

5.8 PREPARATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

(LOCAL 35:BG:SYL)

Ward : Whole Municipality

Responsible Director: Don Cameron

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the process and timeline for the preparation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2008.

INTRODUCTION

This report is to inform Council of the process and revised timeline for the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2008 - 2011. (DAM Plan)

BACKGROUND

Council was advised at its meeting on 28 August 2007 of the commencement of the development of the DAM Plan.

The consultant appointed, Ms Deborah Harrison from Harrison-Dowling Consulting, has withdrawn from the project due to ill health. Ms Virginia Jackson of Harlock Jackson Pty Ltd has been appointed to assist in the development of the DAM Plan.

This change of consultant has delayed the commencement of the process and has resulted in a reduced timeline.

The preparation of the DAM Plan is being overseen by a working group consisting of:-

- Ms Sharen Bradley, Manager Development and Statutory Services,
- Mr Howard Galvin, Coordinator Local Laws
- Ms Virginia Jackson
- Ms Jo Lindley, RSPCA
- Mr Brian Goyen, Coordinator Strategic Planning (Project Coordinator)
- Ms Susie Lau, (Administration Support)

THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAM PLAN

Section 68A of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 requires all Councils to prepare a DAM Plan. Council's DAM plan is due to the Department of Primary Industries by November 2008.

The process adopted for the preparation of the plan consists of four major components.

1. identification of issues.
2. preparation of a DRAFT DAM Plan

3. public consultation on the DRAFT DAM Plan
4. adoption of the DAM Plan

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Issues Paper

An issues paper has been prepared that identifies Council's current animal management activities and its performance. The paper also lists issues Council is aware of in respect of animal management.

The purpose of this paper is to generate discussion within the community about its ideas and requirements on domestic animal management. The paper is the basis for the focus groups and public forum discussions and is to inform people prior to their participation in this information gathering process. The copy of the Issues Paper is attached. [Attachment 1]

Public consultation for the identification of issues

Public consultation will consist of two Drop-In Days and four focus group sessions with stakeholders/interest groups.

The details of the Drop-In Days are:-

- Glen Waverley Monday 11 February 2008 3.30pm to 7pm
Foyer - Municipal Offices, 293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley
- Oakleigh Wednesday 20 February 2008 3pm to 7pm
Oakleigh Service Centre, 3 Atherton Rd, Oakleigh

The focus groups will include representatives from veterinarians, pet shop owners, dog training groups, friends groups of various parks and associations, and resident pet owners/nonowners. Attendance at the focus groups will be by invitation.

An article was published in the local newspapers circulating in Monash on 15 January 2008. This article outlined the process for preparation of the DAM Plan and invited expressions of interest from resident pet owners/nonowners to participate in the relevant focus group. The article also provided detail about the two Drop-In Days listed above.

The focus groups will meet between 11 February 2008 and 21 February 2008. Participants will be requested to complete a survey prior to attending the meetings. A copy of this survey is attached. [Attachment 2]

This survey is also available for general public comment and response. It is available for access on Council's website, from libraries, and Council's service centres. Copies of the survey have been provided to all veterinarian clinics for display, and completion by their customers.

Report to Council

Following completion of the preliminary public consultation process, a progress report is to be provided in March 2008 detailing the outcomes of that process. This information will be reported to a Council meeting in April 2008.

DRAFT DAM PLAN

The DRAFT DAM Plan will then be prepared in consultation with Council's Officers and it will be reported to Council for consideration prior to its public exhibition.

Public exhibition of the DRAFT DAM Plan will consist of:-

- an article in the Monash Bulletin which is circulated to all residents 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 process.

The DRAFT DAM Plan will be on exhibition for a period of four weeks.

It is anticipated that this process will be completed and a report provided to Council recommending adoption of a final DAM Plan to the Council meeting of 5 August 2008.