



**Submission on Dog Control Policy**

**May 2025**



# Meeting Council's Climate Targets

	Current*	After 25% Shift
<b>Trips</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>
<b>Car Trips</b>	<b>293,000</b>	<b>219,750</b>
<b>Bike trips</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>24,173</b>
<b>Cycle Mode Share</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>6%</b>

*\* Source: MoT Household Travel Survey*

# What's this got to do with Dogs?

- Many of the popular dog exercise areas are key cycle routes (Esplanade, River trails)
- Dog/Dog walker – cycle conflict is already an issue
- Council needs a 15 fold increase in cycling to meet its climate targets
- The Dog Control policy does not address this and proposes no change (ie “education”)
- This is a problem!

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

33. There are no climate change considerations associated with the decision to accept submissions.

# Shared Paths

- Separation of cyclists and walkers on main routes is necessary:

“But to place an unfenced cycle path in any area specifically designated as a dog playing/exercise area is to knowingly impose a raised risk for all users - the cyclists, the dogs, and their owners.” (Environment Court, Riverlink Decision)

- However, Council is not acting on key routes:
  - Riverlink – Council supports removal of separated paths and reverting to shared paths in the consent conditions imposed by the Court
  - Esplanade – Planned path separation has been deferred



# Recommendations

- Cycle-only paths consented for Riverlink be dog-excluded in the Dog Control Policy
- Shared paths that are also part of the HCC Strategic Cycle Network (ie 'arterial cycle routes') ban 'stretchy' leads given the augmented risk these introduce
- Either Council:
  - exclude dogs from the Petone Esplanade shared path (requiring them to walk on the beach), or
  - construct a bi-directional cycle path on the seaward side of the Esplanade

# Te Ara Tupua (Petone to Ngauranga)

- Is a key (and expensive!) cycle route between the Hutt and Wellington – for thousands of high speed cycle trips per day
- It's primary purpose will be significantly negatively affected by the presence of dogs (on or off lead)
- Consent conditions (2020) note HCC will need to consider Dog Control issues
- Is has not been considered

# Honiana Te Puna Reserve

- We support changing it from dogs-off-leads to dogs-on leads.
- However, the main cycle path (the road immediately to the seaward side of the onramp) should be dog-excluded, given the anticipated volume of cyclists on this area of the reserve.



# On Te Ara Tupua itself

- Dog Excluded:
  - Safety: Cyclists and dogs (even dogs on leads) do not mix
  - This is a new facility specifically for transport purposes – demand for dog walking facilities was never part of its objectives
  - Penguin protection:

