieved.

#### OUTCOME 4 - Minimize the number of feral and unwanted cats

At least four blocks of two week trapping was undertaken at strategic locations each year.

#### OUTCOME 5 - Develop relationships with local businesses and other groups to minimize the effect of feral cats on our native wildlife

Partnerships with local businesses and agencies were developed to reduce feral animal issues.

#### OUTCOME 6 - Provide education material regarding the responsible ownership of animals

At least one article regarding animal management was placed in the local newsletter (Criterion) each month.

Pamphlets and animal care information was placed prominently at the Council Chambers and Visitor Information Centre for the public to view.

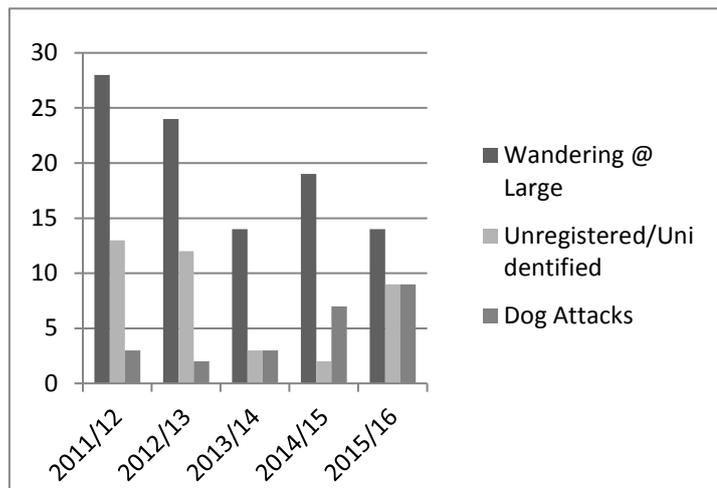
#### OUTCOME 7 - Update dog on and off lead areas

Council conducted a full review of its on leash and off leash areas within the district. There was a high level of community feedback in response to this review. Implementation of the changes will occur through the installation of signage over the next three years.

### 4. STATISTICS AND FIGURES

Over the past five year period there has been a significant drop in unidentified dogs found wandering at large. However, there appears to be a steady increase of dog attacks within the district.

When investigating the incidents there has been evidence that the animals involved often have a history, but people have failed to report. The increase is considered to be as a result of people being more aware of the consequences of not reporting an attack, or the previous failure of victims to report incidents leading to more severe attacks.



### 5. THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Substantial changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 were passed in Parliament during July 2016. The main changes include:

- Microchipping – introducing a requirement for all dogs and cats to be microchipped from 1 July 2018.
- Desexing – introducing a requirement to desex all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 by the age of six months.

- Breeders – introducing a requirement that a person must not sell a dog or cat they have bred unless they are registered as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.
- Sellers – introducing a requirement for certain information to be provided to the buyer.
- Council powers – providing councils, which are responsible for dog and cat management in their local areas, with greater powers to administer and enforce the Act.
- Assistance Dogs – changing who can accredit assistance dogs.

The amendments to the Act and the Regulations relating to these amendments will become operational during 2017 and 2018.

Under the Act Councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs and cats within its area. Prescribed responsibilities include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register, the appointment of an authorised persons and to arrange for seized dogs and cats to be impounded, 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 Council 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 authorised persons and community awareness information.

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

## **6. REVENUE**

Section 26(3) of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* requires all revenue to be expended on the management of dogs and cats within the district area.

Section 26(6) enables Council to set dog registration fees. Council reviews dog registration fees each year, including any discounts offered to the community.

## **7. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF DOGS**

### **Dogs in Public Places**

Council implements the following measures to manage dogs within the district:

- i. Annual Dog registration
- ii. Wandering at large dogs are detained and housed at councils holding facility.
- iii. By-laws which promote and regulate the control and management of dogs within the Council area.
- iv. Strong relationships are maintained with adjoining Councils to provide support and effective sharing of information and past experiences.

- v. The provision of 'on-leash' and 'off-leash' areas within the district. A full review of Council's off-leash and on-leash areas was completed in 2016. Appendix 1 provides details of the 'off-leash' and 'on-leash' areas which have been formulated in response to this review.

## **8. COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF CATS**

Council implements the following measures to manage cats within the district:

- i. Trapping of feral and stray cats.
- ii. Cat traps are made available to the public.
- iii. By-laws which promote and regulate the control and management of cats within the Council area.

## 9. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### OBJECTIVE 1

Council staff have the capacity to administer and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

#### **Strategy**

1.1 Council provide adequate staffing levels to administer its legislated responsibilities under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 1.1.1 Provision be made for one full time staff member to be responsible for the administration of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.
- 1.1.2 Provision of administration support be provided to the Animal Management Officer.
- 1.1.3 Provision for a relief officer trained and authorised to administer the responsibilities of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to provide support during the absence of the full time officer.

#### **Strategy**

1.2 All Council staff connected with dog and cat management be adequately trained to respond to all aspects of dog and cat management in the community.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 1.2.1 Train Administrative Staff on general matters.
- 1.2.2 Registrar of Dogs – specialised training by the Dog and Cat Customer Service Staff training on educational material.
- 1.2.3 Authorised Persons– ongoing training in line with Board policy.
- 1.2.4 Attendance at Animal Management Conferences by Authorised Persons to keep updated with the latest trends in the animal management profession.

#### **Strategy**

1.3 Access to operating procedures detailing the method and quality of animal management to be undertaken by staff.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 1.3.1 The review of operating procedures for the administration of various sections of the Act by January 2020 including but not limited to the handling of:
  - Feral cats
  - Firearms
  - Impounding of dogs and cats
  - Seizure and transport of dogs and cats

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

Improve community awareness of responsible pet management and pet behaviour.

### **Strategy**

- 2.1 Educate the community about the benefits and responsibilities of good pet management.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 2.1.1 Hold at least one event/ activity each year which promotes responsible pet ownership.
- 2.1.2 Provide information in the form of pamphlets and posters at the Council Office and Visitor Information Centre.
- 2.1.3 Display signage annually at strategic locations throughout the district promoting responsible pet ownership.
- 2.1.4 Place an article/ advert in local media each month promoting responsible pet ownership.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

Increase identification and registration of animals.

### **Strategy**

- 3.1 Educate public about the benefits and legislative requirements of microchipping and registration pets.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 3.1.1 Place an article/ advert in local media annually promoting responsible dog and cat ownership.

### **Strategy**

- 3.2 Facilitate services to help owners meet their legislative requirement of registration and microchipping.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 3.2.1 Investigate the feasibility of training a staff member to provide a microchipping service by 30 June 2019.
- 3.2.2 If found to be feasible offer microchipping to the community as a fee for service by 30 August 2019.

### **Strategy**

- 3.3 To maximise dog registrations.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 3.3.1 Investigate and budget for an Authorised contractor to assist in a door knock for unregistered dogs within 18 months of the on-line registrations and every 3 years thereafter

## OBJECTIVE 4

Increase registration and compliance of businesses involving dogs.

### **Strategy**

- 4.1 Educate the community about breeder registration and sale requirements to ensure new pets are obtained from reputable and compliant breeders.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 4.1.1 Improve linkages on Council's website to Local Dog and Cat breeders to help connect public to registered local breeders.  
4.1.2 Increase relationship with local Dog and Cat breeders for the easy distribution of information.  
4.1.3 Place an article/ advert in local media annually promoting registration of breeders.  
4.1.4 Undertake a mail drop by 1 July 2018 about breeder registration and sale requirements.

## OBJECTIVE 5

Ensure dogs within the public realm are under the effective control of a responsible person.

### **Strategy**

- 5.1 Advocate dog training.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 5.1.1 Investigate the availability and cost of providing training for dogs.  
5.1.2 Make available information about dog training and how to become a dog trainer.

## OBJECTIVE 6

Raise public awareness and participation in dog faeces disposal.

### **Strategy**

- 6.1 Improve public participation in faeces removal.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 6.1.1 Undertake a review of existing dog tidy bag dispensers and consider additional strategic dispenser locations 1 June 2021.

### **Strategy**

- 6.2 Raise awareness of public Health risks and enforce requirements of faeces removal.

#### Key Performance Indicators

- 6.2.1 Place an article/ advert in local media annually concerning faeces removal.

## OBJECTIVE 7

Increase pet owner's awareness of the community expectations surrounding barking dogs.

### **Strategy**

7.1 Educate dog owners about methods which reduce barking dog issues.

Key Performance Indicators

7.1.1 Make available barking count dog collars for hire.

7.1.2 Place an article/ advert in local media annually about barking dogs.

7.1.3 Make information available about different methods of reducing dog's boredom during an owner's absence.

## **OBJECTIVE 8**

Raise community awareness about the importance of reporting dog attacks and harassment issues.

**Strategy**

8.1 Educate the public about acceptable animal behaviour.

Key Performance Indicators

8.1.1 Place an article/ advert in local media annually about reporting attacks.

8.1.2 All dog attacks are to be logged on to the state incident website.

## **OBJECTIVE 9**

Regulate and improve public safety from wandering and dangerous dogs and cats.

**Strategy**

9.1 Improve pound and holding facilities to meet best practice requirements.

Key Performance Indicators

9.1.1 Ensure council has access to a holding facility.

9.1.2 Investigate an alternative pound facility in case the existing pound becomes unavailable 1 July 2018.

**Strategy**

9.2 Increase awareness of the importance of providing an enclosure to keep pets within property boundaries.

Key Performance Indicators

9.2.1 Provide new pet owners with information about ways to improve pet enclosures and the benefits e.g. Diseases pet safety etc.

9.2.2 Reduction in the number of wandering at large incidents.

9.2.3 Place an article/ advert in local media annually promoting the benefits of cat confinement.

## **OBJECTIVE 10**

Increase the number of de-sexed animals within the district.

**Strategy**

10.1 Encourage public to de-sex pets.

Key Performance Indicators

- 10.1.1 Ensure there is suitable economic benefit in registration fees for owners to benefit from de-sexing.
- 10.1.2 Investigate improved veterinary services to provide cost effective access for de-sexing for the life of the plan.

**Strategy**

- 10.2 Educate the public about the benefits and legal requirements of desexing pets as of 1 July 2018.

Key Performance Indicators

- 10.2.1 Educate public (via adverts) about the benefits that de-sexing offers.
- 10.2.2 Place an article/ advert in local media annually about the benefits of de-sexing.

**OBJECTIVE 11**

Introduce compulsory registration of cats.

**Strategy**

- 11.1 Facilitate the registration of cats housed within the district.

Key Performance Indicators

- 11.1.1 Implement cat registration by 1 July 2022.
- 11.1.2 Educate public about new requirements to register cats housed within the district for more than 14 days.

**10. RELATED DOCUMENTS/APPENDICES**

*District Council of Streaky Bay's Strategic Plan*  
*District Council of Streaky Bay By-Laws*

Appendix 1 On-leash and off-leash areas

| <b>ON-LEASH AREAS</b>  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Location</b>  | <b>Comments</b>       |
| Doctors Beach  | On leash at all times |
| Back Beach - Carpark, walkway and 50 metres each side of the beach entrance          | On leash at all times |
| Hallys Beach - Carpark, walkway and 50 metres each side of the beach entrance        | On leash at all times |
| Streaky Bay Foreshore (Including the beach)  | On leash at all times |
| Eyre Avenue  | On leash at all times |
| Slidy's Beach – Carpark, boat ramp and reserve                                       | On leash at all times |
| Council Bike Track   | On leash at all times |
| Lions Park   | On leash at all times |
| Whistling Rocks and Blow Holes Board Walk and Carpark                                | On leash at all times |
| Little Island Carpark – Carpark, walkway and 50 metres either side of beach entrance | On leash at all times |
| Sceale Bay Foreshore - Carpark, boat ramp and foreshore shelter                      | On leash at all times |
| Perlubie Beach - Carpark, entrance onto beach 50m on from the last shelter           | On leash at all times |
| Haslam - Caravan Park, Carpark, Foreshore and Beach                                  | On leash at all times |
| Tractors - Camp Ground   | On leash at all times |
| Bairds Bay - Camp Ground   | On leash at all times |
| Speeds Point - Camp Ground   | On leash at all times |
| Beach area in front of Yanerbie  | On leash at all times |
| Surfers Beach - Carpark, walkway and 50 m each side of the beach entrance            | On leash at all times |
| Moores Boat Ramp   | On leash at all times |

| <b>OFF-LEASH AREAS</b>  |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Location</b>         | <b>Comments</b> |
| Streaky Bay Golf Course | Off-leash area  |
| Sheoak's                | Off-leash area  |