

5.6 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

(LOCAL35:BG:HM)

Ward : Whole Municipality

Responsible Director: Don Cameron

Reason for Council Consideration: Policy Development

RECOMMENDATION

1. *That Council adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM) dated July 2008 (as amended).*
2. *That notice of the adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan be published in local Monash newspapers and the Monash Bulletin.*
3. *That Council expresses its appreciation to all persons involved in the preparation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.*

INTRODUCTION

This report is to inform Council of the outcomes of the public consultation process for the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM Plan) and the issues identified for review and consideration prior to adoption of the Plan.

It also recommends that the DAM Plan (as amended) be adopted.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 68A of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 all Councils are required to prepare a DAM Plan at three-yearly intervals.

Section 68A of the Act came into effect on 2 November 2005 and Council's DAM Plan is due to be submitted to the Department of Primary Industries by November 2008. This will be Council's first DAM Plan.

In August 2007 Council was advised of the commencement of the development of the DAM Plan.

In January 2008 Council was informed of the process and revised timelines for the development of the Plan. That report identified a process consisting of four major components:

- identification of issues.
- preparation of the Draft DAM Plan.
- public consultation on the Draft DAM Plan.
- adoption of the Final DAM Plan.

That report also detailed an issues paper and questionnaire survey to be used to foster community interest and discussion on this topic.

In June 2008 Council was advised of the outcomes of the preliminary public consultation and the issues identified for consideration in the preparation of the DAM Plan.

That report also recommended that the Draft DAM Plan be placed on public exhibition for review and comment, prior to Council considering the Plan for formal adoption.

OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Draft DAM Plan, was placed on public exhibition for a period of four weeks. Exhibition included:-

- an article in the Monash Bulletin, which is circulated to all residential households in Monash,
- an article in local newspapers circulating in Monash,
- details on Council's web page,
- copies at Council's libraries and service centres,
- a copy sent out to all persons who participated in the focus group sessions.

A total of ten written submissions have been received. Details of the issues identified and comments in response are provided at Attachment 1.

The modification to the DAM Plan is recommended in response to some of the submissions. These modifications are detailed in Attachment 1.

MODIFICATIONS TO DRAFT DAM PLAN

A number of minor modifications to the DAM Plan are proposed in addition to the changes that were identified by an assessment of the submissions.

These are:-

part 1.6 page 14 - last dot point amended and new dot point inserted

- A Draft DAM Plan was prepared and released by Council for public consultation and community feedback.
- Following assessment of submissions on the Draft DAM Plan, Council resolved to adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan July 2007.

Reason for change:- These changes recognise the completed process of the preparation of the DAM Plan.

Actions 7.1 and 7.2 - modify wording

- 7.1 Continue to publicise and patrol Council's parks and public areas to enforce and encourage people to comply with the dog **and** cat access to public places requirements.

7.2 Publicise the contents of Council's Order in relation to dogs **and cats** and their access to public places (in promotional material, website, signage and interactions with the community).

Reason to change:- Including reference to cats is consistent with the objectives and the purpose of these actions.

All of the modifications recommended are considered to be relatively minor and enhance and improve the DAM Plan.

A copy of the modified dam plan is attached. [Attachment 2]

CONCLUSION

Councillors should note that the DAM Plan is assessed and a progress report is provided to Council each year and the Plan is fully reviewed every three years.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan, dated July 2008, (as amended) is recommended for adoption.