

BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL  
**DOMESTIC  
ANIMAL  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2022 – 2025  
DRAFT**



**BULOKE**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 WHAT IS A DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

All Victorian Councils are required by the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the *Act*) to prepare and implement a four year Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) to guide decision making in relation to animal management for dogs and cats. The scope of the DAMP does not include activities for the management of wildlife, horses, livestock, or pest animals.

This four year plan builds on the 2017 - 2021 DAMP and provides the framework for the planning, development, and evaluation of animal management services and programs delivered by Buloke Shire Council and complies with the requirements of the *Act*.

The plan must address the following:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the *Act* and regulations
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers
- Outline programs, services and strategies to:
  - Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership of dogs and cats
  - Ensure that people comply with the *Act*, regulations and legislation
  - Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
  - Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
  - Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
  - Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
  - Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure these dogs are kept in compliance with the *Act* and regulations
- Provide for review of existing orders and Local Laws made under the *Act*
- Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats.
- Provide for periodic evaluation of the plan

## 1.2 WHY HAVE A DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Council recognises that pets play an important role in the day to day lives of many people, and strives to support pet owners and promote the health and social benefits of responsible pet ownership. This is done in conjunction with making sure that our environment and lifestyle is protected from any potential negative impacts of domestic animals.

The aim of the Buloke Domestic Animal Management Plan is to ensure that people and pets can live harmoniously in our community. The plan recognises and carefully balances the needs of pets, pet owners and those who don't own pets. The plan is designed to respond strategically to the needs of the community as a whole.

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership, community safety and active and healthy lifestyles.

## 1.3 HOW DOES THE DAMP FIT WITH THE COUNCIL PLAN?

Council in consultation with the community recently developed and adopted the 2022 – 2025 Council Plan. The Council Plan outlines the key priorities for the next four years and sets out how council will invest in services and facilities. The plan identifies the following priorities:

- Our built and natural environment
- Our community wellbeing
- Our economy
- Our Council and community leadership

The Domestic Animal Management Plan aligns with the broader strategic directions of the Council Plan - in particular our community wellbeing.

## 1.4 CONSULTATION

Community consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the Council Plan and the respective community plans which have been developed over recent years. A draft copy of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was also made available for comment/submissions throughout September 2021. The consultation results are summarised in Appendix 1.

## 1.5 BACKGROUND

The Buloke Shire is located in the north west of Victoria between 210 and 360 kilometres from Melbourne.

The Buloke Shire adjoins the Mildura and Swan Hill councils in the north, Gannawarra and Loddon shires in the east, Northern Grampians Shire in the south and Yarriambiack Shire in the west.

The Buloke Shire is a predominantly rural area. The main townships are Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. The shire also comprises the smaller townships of Berriwillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil and Watchem.

The Buloke Shire encompasses a total land area of 8,000 square kilometres and is approximately 140 kilometres long and 60 kilometres wide.

The two main highways servicing the Buloke Shire are the Calder Highway and the Sunraysia Highway. Both highways run north and south through the shire.

Land is used largely for agriculture, particularly grain (wheat, barley, pulse and oilseed) production and sheep grazing.

The Buloke Shire is named after the 'buloke' or 'bulloak' tree, *Allocasuarina Luehmannii*, which is common in the area and is the feature of the Buloke Shire logo.

Our community has one of the highest volunteer rate in the State demonstrating a strong commitment to community wellbeing and helping out.

Our people value the ability to interact with each other through a range of community groups and settings.

In the 2016 Census, Buloke Shire had a population of 6,100 people. The median age for the shire was 51 years.

Like many regional areas, our community is ageing. We have a greater proportion of older residents compared to other parts of regional Victoria. We actively work with government, health agencies and partner with community groups to support and achieve better outcomes.

## 1.6 REVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS PLAN

The 2017 -2021 DAMP included a number of objectives:

- Training identification for staff
- Data accuracy of registration database
- Increase animal registrations
- Educate the public and promote awareness of the need to contain cats and dogs

The objectives above were achieved.

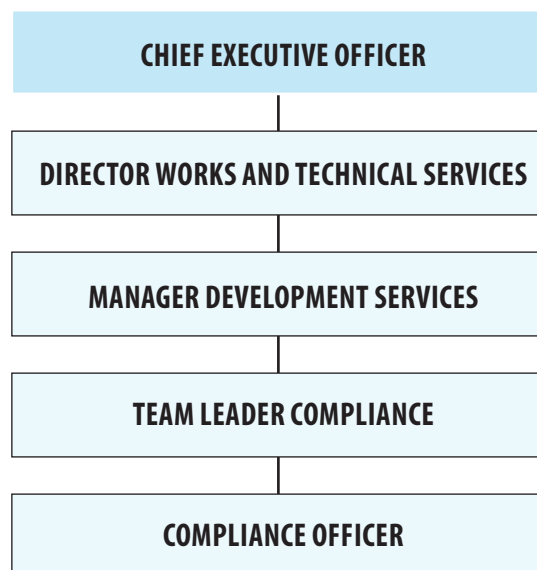
# 2. TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

This section outlines programs for the training of authorised officers to administer and enforce the requirements of the Act in the Council’s municipal district, compliant with *Section 68(A)(2)(b) of the Act*.

## 2.1 CONTEXT

Authorised Officers	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
EFT	2	2	3	2	1.6	1.6	1.6

## 2.2 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STAFF STRUCTURE



## 2.3 CURRENT AND PLANNED TRAINING

Officers receive ongoing on the job training and are encouraged to have or attain the Certificate IV in Animal Control & Regulation. Council’s annual performance reviews include a review of the staff skills and training undertaken in the previous year.

Duties of all officers include responsibilities under a large variety of legislation. Domestic animal management services forms only a part of each role. These responsibilities includes Local Laws administration, livestock control, production of Local Laws Permits, preparation of infringement and offence prosecutions, litter control, fire prevention, emergency management and administration relating to fundraising and events.

## 2.4 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Develop a training policy that clearly identifies minimum training requirements and any additional training needs that should be undertaken by Authorised Officers

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify minimum training requirements by consultation with management and staff	Annually	Documentation to be finalised by 30 June Annually
Identify additional training opportunities by consultation with management and staff including issues related to domestic violence	Ongoing	To be incorporated into officers' performance reviews

**Objective 2:** Authorised Officers to be aware of current trends and changes in animal management legislation and best practice

Activity	When	Evaluation
Officers to attend a relevant conference conducted by peak bodies per annum	Annually	Attendance at conference
Officers to utilise social media and websites to ensure they are up to date with current information	Weekly	Demonstrated improved knowledge of current trends and changes in legislation.

**Objective 3:** Training for new officers

Activity	When	Evaluation
New officers to have an identified training program to ensure they meet the minimum training requirements	Upon commencement of employment	Reviewed after twelve months service.

# 3. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats consistent with *Section 68A(2)(c)(v) of the Act*, and also *Sections 68A (2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f)*.

## 3.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Council through the Compliance team provides the following domestic animal services to the local community:

- Registration and identification for domestic dogs and cats
- Registration renewal notices sent in March with follow up reminders sent in April
- Follow up with owners who fail to renew animal registration
- Education of pet owners to continually check and update contact details on microchip registries
- Follow up and correction of all information in animal register
- Registration and identification of menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Education and information services provided
- Permanent identification number registration tags
- Investigation and compliance service
- Dog waste disposal bags provided in multiple locations

Registered Animals	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dogs	1201	1180	1110	1099	1120	1388	1528
Cats	321	293	270	252	229	327	269
Dangerous Dogs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 3.2 ANIMAL REGISTRATION TIMELINE

March	Registration renewals posted
March	Information on registrations placed on council website and local media outlets
April	Animal registrations due
April	Reminder letters sent
May	Commence follow up of unregistered animals

### 3.3 DOG AND CAT REGISTRATION FEES

Concessions are provided for the registration of cats and dogs if they are desexed, over 10 years old, kept for breeding purposes, have undergone obedience training, registered with the canine association (dogs), registered with the feline control council and other organisations approved by council (cats) or kept for working stock as per the fee schedules below.

Description	Amount 2021/22
Dog or Cat (not micro chipped or desexed – only relevant to animals registered prior to May 2007)	\$124
Dogs (microchipped plus one or more of the following – desexed, working or farm dog, over 10 years old or VCA member)	\$40
Cats (microchipped plus one or more of the following – desexed, over 10 years old or Feline Association member)	\$40
Pensioner Concession (half price for all dog and cat registration categories)	\$62/\$20
Guide dogs, racing dogs (greyhounds), police dogs	No charge
Replacement lifetime tags	No charge
Registered animals moving to Buloke	No charge

Desexed Animals	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dogs	652	651	889	648	692	792	754
Cats	298	281	259	263	263	324	261

• All fees and charges are approved by Council as part of the annual budget adoption process

### 3.4 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Buloke Shire Council Community Local Law 2019 regulates the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property.

Type of Animal	Maximum number allowed in township without a permit	Maximum number allowed outside a township without a permit
Dogs	2	5
Cats	2	2

Council has delegated the provisions of the Act to register or refuse to register a dog or cat to the Manager of Development Services, Compliance Team Leader and Compliance Officers.

Council has a procedure for the annual registration of dogs and cats and a process for following up unregistered animals.

Council issues a lifetime registration tag on application for registration.

Council pays part of each registration received to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) annually as per the requirements of the Act. The levy contributes to the development of programs and materials used for:

- Promotion of responsible dog and cat ownership and animal welfare
- Community education in primary schools
- Research into domestic animal management
- Administration of the Act



## 3.5 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council utilises its website and social media pages, combined with regular media releases on domestic animal related matters including education, promotion and compliance activities.

## 3.6 SUMMARY

Registrations as a proportion of the population remain consistent for domestic animals in the municipality. This is a reflection of compulsory microchipping for non-exempt animals and discounts on registrations for microchipped and desexed animals. While all registered animals are microchipped, desexing, specifically for cats remains an issue.

Council will continue to promote microchipping and desexing via the council website and social media and with partners to keep unwanted animal numbers low. Ongoing promotion of the benefits of animal registration is also a priority.

## 3.7 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Increase the number of dog and cat registrations within the municipality by 5% and to educate the community on the requirement for animal registration.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Targeted inspections of the municipality	Once every quarter	Data to demonstrate new registrations after inspections

Council conducted an animal registration campaign in the last quarter of 2019, this campaign included a random doorknock program. A letter was sent to all addresses within the Shire advising owners to ensure all animals were registered. Including the use of social media and notices published in the local newspapers encouraging owners to register their animals.

Targeted inspections Type of Animal	Percentage Increase of animals registered from previous year	Increase of animals registered from previous year
Dogs	23.9%	268
Cats	42.7%	98

**Objective 2:** Educate community on requirement for registration

Activity	When	Evaluation
Media releases Website and social media Brochures Link to Department of Agriculture website Use registration and renewals to promote responsible pet ownership	March and September each year	Record number of media releases, social media posts, articles in local media.

# 4. NUISANCE ANIMALS

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance and is consistent with Sections 68A(2)(c)(vi), 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

## 4.1 CURRENT SITUATION

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dogs wandering	39	60	65	37	41	55	26
Barking dog complaints	4	28	17	16	6	19	12
Nuisance/ Feral Cats	15	12	15	9	7	15	7

Council experienced a slight increase in wandering animals, largely due to an increase in ranger patrols of the municipality. These patrols have identified dogs wandering where as in the past, officers would respond to complaints only. There is a corresponding increase in infringements issued for wandering and unregistered dogs.

## 4.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Council has no orders made under Section 26 of the Act which outline the requirement for dogs to be under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash in designated areas and for areas which are designated as prohibited for dogs to be present.
- Buloke Shire Council Community Local Law 2019 includes maximum numbers of domestic animals inside and outside of the Local Laws designated township, excess animal permits, and appropriate animal accommodation including nuisance provisions, an adequate fencing provision and removing animal excrement on council land. Extensive community consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this local law.

## 4.3 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities in support of nuisance offences:

- Availability of brochures and educational information

## 4.4 OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Council treats the issues of animal nuisance seriously. Council undertakes the following compliance activities in support of nuisance offences:

- Ranger patrols in areas where complaints are being received
- Investigate nuisance complaints
- Issuing Notices to Comply, Infringement Notices and prosecutions of non-compliance.

## 4.5 SUMMARY

Barking dog complaints remains an issue for council despite a decrease in numbers in recent years. Complaints of wandering cats and dogs have increased considerably owing to a higher frequency of patrols.

## 4.6 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Reduce dog nuisance complaints by 5% per year.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review further options for reducing dog barking complaints	Commencing 2021 calendar year	Reduced dog barking complaints
Increase information on website and other channels on responsible dog ownership and minimising barking	Commencing 2021 calendar year	Reduced dog barking complaints
Review and promote numbers of dog waste bag dispensers in municipality.	January 2019	Number of bags used
Ensure ongoing promotion of health benefits of owning dogs and promote responsible pet ownership	2021 - 2025	Media releases/social media

**Objective 2:** Investigate options to reduce wandering cats

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide brochures regarding nuisance animals	2021 -2025	Informs and educates public decreasing the number of nuisance reports.
Educate the community to contain cats securely to their property	2021 - 2025	Social media, media releases. Provide information on the damage cats can cause to native fauna and habitat
Promote the availability of cat traps	2021 - 2025	Council website, social media
Conduct targeted campaigns with Officers going to each of the major towns with cat cages to catch stray and feral cats	2021 -2025	Increased number of stray and feral cats trapped

# 5. DOG ATTACKS

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals and is consistent with Section 68A(2)(c)(iii) and Sections 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.

## 5.1. CURRENT SITUATION

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21
Reported dog attacks and rushing complaints	25	1	26	30	11	17	26
Prosecution	6	1	2	3	2	2	12

## 5.2 CURRENT PROGRAMS IN PLACE TO MINIMISE THE INCIDENCE OF DOG ATTACKS INCLUDE:

- Respond to notification of dog attacks
- Provision of education and information to community provided about responsible pet ownership
- Encourage local veterinarian to report dog attacks to council
- Promote and encourage dog desexing to assist in reducing wandering animals

## 5.3 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council undertakes the following educational and promotional activities in support of dog attack issues:

- Media releases
- Council website/social media sites information
- Brochures and information available from customer service

## 5.4 OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Council treats reports of dog attacks very seriously. Council undertakes the following compliance activities in support of dog attack offences:

### Vehicle patrols and dog attack complaint response

- Conduct investigations of reported attacks
- Where appropriate consider measures including the issuing of a Notice to Comply, Infringement Notices and court prosecutions.

## 5.5 SUMMARY

Dog attacks remain an issue for council, particularly in rural areas and dogs attacking stock.

Confinement of dogs is a priority because instances of wandering dogs increase the risk to other pets, livestock and people. Wandering dogs can take up considerable officer time while they are caught, identified and returned to the owner or transported to the pound. As desexed animals are less likely to wander council will continue to encourage owners to have their dogs desexed.

Council will ensure information on the importance of animal confinement is available online and from customer service.

## 5.6 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Decrease the number of dog attacks in the community by 2% each year.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake routine patrols across the municipality with a focus on dogs at large	Daily	A workplan to be developed to ensure each settlement area of the shire is patrolled regularly.

**Objective 2:** Awareness campaign for both property/stock owners and dog owners about the consequences for dogs found in paddocks with stock.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Media release, website/social media content Include information with registration and renewal mail outs	Three times a year Initial registration and renewal of registration	Number of media releases Information sent out

**Objective 3:** Provide community education regarding responsible pet ownership particularly dog containment/dogs at large.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Media release, website/social media content	School holiday periods, Christmas and Easter, long weekends	Number of media releases, hits on website page

# 6. DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with *Sections 68A(2)(c)(vii) and Sections 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.*

## 6.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Registrations	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dangerous dogs registered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menacing dogs registered	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Restricted breed dogs registered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 6.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are controlled by the *Act*

## 6.3 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council undertakes the following education and promotion activities:

- Information regarding declared dogs on website
- Brochures available on declared dogs
- All declared dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs listed on the Victorian declared Dog Registry.

## 6.4 OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Council treats all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs very seriously. Council does not accept registrations of restricted breed dogs. Council undertakes the following compliance activities:

- Declaration of dogs in appropriate situations
- Audits of potential areas housing dangerous dogs
- Registration and identification of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs including audits of properties containing declared dogs
- Updating of declared dog database
- Ensure compliance with requirements for keeping dangerous dogs

## 6.5 SUMMARY

Council has 3 declared menacing dogs in the Shire (as at 30 June 2021).

There are no known restricted, declared dangerous dogs in the shire. There have been no incidents which have resulted in an animal being declared dangerous or restricted.

## 6.6 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Inspect all industrial properties in the municipality for dogs housed or kept for guarding purposes	Annually	All dogs removed from property or declared appropriately.
Educate the community about what is a dangerous dog	Ongoing	Media release and website/social media updates Link to Agriculture Victoria website containing information on owning a menacing dog.

**Objective 2:** Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are following the keeping requirements.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Inspect all premises housing declared dogs	Annually	100% compliance with requirements

# 7. OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

This section outlines programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats in accordance with *Section 68A(2)(c)(iv) and Sections 68A(2)(a),(c)(i),(c)(ii),(d),(f) of the Act.*

## 7.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Euthanasia Rates	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dogs	4	3	0	1	1	2	2
Cats	27	0	0	12	31	16	0

## 7.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Council's pound and euthanasia policies are guided by the Act. Council's pound service is provided in-house, all attempts are made to minimise the number of animals kept at the pound for any period of time.

*Requirements for dogs and/or cats to be desexed at time of registration or renewal of registration are in accordance with the Act. (s.10A)*

- All dogs and cats are to be desexed at time of registration and as part of the adoption process at the pound
- Buloke Shire Council's Community Local Law 2019 regulates the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property
- Enforcement strategy associated with issuing Notices to Comply, Infringement Notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding dogs and/or cats that are not desexed

## 7.3 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council's promotion of registration, microchipping and desexing strongly emphasises the return of lost pets. Council currently undertakes the following educational and promotional activities:

- Reduced registration fees
- Media release and website/social media updates on benefits of registration, microchipping and desexing

## 7.4 OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities to increase registrations and therefore reduce euthanasia rates:

- Renewal follow ups for registration and identification for dogs and cats
- Vehicle patrols in response to nuisance complaints
- Registration of animals released from the pound
- Use of Notice to Comply, infringements where required, prosecution of owners with unregistered dogs and cats

## 7.5 SUMMARY

Euthanasia rates are low. This is due to education, registration and the use of social media as a tool for returning strays and rehoming surrendered animals. Council will continue a program of focussing on particular 'cat trouble spots' in towns across the municipality

## 7.6 OUR PLANS

Council intends to continue to maintain the low euthanasia rates of dogs and cats by increasing the registration rates which will lead to higher reclaims from the pound. Council staff will attend each town on an 'as needs' basis to trap feral cats in areas identified by the community as being problematic.

**Objective 1:** Raise awareness of feral cats and undertake activities to reduce feral cat numbers.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Follow up complaints relating to breeding establishments and monitoring of advertisements and excess pet registrations	Annually	Compare number of registered breeding establishments before and after campaign



# 8. DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

This section outlines programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation relevant to Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB) in compliance with Part 4 of the Act.

## 8.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Domestic Animal Businesses	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Shelter/pound	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Boarding facilities	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Breeding/rearing establishments	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Training facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pet shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 8.2 OUR ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS AND COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Domestic animal business registrations are controlled by the Act, operate under Code of Practices and are subject to annual audits.

- Buloke Shire Council's Community Local Law 2019 regulates the numbers of dogs and/or cats that can be kept at a property
- Policy and procedure associated with seizure and impounding of dogs and cats from domestic animal businesses
- Policy regarding seizure of documents
- Policy regarding attendance at VCAT to hear appeals of proprietors of domestic animal businesses
- Enforcement strategy associated with issuing Notices to Comply, Infringement Notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding domestic animal businesses
- Council has delegated duties in regards to the registration and operation of a DAB to the Manager Development Services, Team Leader Compliance or Compliance Officers

## 8.3 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council provides information and guidance to every domestic animal business on the necessity of registration, and requirements under the Act.

## 8.4 OUR CURRENT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Council currently undertakes the following compliance activities for domestic animal businesses:

- Annual audits of registered businesses
- Production of work plans to ensure DABs meet the requirements of the relevant Code of Practice.
- Follow up of properties identified with excess animals and any complaints regards suspected unregistered DABs

## 8.5 SUMMARY

Three domestic animal businesses are located within Buloke Shire. Two are privately owned and operated and Council operates the domestic animal pound. There are mandatory codes of practice for the operation of breeding and rearing establishments, boarding establishments and shelters and pounds.

Council is obliged to ensure each establishment complies with the relevant code of practice by conducting regular audits.

## 8.6 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality, using yellow pages (or similar, including online sites) identify businesses selling pets / pet products / services in the municipality. Follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with council.	Annually	Compare number of registered DABs before and after activity
Media release to advise the public of the definition of a domestic animal business	Annually	Identified non-compliant businesses are investigated.

**Objective 2:** Annually inspect and audit all registered domestic animal businesses.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Audit all registered businesses	End of April each year	Rate of compliance of registered businesses.

# 9. OTHER MATTERS

Section 68A(2)(e) of the Act provides for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that Council considers necessary.

## 9.1 EMERGENCY ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 9.2 CURRENT SITUATION

Council has in recent years experienced a number of natural emergencies, particularly flooding. This is an ongoing concern for Council and consideration of domestic animal management in the event of an emergency has been included in Council's emergency planning.

While responsibility for domestic animals in all circumstances rests with the owner of the animal, Council needs to consider issues of domestic animal management when considering evacuation procedures and the establishment of emergency relief centres. Housing and feeding animals may become an important issue when they accompany their owners to relief centres. These considerations are accentuated should a domestic animal business be required to evacuate.

### 9.3 OUR CURRENT COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Provision for emergency management planning for domestic animals should be included in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and any sub plans. Council should ensure all procedures and contact lists are kept up to date on an annual basis. All relevant information and updates provided by the Municipal Emergency Management Committee are to be incorporated into the policies and procedures.

### 9.4 OUR CURRENT EDUCATION/PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Council provides information via the website on the available services and the obligations of pet owners. In the event of an emergency, media releases are utilised to provide this information.

### 9.5 SUMMARY

Domestic animal management is a significant logistical issue in the event of an emergency, even though primary responsibility rests with the owners of the animals. Confusion, conflict and diverted resources can all result from a failure to consider domestic animals in an evacuation and/or the establishment of an emergency relief centre. These challenges are elevated when a domestic animal business is evacuated.

Where appropriate, Council will utilise social media, Council's website and other channels to communicate its role and the responsibilities of pet owners should an emergency be declared.

### 9.6 OUR PLANS

**Objective 1:** To ensure consideration is given to the management of domestic animals during emergencies.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review all emergency management plans relevant to domestic animals	Annually	Review results and feedback after an emergency.
Officers to maintain involvement in emergency management groups within the region to ensure the needs of domestic animals are met in the event of an emergency.	Ongoing	Officers attend relevant meeting and provide input into relevant plans relating to domestic animals

# 10. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

68A(3) Every Council must—

- (a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- (b) provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

## 10.1 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Council will monitor performance of the objectives set out in this plan by reporting annually through Council's established reporting system.

## 10.2 REVIEW CYCLE FOR THIS PLAN

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Team Leader Compliance in conjunction with stakeholders and relevant officers. Any amendments necessary will be made and forwarded to the department Secretary as required under legislation.



# 11. INFORMATION SOURCE AND REPORTING DATES

Registration animals
Animal registration Data from Lynx Reporting date: 10 April for preceding 12 month period
Microchipped and desexed animals
Animal registration Data from Lynx Reporting date: 10 April for preceding 12 month period
Nuisance
Nuisance register Data from database kept by Compliance Reporting date: 1 July to 30 June
Strays
Stray animal report Data from database kept by Compliance Reporting date: 1 July to 30 June
Dog Attacks
Data from database kept by Compliance Reporting date: 1 July to 30 June
Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breeds
Animal registrations Data from database kept by Compliance Reporting date 10 April for preceding 12 month period
Euthanasia Rates
Euthanasia Data from database kept by Compliance Reporting date: 1 July to 30 June
Domestic Animal Businesses
DAB Registrations Data from Lynx Reporting date: 1 July to 30 June

# 12. APPENDIX 1 - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

A draft copy of the Domestic Animal Management Plan was made available for community feedback during September 2021. Copies of the document were made available at Wycheproof and on the council website. There were two submissions received and the key themes that were raised were generic submissions regarding pets and domestic violence, a broadening of the DAMP to cover all companion animals, euthanasia, and rehoming/reuniting animals. These issues have been considered in the plan.



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SHIRE COUNCIL