



# Briefing: Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw

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**25 September 2025 – 4.30pm**

## Attendees

**Elected Members:** Mayor Barry (via audio-visual link), Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Barratt, Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger (via audio-visual link) and Cr Tupou,

**Staff:** J Miller, Chief Executive (part meeting), A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability, A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; S White, Policy Advisor and C Parish, Head of the Mayor's Office.

## Apologies

K Yung (PCB)

## Presenter

S White, Policy Advisor

## Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to provide Councillors with background information and a timeline for the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw reviews and for officers to gather feedback to guide the review process.

# Presentation by Sam White, Policy Advisor

## Slide 1 (Header)

**Slide 2 – Purpose of the review:** The Dog Control Policy and Bylaw are being reviewed together because they are linked.

**Slide 3 – The Policy and Bylaw:** An overview of what the Policy and the Bylaw cover.

**Slide 4 – Issues identified so far:** Issues that have been identified by internal and external stakeholders.

**Slide 5 – Community engagement:** Pre-engagement was undertaken to identify key issues, stakeholders and concerns. Formal engagement will include the statement of proposal and the draft bylaw and policy.

**Slide 6 – Review process and timeline:** Officers are beginning the review process early to provide the best opportunity to incorporate internal and external feedback.

## Questions and discussion points

- Greater Wellington Regional Council has raised an issue with dogs and cyclists clashing on the shared paths along the Hutt riverbank.
- Officers will clarify that the reviews aim to balance the interests of all path users in the city, including dog owners. Part of the communications plan will be information that shows what happens in other cities. Officers want a good range of dog owners and non-dog owners to engage.
- More clarity is needed on the riverbank's shared path boundary so that dog owners know where their dogs can run.
- If stakeholders, animal services or the community raise menacing dogs as an issue, they will be incorporated into the engagement process.

- Officers will check with Council's Transport team whether one shared path or two are proposed for the riverbank (for fast and slower cyclists) once RiverLink is in place.
- Existing dog parks will be incorporated into the reviews, but no proposed dog parks will be proposed due to funding restrictions. Dog exercise areas are likely to be incorporated into the reviews.
- Pre-engagement will enable officers to have early discussions, look at priorities and consider all options for consultation.
- Officers will use open-ended questions during pre-engagement rather than prompting stakeholders with possible issues.
- Currently, there are confusing signs throughout the city regarding when dogs should be allowed in certain areas. Animal Services is considering removing the times from signs and stating which months dogs are allowed or banned.
- Ensure the signs that protect birds from dogs at certain times of year dovetail with the times the birds are nesting and need the protection.

## Next steps

Pre-engagement with targeted stakeholders will help officers understand the issues so they can workshop these with elected members before the proposed changes are released for formal consultation.

## Briefing materials

**Attachment 1** – Presentation: Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Reviews

**The briefing closed at 4.50pm**