

Minutes for a hearing of the Policy & Regulatory Committee (to hear and consider submissions and make recommendations on the Proposed Waikato District Council Dog Control & Policy Review) held via Audio Visual Conference on **TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at 9.30am; **WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at 9:31 am and **THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022** commencing at 11:00 am.

Present:

Cr JD Sedgwick (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson
Cr JA Church
Cr C Eyre
Cr JM Gibb
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Cr RC McGuire
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Ms S Bourke (Community Safety Manager)
Ms C Pidduck (Legal Counsel)
Ms S Flay (Senior Communications Advisor)
Ms H Beaven (Corporate Planner)
Ms B Clarke (Corporate Planner)
Mrs G Kanawa (Democracy Team Leader)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Thomson/Church)

THAT the Policy & Regulatory Committee accepts the:

- a) apology for non-attendance from Cr Patterson; and
- b) apology from Cr Bech for absence on Council business.

CARRIED

P&R2202/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Gibb/Smith)

THAT the agenda for the Dog Control & Policy Review hearing of the Policy & Regulatory Committee held on Tuesday, 22 February 2022, Wednesday, 23 February 2022 and Thursday, 24 February 2022 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting.

CARRIED

P&R2202/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

REPORTS

Hearing for the Proposed Amendments to the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2015

Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received [*WDC2202/02 refers*]. The Corporate Planner provided an overview of the report and process for the hearings. The following discussion was held:

- The proposed Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Review was open for consultation from 1 December 2021 to 26 January 2022. There were 664 submissions received. Over the three days of hearing there will be 55 submitters heard

Resolved: (Crs Smith/McGuire)

THAT pursuant to section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Policy and Regulatory Committee consider all submissions and, where requested, hear submissions on the notified Proposed Amendments to the Waikato District Council Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2015.

CARRIED

P&R2202/03

Hearings – Verbal Submissions

The following submissions were presented, and submitters responded to questions:

Tracey Wilde (Submission ID 3219 & 2867, Page 83 & 247)

- Opposes permits for more than two rural dogs. Over last five (5) years, Council had received fifty-eight (58) complaints regarding dogs in rural areas. There were seven (7) problem households with only two properties that had more than thirty-five (35) dogs.
- The Animal Control Team should not be doing the work of the SPCA, as specified in the Dog Control Act. Out of 807 infringement notices in the whole district, only eleven (11) were for welfare concerns. Imposing a two (2) dog limit on rural properties is a disproportionate response.
- All farm dogs being good owners was disingenuous.
- Extra workload from the proposed permit will impact dog control team. Suggested time will be taken up looking for unregistered dogs.
- The Animal Control Team would need to do over nine hundred (900) inspections per year.
- To fund the additional workload, rates will need to go up or services reduced. The costs of the permit system had not been costed and provided to the public.
- Strongly oppose the reduction of offlead parks for dogs. Council had an obligation to provide recreation areas for dogs. Council needs to increase the numbers of off and on lead areas for dogs.
- The number of responses shown during consultation showed a strong community of dog owners in the district.

James Carter (Submission ID 3283, Page 35)

- Passions were running high regarding the proposed changes. New Zealand is a nation of animal lovers, noting a third of NZ households have a dog. The proposed bylaw and policy changes risks and impacted good dog owners.
- What was needed is a strong Animal Control Team to deal with negligent dog owners. A lot of rural dog owners already had two or more dogs, and that may be impacted if they had to gain consent from their neighbours for a permit.
- Dog owners move to rural areas to have more space for dogs. To limit the number of dogs for rural residents was disproportionate. Waikato District Council had a dog adoption policy, and this would be impacted if owners already have dogs.

- The proposed change would affect fostering, impacting charities and charitable people who would have to get a permit.
- Dog Exercise areas – There was an obligation that dogs have regular exercise. To reduce the number of dog exercise areas would affect people who do not have transport or the ability to travel further for offlead exercise areas.
- Dog owners were fearful – The proposed bylaw and policies does not do what was desired and needs redrafting with more input from dog owners. Farmers need to be exempt. Most farmers were excellent with their stock and their dogs but if you consider that all farmers were perfect that would be dangerous.
- Off-lead dogs should not conflict with sportsfields. Need to balance off-lead dog areas and organised/unorganised recreational activities.
- If there were welfare issues with farm dogs, the Animal Control Team could use the Dog Control Act to check the condition of dogs. The proposed bylaw does not add any additional assistance. The Dog Control Act gives the statutory ability to enter properties.
- Councillors asked Mr Carter if he had comes across a good bylaw in a district that was both urban and rural? Mr Carter noted that there was never a perfect bylaw. Bylaws were relevant to the local area. A good bylaw is only as good as the enforcement and Mr Carter was not aware of any exemplary examples.
- A good bylaw can deal with issues if it was well drafted. Good targeted patrolling can deal with many issues. Council had a good system in place but there needed to be operational consideration. Permits in rural areas will not succeed as hoped.

James Carter on behalf of Kayla Cox (Submission ID: 3075 Page 187)

- There had been 156 dogs found in neglectful condition but this was associated with seven (7) households. Rural permit would not ensure the ongoing welfare for dogs.
- Neglectful conditions should be investigated by the SPCA. Animal and dog welfare was best addressed through the Animal Welfare Act, not the Dog Control Act.
- No assurance had been provided to owners for the costs of permitting. It was unreasonable to add these additional costs to owners.
- The proposed policy and bylaw was badly thought through. Council should rollover the current bylaw, and investigate the issues with proper consultation with owners with a transparent process.
- Dogs should be allowed on-lead in cemeteries and not prohibited.
- Objected to any removal of dog exercise areas. The reduced number of dog exercise areas would impact the health of dogs in the district, as owners would not want to socialise their dogs as often if they had to travel further to do so.

James Carter on behalf of Julie Bedford-Pope (Submission ID: 3117 Page 160)

- The majority of dog owners were law-abiding. If Council had concerns for animal welfare, the existing bylaw, the Animal Welfare Act and Dog Control Act could be used to address welfare concerns.
- There had been a lot of stress to dog owners, with uncertainty for the cost of permits.
- Greater efforts should be made to address problematic owners.
- Councillors asked where in the proposed bylaw does it say that neighbours can oppose permits? Consent by the neighbour cannot be unreasonably withheld. It would become a judgement call for the dog control officer to permit. It was noted that the bylaw does not outline exactly that its included.

James Carter on behalf of Michelle Morland (Submission ID: 3078 Page 185)

- Does not support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy. The fifty-five (55) complaints related to seven (7) household should not impact the whole district.
- Regarding the proposed permits, how can Council expect people to be compliant, if neighbours had to consent to permits. Will there be an amnesty period of those who have more than two dogs? Submission raised questions regarding the impact of dogs visiting properties would have.
- Why would Council be considering reducing the number of offlead exercise areas? More facilities and improvements to existing facilities were needed.
- Banning dogs in cemeteries was wrong. The presence of dogs at cemeteries was subjective. Dogs visiting cemeteries could be carefully drafted in a bylaw but it would need to be enforced.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am and recommenced at 10:49am.

James Carter on behalf of Debra Campbell (Submission ID: 3305, Page 311)

- Does not support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy. Do not support the reduction in dog exercise areas.

James Carter on behalf of Jacqui Perves (Submission ID: 2331, Page 959)

- Does not support the proposed Dog Control Bylaw & Policy. Strongly opposes rural property permits for two or more dogs.
- Opposes consent from neighbours for the permit.
- Good dog owners should not be penalised and incur the cost of a permit.
- Dog Registration should be reduced if individual owns more than one dog.
- The closest dog exercise area was more than 15kms away from her home.
- Dogs should be allowed in cemeteries on lead to support people grieving.
- Did not support the proposals for dog exercise areas. Council should aspire to increase areas for offlead exercise. Offlead public areas had been successful in other districts.
- Dog ownership improves peoples mental health. Council should enhance dog ownership for local residents.

James Carter on behalf of Florence Purves (Submission ID 2322, Page 964)

- Strongly opposes the introduction of permits for more than two dogs on rural properties and the need for neighbours consents.
- The proposed bylaw and policy will not benefit dogs or owners.
- Strongly opposes the proposed prohibition of dogs from cemeteries. The Cemeteries Bylaw should be amended to allow dogs to visit.
- The district covers a large area and the submitter did not have a nearby dog exercise area. Existing dog exercise areas need adequate water, shade and waste bins. Open areas for offlead dog walking should be advertised.
- Cr Smith noted that restriction of dogs exercising on sportsfields was due to hygiene issues with people playing sport on the ground. While some people may not want the changes, there had been changes requested due to defecation by dogs on the sports ground.

James Carter on behalf of Robin Hutton (Submission ID 3164, Page 116)

- The proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy will impact the ability to foster dogs and look after whanau dogs in rural areas. If dog welfare was the basis for changes, then working dogs should be included.
- The permit system will reduce people registering their dogs.
- Education for dogs and dog owners should be promoted.

James Carter on behalf of Submission ID 3162 (Page 119)

- Opposes permits for two or more dogs on rural properties. Permits will not improve dog welfare.
- Opposes the proposed removal of dog exercise areas. The proposed bylaw needs to allow dog owners to have easy access to exercise areas.
- Noted concern that dog exercise areas tend to be in out of sight areas which can cause safety issues for vulnerable people. The reduction of dog exercise areas means people need to drive further, which is difficult at this time with expensive fuel prices.
- Te Kowhai Park is poorly fenced and needs to be improved for a onlead area. Whangarata Domain would be a good location for an offlead area. Onlead areas on main streets were important for training dogs.
- The proposed Dog Control Bylaw & Policy should be reconsidered.

James Carter on behalf of Janet Bardsley (Submission ID 3284, Page 324)

- Opposed the removal of dog exercise areas in Tamahere. Offlead areas need to be suitably sized with shade, water and waste disposal areas. Auckland and Tauranga had shared usage areas and Waikato District Council should follow suit. Council needs to actively engage with residents regarding any changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy.

James Carter on behalf of David Phipps (Submission ID 3111, Page 483)

- Does not support changes in the bylaw. The changes demonise good owners for the sake of bad owners. Does not support the policy, money needs to be changed to educate dog owners. More exercise areas were needed, especially with population growth. Areas for exercise needed to be better fenced with shade and water.

James Carter on behalf of Cellina Fraser (Submission ID 3054, Page 194)

- Does not support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy, particularly the removal of seven offlead exercise areas.
- Dog owners who currently break rules will continue to break the rules, and the Animal Control Team needs more resources to control this. The welfare of dogs should be at the root of any bylaw changes.
- Not enough detail was provided to the public for the reasons for the proposed changes to the bylaw.
- Supports option one (1) for Tamahere dog park.

James Carter on behalf of Kim Foster (Submission ID 3121, Page 472)

- Submitter always had more than two dogs on her rural property. She never had any complaints and abides by the rules. Main reason for many dog owners to move to rural areas was to have more than one dog.

James Carter on behalf of Kurt Parks (Submission ID 2708, Page 728)

- Does not support the proposed Dog Control Bylaw & Policy. The proposed changes will make life more difficult for law abiding dog owners. Resources should be directed to owners who have had complaints.
- Does not support proposed changes to dog exercise areas.
- Supports option one (1) for the Tamahere Dog Exercise Park.

James Carter on behalf of submission 2739 (Page 264)

- Does not support the changes to the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.
- Prefers option 3 for the Tamahere Dog Exercise Park.

James Carter on behalf of submission 2741 (Page 263)

- Does not support the changes to the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.
- Prefers option 3 for the Tamahere Dog Exercise Park.

James Carter on behalf of submission 3000 (Page 205)

- Does not support the proposed Dog Control Bylaw & Policy. Rural permits for more than two dogs is unfair, and gaining neighbour consent would cause significant problems.
- Documentation does not expand on the details of the policy. Does not support the dog exercise maps, it just creates more restrictions and Council needed to look at what could be done for dog owners. Becoming frustrated that Tamahere is getting a lot of funding and needs to be spread around the district.

James Carter on behalf of Nicola Starkey (Submission 3300, Page 317)

- Does not support the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy.
- There had only been a small number of the complaints regarding rural dogs.
- Neighbours giving consent to a permit for more than two dogs on a rural property was heavy handed. Such a move would result in less dogs being registered.
- Costings for the proposed rural permit had not been provided.
- Does not support the changes to the reduction of dog exercise areas. Exercise is crucial for dog welfare.
- Preferred option 3 for the Tamahere Dog Park.
- There needed to be more fenced offlead dog exercise areas in the district.

James Carter on behalf of Nicole Hinton (Submission 3288, Page 322)

- Does not support permits for more than two (2) dogs in rural areas. There were neglectful dog owners and they needed to be penalised, but other dog owners should not be penalised through the introduction of a permit. Permits would not work and would require significant administration costs.

Helen West for Huntly & District Kennel Association – Agility Club (Submission ID: 2967, Page 207)

- Ms West noted she was submitting in a personal capacity and as Secretary of the Huntly & District Kennel Association.
- There were 665 submissions against the proposed Dog Control Bylaw & Policy.
- There were only seven (7) properties causing issues relating to dog welfare. The protection of the public was the Council's responsibility, while the SPCA had responsibility for animal welfare under Animal Welfare Act.
- Dogs need exercise and socialisation, and people involved in dog agility competitions often had more than two dogs and these people should not be penalised. Would like to see more support for dog training courses.
- Objects to any proposed changes that restricts dog owners ability to exercise their dogs.
- What activities could Council be involved in to improve dog behaviour? There used to be financial benefits when registering a dog if it went to an obedience school.

Nicole Peacock (Submission ID 3006, Page 199)

- Ms Peacock noted that some rural owners do not register their dogs as they do not leave the property and questioned how could Council be aware of these dogs.
- Hunting dogs can be subjected to poor welfare due to abuse, lack of exercise and tied up by chains. However would Council find these dogs unless there were complaints?
- If the rural permit system for more than two dogs was implemented, property owners would likely hide their dogs and when they got new dogs they would not be registered.
- Ms Peacock questioned how Council would be aware of the welfare of farm dogs if they were exempt?
- Hunting dogs were not considered working dogs. Would Council or the dog owner classify the dog as a working dog?
- Ms Peacock questioned where the two dog limit for the rural permit came from, when a single dog could be considered a significant nuisance.

Dinsdale Hunting Club (Submission ID 3096, Page 496)

- 90% of the hunting clubs members live within the Waikato District.
- Strongly oppose permits for more than two (2) dogs in rural zones. Introducing permits for two or more dogs would not stop those who were already abusing their dogs, and penalises good owners.
- How would the proposed bylaw impact dog owners who have friends and whanau visiting with their dogs?
- Councillors asked how many dogs do pig hunting people take out hunting? On average 4-6. Hunters also need to include young dogs for training.
- Councillors asked how should Council know what a hunting dog is? Not hard to show proof that people were involved in an hunting organisation. 90% of pig dogs were tattooed or freezebranded. However freezebranding does not work on white dogs.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm and resumed at 12:59pm

Shaun Hazelton & Bruce Cameron for Federated Farmers (Submission ID 3200, Page 96)

- A lot of work had gone into the submission. Federated Farmers first engaged with the executive team, and then the membership.
- There were approximately 400 members in the Waikato district.
- Main concern was that farm dogs were well trained and were with their owners most of the time. Farmers also have contractors and vets visiting the farm where others can view the dogs and possibly make complaints if there were welfare concerns.
- Support the more than two (2) dogs permit in rural areas as long as working dogs were exempt. They were open to other alternatives. Retired farm dogs should be exempt from the permit.
- Supports the 18 month buy-in period.
- Councillors asked what was Federated Farmers view on hunting dogs as its not in the submission? The issue was compliance, you may be able to look at specific dogs but breeding is changing and can be difficult. It can be difficult to differentiate a working farm dog and a hunting dog.
- Cr Smith asked whether under nuisance section of the proposed bylaw that dogs used for the management of livestock could not be classified as a nuisance. Mr Hazelton noted it would be wise to include it in the bylaw.

Teresa Borrell (Submission ID 3123 & 3119, Page 154 & 158)

- Ms Borell was Chesapeake Bay dog breeder and trainer.
- Objects to proposed rural permit for over two (2) dogs. The proposed permit was based on a problem with seven (7) properties over five (5) years. The proposed bylaw and policy was discriminatory as it allows for working dogs but not competitions dogs.
- Councillors asked what was Ms Borell's views for an exemption for breeders? Ms Borell supported it but how would Council keep track of who was a breeder?
- Ms Borell was asked if she supported the permit system at all, and what number of dogs was considered acceptable? Ms Borell was opposed to all permits.

Mike Moss (Submission ID 3125, Page 153)

- Mr Moss was indifferent regarding the proposed changes to the bylaw and policy. The concern was that Council was looking to introduce new rules when the current rules were not properly enforced and addressed. Mr Moss provided an overview of a previous experience with a dangerous dog.

Bruce Cameron (Submission 3282, Page 59)

- Rural people care deeply for their dogs and were more than willing to pay significant costs to ensure the health of their dogs for their work on the farm.
- Mr Cameron was asked what parts of the proposed bylaw did he approve of? Supported working dogs being exempt of the permit. There needed to be measures to help neighbours who live next door to troublesome dogs in urban areas.
- Mr Cameron was asked how could Council help prevent rural properties being used for unsavoury reasons? The more than two (2) dog permit would help prevent these activities but it was important that enforcement was properly used.
- The number of dogs for the rural permit was arbitrary.

Adjourned at 1:48pm and resumed at 2:10pm

Darran Rowe (Submission 3100, Page 168)

- Mr Rowe was a canine behaviourist and was involved as a trainer for Companion Trainers NZ and a former director of SPCA Hamilton. At the time, it was proposed that SPCA and Hamilton Animal Control work together to undertake welfare checks under the Animal Welfare Act.
- The proposed rural permit for more than two dogs was being introduced solely on welfare grounds, and it would be better to deal with the welfare issues if the Animal Control Team and SPCA worked together investigate welfare concerns.
- Councillors noted that neighbours consent for the proposed permit for more than two dogs was not included in the bylaw or policy. Neighbours consent was referenced in the original permit form.
- A clear criteria had not been provided for what deems a dog owner suitable to be granted a permit for more than two dogs. The criteria needs to be clear so owners can meet the criteria.
- Some Animal Control Teams focus more on control and compliance, whilst others focus on education.

Stephan Hawkins (Submission ID 3192, Page 104)

- The proposed permits for more than two dogs would not address dog welfare issues on rural properties. Neglectful owners do not register their dogs so permitting wont be much help.
- Dogs were very important to their owners and Mr Hawkins would like to see Council work with other councils for better facilities.

Kirstie Bain (Submission ID 2943, Page 213)

- Ms Bain had three (3) dogs and previously owned seven (7). She had set up her property with good fencing for the dogs. She had been involved in the Waikato Obedience Club, and was an animal behaviourist.
- Education was key for dogs. Council does not provide any incentives for dog education. Limiting the number of dogs on rural properties would impact dog lovers, for those that breed dogs and have dogs of different ages.
- The proposed permit would not allow fostering or further adoption.
- Ms Bain opposed the permit for more than two (2) dogs.
- Dogs that don't get adequate exercise could be problematic.
- Would like to see proper enforcement of dogs that were offlead in onlead areas.
- Limiting the number of dogs on rural properties would only impact good dog owners. The people that the proposal was targeting likely do not have their dogs registered.
- Ms Bain was asked if she was under the impression that registration costs fund the Animal Control Team? Ms Bain was aware that the Animal Control Team was under pressure and under resourced. Ms Bain noted she does not mind registration costs going towards education.
- His Worship the Mayor noted that the Animal Control Team was funded heavily from the general rate.

Paul Robinson (Submission ID 3085, Page 181)

- Mr Robinson was a long term member of Dogs NZ and have been rural residents for 42 years. He had also served as the President of the New Zealand Gundog Club.
- Does not support the proposed permit for more than two (2) dogs on rural properties, but not opposed to a permitting process.
- Animal Control Officers making subjective decisions on permits would be very difficult. There would have to be a criteria in place to allow permits.
- Objects to neighbours providing consent for permits unless there was criteria associated.
- Have had seven (7) different dog runs and the occasional litter. Mr Robinson's kennel were fully insulated and air conditioned with dedicated areas for dog washing and bird screens.
- Supports penalties for those who abuse dogs.

- Members of Dogs NZ already have to comply with a code of conduct.
- Problems with the permit would arise when people need to care for dogs for other people in situations of illness, travel and death.
- Most clubs have a rescue fund and there would be times where people may want to exceed their permit number from time to time.
- In the proposed bylaw and policy, working dogs were exempt. Council had not provided any information regarding complaints relating to working dogs. There was a positive bias towards farmers.
- Boarding kennels were looking to be exempt, but not breeding kennels.
- Mr Robinson was asked if he would support an increase to dog fees to pay for better facilities? As a rural resident, it makes no difference but for urban dwellers it would have a positive benefit.

Adjourned at 2:51pm and resumed at 3:18pm.

Geneveive Rorke (Submission ID 3166, Page 113)

- People move to rural areas so they can have more than two dogs.
- Opposes the closing of a number of dog parks. It was important for owners to be able to socialise their dogs. Dogs learn social responsibility at exercise parks.
- Concerned that dogs wouldn't be allowed on sports grounds meaning they could not come along to sports games. There won't be anywhere to exercise dogs in Whatawhata.
- Ms Rorke owns a dog friendly café and had not had any issues with people bringing their dogs to her café.
- People who foster dogs should be exempt from the proposed permit as they provide an important service.
- Cr Smith asked if Ms Rorke was aware that the proposed restrictions for dog access to Whatawhata Domain and Te Kowhai Green was only limited to the playing surface? The reason for the restriction was due to hygiene issues. The bylaw was looking to cater to both sports players and dog owners.

Anne Cochrane (Submission ID 3189, Page 107)

- There were animal rescue farms that needed to be considered for exemption to the proposed rural permit. Often the dogs were old and abused and animal rescue farms provided peace and care to these dogs.
- Ms Cochrane asked if hunting dogs were included as working dogs, as hunting animals were used against pests such as wild pigs that harm native forests.
- There was a problem with animal control in Raglan. When there are regulations, they have to be enforced and people often ignore them. Some owners do not have control of their dogs when they were offlead.
- Ms Cochrane was asked how were animal rescue farms characterised? Animal rescue farms had to be registered with a relevant organisation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38pm until Wednesday, 23 February 2022 at 9:30am

The meeting was reconvened at 9:31am on **WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022.**

Present:

Cr JD Sedgwick (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson
Cr JA Church
Cr C Eyre
Cr JM Gibb
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Cr RC McGuire
Cr FM McNally
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Ms S Bourke (Community Safety Manager)
Ms C Pidduck (Legal Counsel)
Ms S Flay (Senior Communications Advisor)
Ms H Beaven (Corporate Planner)
Ms B Clarke (Corporate Planner)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

Craig Horan (Submission ID 3257, Page 74)

- Strongly opposes the rural permit for more than two dogs. The proposal would mean there would be one rule for one set of rural dogs owners, and one rule for other rural dogs owners depending if they were farm dogs or not.
- If the proposed bylaw goes through and a permit was required, and a dog owner gets a new puppy, would the owner need a new permit? – Yes, when there was an increase of dogs on the properties a new permit would be required.
- Mr Horan had spent over \$20,000 on his dog area on his properties. Mr Horan’s dogs had received intensive training to avoid kiwi and received Hydatid treatment.
- Dog owners don’t see many benefits from their registration costs.

Gary Ottman for New Zealand Pig Hunting Association (Submission ID 3278, Page 64)
Tabled Document (Attachment 1)

- The process for the proposed policy and bylaw was flawed.
- The neglectful dogs owners whom had received complaints did not have their dogs registered, so would not get a permit for them.
- Was there clear evidence that a permit for more than two (2) dogs would reduce the rate of neglect?
- The Animal Welfare Act allows the Animal Control Team to intervene in cases of neglect.
- It was Council's choice not to include hunting dogs as working dogs in the proposed bylaw and policy.
- There had been no cost benefit analysis for the permit system.
- 906 compliant rural dogs owners would be required to get permits to deal with seven (7) problematic dog owners.
- Mr Ottman was asked if hunting dogs were exempt from the rural permit, how do you classify them? It would be difficult as there were a number of breeds that were used. Generally hunting dogs were identified by brands.
- The Pig Hunting Association and its member clubs were happy to work with Council regarding the proposed bylaw and policy.

Pam Douglas for Huntly and District Kennel Association Inc
(Submission ID 3292, Page 22)

- Ms Douglas had been Vice President of the New Zealand Kennel Association and a successful breeder of collies.
- Concerned about the rural permit for more than two (2) dogs.
- Concern was that urban dog owners may not have adequate exercise areas.
- Clause six (6) of the proposed bylaw and policy should include agility shows after obedience shows.
- Clause 11 – removal of the rural zone properties where no limit applies. This would be intolerable for the 900 rural properties that would be affected.
- Country Living properties were allowed to have up to ten (10) dogs permitted, but rural properties would be limited to two (2) unless permitted.
- Would the permit system require house inspections? Yes it would.

- The Animal Control Team was running at a deficit of close to \$1million, how can 900 property inspections be included in the budget?
- How many dogs were uplifted from the seven (7) problematic properties were registered?
- How would the permit system help with the welfare of neglected dogs?
- If a permit was turned down, could owner appeal?

Anne Phippe (Submission ID 2869, Page 243)

- Ms Phippe had lived in the Waikato District since 1966. She had owned multiple pedigree dogs since the early 1970s. She was a specialist Labrador retriever breeder and the dogs had always been cared for and had never received a complaint.
- Strongly opposes the proposed bylaw and policy. Mainly concerned with the rural permit proposed for more than two (2) dogs and the reduction in dog exercise parks.
- Where was the evidence that rural permits were needed? Complaints should have been properly dealt with under the current bylaw. Permits would not have altered how incidents were handled. Problematic owners were unlikely to register their dogs or obtain a permit. There was a risk that compliant dog owners would not register their dogs, particularly if their dog numbers fluctuate.
- Opposed to the exclusion of farm dogs as their welfare isn't always the guaranteed, and neither should dog breeders as there were incidences where they were neglected too.
- Costs would escalate when dogs owners obtain another dog and would be required to obtain a new permit for the additional dog.
- Truly dangerous dogs would not receive attention as the workforce would not be able to cope with the additional workload enforcing permits.
- Council needs to recognise the important role that dogs have in peoples lives.
- Most North Island Council's don't restrict numbers on rural properties
- More dog exercise areas were needed, not less. If Council wants to ensure that dogs were properly cared for, it was critical that more exercise areas were available.
- Strongly recommended withdrawing the proposed bylaw and policy, particularly the rural permits.

Mayor Sanson left the meeting during the above item at 10:18am

Christa Krey (Submission ID 3106, Page 487)

- Main concern was the rural permits for more than two (2) dogs. Neglectful dog owners may have one (1) dog or twenty.
- There was an operating large deficit for the Animal Control Team. Many people struggle to make ends meet and the additional costs would harm dog owners.
- The proposal was vague regarding rural dog permit exemptions, there should be a clear list for exemptions.

Joanne Small for Kool K9 (Submission ID 3290, Page 27)

- Ms Small was a professional dog trainer and dog behaviourist. Had worked with over 200 dogs a year and had been in business for 20 years. Had competed in dog agility competitions for over 25 years.
- Any change to restrict dogs on rural properties would infringe on responsible dog owners lives just because seven (7) properties had been problematic. The current regulatory framework could enforce minimum standards of care and nuisance dog issues. The resources that would be committed to permitting should be used on education instead. The proposal will make no difference to the current problematic households.
- Removing seven (7) dog exercise areas will cause further problems. Responsible dog owners would have difficulty accessing new exercise areas. Onlead socialisation can lead to dog aggression very quickly. When dogs were offlead, they have the freedom to make their own decisions and be free to move about.
- Onlead walking is not as good for exercise compared to offlead walking.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am and resumed at 10:50am.

Helen Sansome for the Waikato Gundog Club (Submission ID 3002, Page 202)

- Club currently had 30-40 members and was affiliated to DogNZ. The club runs gundog trials and acts as training resource for owners of gundogs. Dogs were used for hunting birds, water fowl, rabbits and deers.
- Many members lived in rural areas to have suitable areas for their dogs. Some relied on access to public land to train their dogs. Dogs needed plenty of offlead exercise and be socialised. Good spacious offlead exercise areas were vital. If good spacious areas were available, they do not need to use sports grounds.
- The club opposes the restrictions for offlead exercise areas.

- The rural permit for two or more dogs was problematic and had caused a lot of concern amongst members. Limiting the number of dogs on rural properties in the district would not address neglect, aggressive dogs and unregistered dogs. This would make compliant owners go through more paper work.
- The selected owner process had not been mentioned in the proposed bylaw and policy. Ownership of registered dogs should receive some recognition to show they were committed in their dogs, whether they were used for sport or shows.

Peter Gunther (Submission ID 2562, Page 283)

- Objects to the rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. The difference between the number of dog related issues in urban areas compared to rural areas was vast. Heftier fines would be more helpful than a permit system.
- Most rural owners do not need dog exercise parks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18am and resumed at 11:42am

**Dr Alison Vaughan for the SPCA
(Submission ID 3313, Supplementary Agenda Page 13)**

- SPCA was concerned with the removal of seven (7) offlead dog exercise areas. There needed to be other offlead exercise areas in place of the areas removed. These areas were important for owners to meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. Onlead exercise were not a substitute for offlead exercise. Exercise helps reduce nuisance behaviour. Council needs to make it easier for people to do the right thing.
- Rural permits for two (2) or more dogs – SPCA was concerned about the unintended consequences of the permit with the impact of fostering and rehoming. This would impact the SPCA and dog pounds. Fostering was a vital source for rescue organisations. This proposed permits would penalise good dog owners.
- Community education and dog socialisation were important aspect for better welfare for dogs and the public.
- SPCA advocated for appealing menacing dogs for good behaviour.
- SPCA would be interested in working with Council in identifying suitable exercise areas.

His Worship the Mayor re-entered the meeting during the above item at 11:53am

Andrew Eatock (Submission ID 2377, Page 292)

- Mr Eatock chose to live in a rural area to have more than two (2) dogs. The proposed permit for more than two (2) dogs threatens future dog ownership. Even if a permit was granted, there was still the possibility it could be withdrawn.
- Concern noted that the criteria for rural permits may change.
- The rural permit policy may lead to dogs being abandoned.
- Implementing and maintaining the permit system for over 900 households will be very costly to Council and possibly to dog owners.
- There were only seven (7) problematic rural dog owners over five (5) years, from 900 households in total.
- Dogs needed to be socialised in offlead areas, and Mr Eatock was concerned that the new Tuakau dog exercise park would only be temporary as the site had been marked to become a cemetery in the future.
- Supports dogs being able to visit cemeteries.

Anna Dahlberg for Paws Awhile Animal Sanctuary (Submission ID 3295, Page 18)

- The sanctuary had approximately 50-60 animals at any one time, including 7-10 dogs which may be present. Dogs living at the sanctuary were typically referred from pounds or vets. The sanctuary works alongside other rescue sanctuaries, and the animals were often those that the pound does not want. There had been instances of farm dogs that needed rescuing. None of these dogs were vicious or dangerous. Sanctuary was well set up for dogs, with medicines and dieting needs.
- A rural permit system would significantly add strain on sanctuaries, and did not support exemptions for farmers.
- The sanctuary does not receive any subsidies from Government or Council, only donations.
- Dog parks were a place for isolated and elderly people to meet and socialise.

Katrina Daysh (Submission ID 3215, Page 92)

- Believed that the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs would not resolve welfare issues that Council were trying to address. Bad dog owners would continue to be bad dog owners. Ms Daysh had spent a large sum of money on her property to cater to her dogs. She currently only had two dogs but was looking to get a third dog. She also regularly takes care of her friends dogs.
- Would like to see Council assess properties for the proposed permit, otherwise it's just a rubber stamp process and revenue raising scheme.
- Would like to see more offlead dog exercise parks, not reduced. It's good to have dogs socialised.
- Cemeteries – Its meaningful to be able to bring dogs with owners to cemeteries for emotional support.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26pm and resumed at 1:01pm.

His Worship the Mayor left the meeting during the adjournment.

Judy Sargent (Submission ID 3279, Page 61)

- Ms Sargent was involved in the West Highland/Scottish Terrier club. She had taken her dogs for walks across the country. She had always registered her dogs.
- The pedigree dog community was strong and with good people.
- Dog temperament was important.
- She had not received any nuisance issues with her dogs in Gordonton.
- She had received compliments for her dog facilities from the Animal Control Team.
- Primary concern was neighbours giving consent for rural permits for more than two (2) dogs.

Richard Hoist (Submission ID 2290, Page 297)

- Basis of the changes to the proposed dog control bylaw and policy were due to complaints in rural areas. However the changes were disproportionate, with 58 complaints on seven (7) properties.
- There were already provisions in the Animal Welfare Act and existing bylaws for infringement. The infringement figure of \$300 needs to be reconsidered.
- Council should look to build their relationship with SPCA and MPI.
- Noted that there were no restrictions to rural dog numbers in other districts in the North Island.
- This proposal was the fourth time that permits had been considered, due to unpopularity of the scheme.
- Mr Hoise had four dogs, with one former working dog
- Mr Hoist was looking to undertake police dog type work, but patrol dogs would not be considered working dogs within the proposed framework.

Kim Orlando-Reep (Submission ID 2933, Page 216)

- Ms Orlando-Reep runs a drystock farm and was active in the dog agility community. The permit for more than two (2) dogs in rural areas would impact the dog agility community, particularly as dogs retire from competition. Agility dogs need offlead areas for exercise.
- Many people move to rural areas to have additional dogs.

Jenni Taris (Submission ID 2668, Page 276)

- Main concern was proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. Limiting owners to two (2) dogs wasn't ideal. Suggested the owners should be registered (not dogs) or a permit be granted where owners were required to undertake dog obedience training, and kennels and dog areas inspected. Neighbours should not be consulted for granting permits.
- Dog obedience was vital for good dog behaviour.
- Concern noted regarding backyard dog breeders.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm and reconvened at 2:06pm.

His Worship the Mayor reentered the meeting during the adjournment.

Kevin Whittock (Submission ID 2922, Page 221)

- Opposed to the reduction of offlead exercise areas. Council had a duty to the welfare of animals in the district. Dogs needed offlead exercise areas. It also gives the chance for dogs to be socialised.
- Opposed to the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. Permits would impact breeders, as more than two (2) dogs were necessary for breedings. Mr Whittock was not a professional breeder, and kept their dogs once they were retired from breeding. Concerned that only seven (7) problematic properties were causing the rest of rural dog owners having to be permitted.
- Council had not provided any proof as to why farm dogs were exempt.
- Concern noted regarding neighbour consent for rural permits.
- Most rural dog owners were compliant and good owners.
- Council should re-think the proposed bylaw and policy.

Paula Sullivan (Submission ID 3091, Page 178)

- The concern was that the proposed bylaw and policy was based on the numbers of callout over the five (5) year period. It would have been beneficial to see the statistics for the five years prior to the data provided.
- The proposed changes to the bylaw and policy was punitive against responsible dog owners. Reducing the number of dog exercise parks makes good dog ownership more difficult.
- Council had the tools under the Animal Control Act and Animal Welfare Act to deal with negligent ownership of dogs, but staff needed to be adequately resourced to enforce the rules.
- No research had been attached to the proposed bylaw and policy that it was the number of dogs that owners had that caused negligence. It was more likely that it was the owners that were responsible no matter the number of dogs they had.
- Does not support farm dogs being exempt from the proposed rural permit.

Catherine Hay (Submission ID 3296, Page 13)

- Ms Hay was a former lawyer and undertook prosecutions for Otago SPCA. Currently working as a dog trainer.
- Council had a responsibility to the people of the district for design fair policies and bylaws, with fiscal responsibility to ratepayers.
- Dogs needed offlead exercise areas to meet their cognitive and physical needs. If those needs were not met, it impacts the community with nuisance dog behaviour and poor wellbeing.
- Both the proposed rural permits for more than two (2) dogs and the reduction of exercise areas harms the community. For the proposed permit, Ms Hay offered a solution. Clause 5.3 deals with nuisance and gives Animal Control Officers a number of tools such as limiting the number of dogs. It would help deal with issues both rurally and in the urban environment.
- Rural permits would take resources away from a problem that does not need fixing. The proposed permits had not been costed so not particularly wise.
- The reduction of offlead exercise areas would likely increase nuisance behaviour, and make dogs less likely not to be socialised. Making those offlead areas harder to access, it makes it more difficult for dogs owners to access suitable dog exercise sites.
- Onlead exercise is not a sufficient alternative to offlead exercise.
- Dog ownership should be made easier by Council, not harder.
- Te Kowhai Green. The closest dog park would be in Horotiu despite growth in Te Kowhai, which makes access to the amenity more difficult and more unlikely that dogs would get exercise as often.

The meeting adjourned at 2:44pm until Thursday, 24 February 2022 at 11:00am

The meeting was reconvened at 11.00am on **THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022.**

Present:

Cr JD Sedgwick (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor, Mr AM Sanson
Cr JA Church
Cr C Eyre
Cr JM Gibb
Cr SL Henderson
Cr SD Lynch
Cr RC McGuire
Cr NMD Smith
Cr LR Thomson
Cr CT Woolerton

Attending:

Ms S O’Gorman (General Manager Customer Support)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Planning and Policy Manager)
Ms S Bourke (Community Safety Manager)
Ms C Pidduck (Legal Counsel)
Ms S Flay (Senior Communications Advisor)
Ms H Beaven (Corporate Planner)
Ms B Clarke (Corporate Planner)
Mr M Horsfield (Democracy Advisor)
Ms G Shaw (Democracy Advisor)

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

Helen Sansome (Submission ID 2947, Page 212)

- Ms Sansome took pride in her dogs being sociable.
- Was there a need for change regarding the proposed rural permits for more than two (2) dogs? The proposed permit had caused alarm in the rural community.
- Over five (5) years, there had been 156 cases of neglect, 58 complaints which had involved seven (7) households. How can the proposed permitting system deal with these non-compliant dog owners. These people were highly unlikely to obtain a permit.
- How would the Animal Control Team undertake inspections of over 900 properties that had more than two (2) dogs in 18 months during the grace period? No information had been provided regarding budgeting and how the Animal Control Team would deal with the additional workload.

- There should be incentives provided if dogs had received education when it comes to dog control registration costs, rather than penalisation. Other Councils had discounted registration costs for responsible owners, and owners who were associated with a affiliated club.
- Cr Eyre asked Ms Sansome what other councils were providing incentives to dog owners? Ms Sansome noted the Matamata-Piako District Council.
- His Worship the Mayor noted that incentives cost Councils and ratepayers money, including non-dog owners.

Jan Eatock (Submission ID 3041, Page 196)

- Ms Eatock presently had eight (8) dogs and had been granted selected owner status. She exhibits at dog shows and had taken part in agility shows.
- As a breeder, Ms Eatock was responsible for dogs adopted out during their lifetimes and would take dogs back if needed. Living on a rural property, Ms Eatock had taken care of other peoples dogs.
- Ms Eatock runs a facebook group for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and provides information on caring for the breed, events, along with rehoming and fostering.
- Opposes the introduction of the rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. The permit would make it more difficult to rehome dogs and care for other dogs. It would affect her hobby with additional costs.
- Concerned with the possibility that neighbours would have to consent to the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs.
- People were seeing the value of dogs as an additional part of the family. The reduction of offlead areas was unnecessary and doesn't make sense when the district was growing. Dogs needed to interact with other dogs and people to be socialised.

Camilla Cameron (Submission ID 3289, Page 28)

- Ms Cameron was a Tuakau resident and had two (2) dogs.
- A people friendly community was a dog friendly community. Dog behaviour was connected to human behaviour. Dog ownership was growing in New Zealand and it was important to recognise this growth. If we want to maximise the benefits of dog ownership and minimise nuisance it was important to provide exercise areas.
- It was difficult to understand the criteria for changes to an offlead dog exercise area. None of the four parks in Tuakau were designated as a specific dog exercise park. Dogs and people can happily share spaces without concerns. When there is an incident involving dogs and people, a change to policy needed to be well thought through, not be kneejerk reactions. A set of principles should be developed with the public for dog exercise areas.

- Local people know their areas best. Dogs need safe spaces to learn to socialise. Large safe areas were needed to train dogs as backyards weren't suitable.
- Cr Gibb notes that dog education costs money and that Council would love to have more dog exercise parks but it costs money. Ms Cameron was asked if there was a fund for dog parks with a targeted rate for registered dogs, would people be happy to pay that? Ms Cameron would like to see development contributions used for dog parks, along with a user-pay scheme.
- It was important to have shared spaces, and have community input. Existing dog exercise areas should have improved amenities such better fencing.

Mary Lyall-Brennan (Submission ID 3157, Page 128)

- Seven (7) properties had been found with neglected dogs. The Animal Control Team needs to work with the SPCA to address these situations. 156 dogs were found in neglectful conditions. A rural permit for more than two (2) dogs would not have been helpful in these situations as they were unlikely to be registered.
- Previously policy reviews that included permits were not successful.
- A very large majority of the 664 submissions opposed permits.
- How can Council support the proposed rural permits under welfare grounds when Council was removing dogs parks?
- There had not been a detailed business case for the proposed rural permits. Noted that the Animal Control Team was running close to a \$1million deficit.

Sarah MacDonald (Submission ID 2884, Page 241)

- As a rural dog owner, the two (2) dog limit was heavy handed and burdened good dog owners with additional costs for the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. Council's own statistics show 156 dogs were in poor condition over five (5) years. Neglect in the district was very low with a strong likelihood that the reports of neglect were from the same dogs and same owners. The permit would not likely stop problematic owners.
- Ms MacDonald noted she doesn't use dog exercise areas as she only had one dog and lives rurally.
- The proposal for dog exercise areas in Tamahere was not very well thoughtout. The options look small, unattractive and won't receive much use.
- His Worship the Mayor asked Ms MacDonald how she would feel about a user pay system for a dog exercise area. Ms MacDonald was opposed to the idea.

Richard Shepard (Submission ID 2901, Page 234)

- Concerned about the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs and the reduction of dog offlead exercise areas. There needs to be more dog exercise areas.
- The proposed rural permit system would not save dogs from being mistreated.
- The number of dogs an owner had does not impact the abuse rate.
- Farm working dogs should not be exempt.
- Many people buy rural properties to have additional dogs. The permit system would only capture responsible dog owners.
- The proposed rural permits will just be ignored and will lead people not to register dogs.
- How will the proposed rural permits be enforced?
- Large dog exercise areas were important to have a controlled and safe environment for exercise and socialising.
- His Worship the Mayor noted that the dog park in Horotiu was not owned by Council and that Affco did not renew the contract for the park. Mr Shepard noted that Council needed to create more dog exercise areas to replace the areas removed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm and resumed at 1:02pm.

Giselle Jeannes (Submission ID 3140, Page 146)

Tabled Item (Attachment 2)

- Ms Jeannes was a pedigree dog breeder, Secretary/Treasurer of the Hamilton Kennel Club and Treasurer of the Great Northern Siberian Husky Club.
- 9088 dogs registered to rural properties in the district. These dog owners pay collectively \$490,000 on registration fees. Rural properties account for 0.31% of total dog related complaints. Rural dog owners were paying a significant portion of the Animal Control budget to address complaints not related to rural dog owners. Rural dog owners should receive a rebate for their very little use of Animal Control Officers time.
- Council already had the tools to deal with welfare concerns.
- Ms Jeannes submitted a LGOIMA request regarding complaints associated with farm dogs and working dogs but was not provided with the information. Additionally, Ms Jeannes requested further information regarding the reasonings for the proposed rural dog permit but received no response.

- There had been 58 complaints involving 156 dogs and seven (7) properties on rural properties, and out of total of 17,046 across the district in the last five (5) years.
- Previously Federated Farmers opposed the permit for more than two (2) dogs on rural properties and had proposed that farm working dogs were exempt.
- Ms Jeannes did not see the logic that the proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs will ensure dog welfare.
- Council needed to reconsider the rural permit for more than two (2) dogs and engage with various dog related clubs to determine where the real issue lies.

Phil Lang (Submission ID 3314, Supplementary Agenda Page 24)

- The Te Awa Reserve was well used and appreciated by the community.
- The proposed option for a dog exercise area at Te Awa Reserve would require the removal of the playground.
- The proposed dog exercise area at Tamahere Park had good sealed parking with easy access and would be fenced. It would not be displacing the playground at the reserve. The proposal at Tamahere Park would be less intrusive to the wider reserve than the option at Te Awa Reserve.

Name withheld - (Submission ID 3114 check, Page 162)

- Council needs to foster dog ownership in the community and not restrict where dogs can go or reduce the number of dog offlead exercise zones.
- Opposes the rural permit for more than two (2) dogs. The submitter had been involved in dog agility groups and the most people in the dog agility community have more than two (2) dogs. The permit would reduce the ability for households to foster dogs. This would lead to more dogs in pounds adding additional strain on Council.
- The submitter lived in a rural location. Its difficult to walk dogs on the road so frequently visits dog exercise parks. With the reduction of the number of dog exercise parks, owners would have to travel further to access the parks and not take them there as often due to lack of time or due to petrol costs.
- Dogs that were not exercised and bored and would cause more nuisance issues such as barking and breaking out of property.
- The parks in Te Kowhai and Whatawhata were underutilised. Cr Smith noted that they were removal dog access from those parks just on sports grounds due to hygiene issues. Dogs can be on a lead around the perimeter of the parks.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm and resumed at 2.06pm.

Lot Hawkins (Submission ID 3130, Page 151)

- Council should work with ratepayers collaboratively regarding the proposed rural permits for more than two (2) dogs. Dogs need to be able to socialise with other dogs and people.
- Thames Coromandel District Council allowed dog access to beaches before 9am. This concept should be used for local parks, where dogs were allowed offlead on parks before 9am.
- Both options for a proposed dog exercise area in Tamahere were too small for big dogs.

Roger Drower for Hearings Dogs for Deaf People NZ (Submission 2701, Page 269)

- Concerned about dogs being present in CBD areas. There was a high incident rate of service dogs being attacked in CBD's.
- Mr Drower noted his opposition to owners with service dogs having to notify the Council that they can enter shops.
- Noted service dog owners received a lot of intimidation and bullying.
- Mr Drower would like to see more education for businesses, schools and children about dog safety of dogs and service dogs.
- Council could help educate local businesses about service dogs.

Heather Westerby-Jones (Submission 3122, Page 155)

- Te Kowhai Park was the only offlead dog area in Te Kowhai.
- The Te Kowhai area was experiencing more growth, and you would need a vehicle to travel to the next nearest dog exercise area in Horotiu. Ms Westerby-Jones noted there were often unsociable dogs at Horotiu.
- Why was Te Kowhai Park being restricted to dogs when there's only one sports game a week? The park was useful for training as there was more space to move around compared to other busier areas.
- There was not a lot of instances of dog waste on the Te Kowhai park. There has only been a few instances of people not picking up waste from their dogs at Te Kowhai Park. Suggested that 'guardians' can keep an eye on people who weren't picking up their dogs' waste.
- Education was important to teach dogs to be sociable in a human environment.
- Would like Animal Control to work more closely with Dogs NZ and local dog clubs.

Sue Robertson for Tamahere Community Committee (Submission 3249, Page 80)

- The Tamahere Community Committee wants an offlead dog park in Tamahere. The committee consulted the local community and worked with the Animal Control Team for what was required.
- Te Awa Park does have erosion issues. The Committee would like to have both options (Te Awa Reserve & Tamahere Park) with dog exercise areas with fences separating the exercise area from the playground. Out of the two options, Tamahere Park would be preferable but it would have to be fenced.
- The committee also an area near Tamahere Reserve on Tauwhare Rd as a dog exercise area. Staff had said that area was too big to be fenced, but it could be reduced to a smaller area.
- It was important that dogs were socialised. People who were using walking and cycling tracks like the idea of their dogs running alongside them on those tracks.
- Cr Smith asked Ms Robertson if the specified area at Tamahere Park could be made bigger? Ms Robertson noted that that it could, but could be extended further toward the community hall.

Keith Sharrock (Submission 3101, Page 164)

Tabled Item (Attachment 3)

- Mr Sharrock lived next to Te Awa Reserve. The Reserve and the playground was well used. They strongly oppose Te Awa Reserve being used as a dog exercise area despite being dog owners. Mr Sharrock supported the Tamahere Park option.
- Te Awa Reserve was small and households closeby. The playground was well used and maintained, with visitors from across the wider areas.
- The carpark at Te Awa Reserve was small, and if a dog park was located there it would cause traffic problems.
- Te Awa Reserve was used for a variety of things, such as exercise and social activities.
- Option two (2) = Tamahere Park. Tamahere Park extends 60 metres. The park only had one nearby house and there was ample extension opportunities. It is centrally located in Tamahere and well connected by roads and paths. There was a large carpark with accessibility.

Cr Eyre left the meeting at 3:00pm during the above item.

The hearing was adjourned at 3:10pm and resumed at 3:31pm

Fiona Teat (Submission 3286, Page 34)

- Ms Teat was an ew resident to Tamahere. There was a good community of dog owners in Tamahere who gather together during weekday mornings.
- The Tamahere Park was too small if there were a lot of dogs using the area. It was important that dogs can socialise and local owners were good at cleaning up after their dogs. A large area was important to allow the dogs to roam and move.
- Ms Teat supported having regulated times for offlead exercise, such as early in the morning when the weather is cooler.

Geoffrey Henderson (Submission 3266, Page 71)

- Opposed to Te Awa Reserve being used as a dog exercise area. Mr Henderon frequently visits Te Awa Reserve. It was an incredible amenity in the area, with no graffiti or rubbish issues. It was an ideal location for families.
- Support option two for the proposed Tamahere dog exercise park (Tamahere Park).

Amanda Banks (Submission 3187, Page 109)

- Ms Banks was concern with the two options for the proposed Tamahere dog exercise areas. She was opposed option one (1), Te Awa Reserve option and supports option two (2) Tamahere Park.
- Te Awa Reserve was a great community amenity. If Te Awa Reserve was made into a dog park, the fencing required would reduce the usability of the park. Additionally, fencing would reduce access to the Waikato River through Te Awa Reserve.
- Tamahere Reserve was a better option as there was better accessibility for parking.
- Only dog owners in the Tamahere area were consulted for the options for the proposed Tamahere dog exercise area. The removal of the playground at Te Awa Reserve was not consulted with the wider community who did not have dogs.

Glenys Round (Submission 3144, Page 143)

Tabled Item (Attachment 4)

- Ms Round lives on Te Awa Rd.
- Te Awa Reserve was previously a paddock until it become a reserve. The park was on a quiet one way dead end road, with a sharp bend and no berm on the road. The carpark was small with only six parks and parking was already an issue. Frequently, cars will park on the side of the road, partially impeding traffic. It's often dangerous when people were getting in and out of their cars. If Te Awa Reserve was turned into a dog exercise park there would be much more traffic.
- There were well established trees on the reserve and a well maintained children playground with picnic tables. The playground will be removed if a dog exercise area was built and there were no toilets at the reserve.
- The area was very sandy and home to pests such as rabbits which often need poisoning. This would provide a hazard to dogs.
- Tamahere Park had ample parking, toilets and shade.

Cr Gibb left the meeting during the above item at 3:00pm.

Fiona Robertson (Submission 3291, Page 23)

- The proposed rural permit for more than two (2) dogs should be viewed from a business perspective. For example people would move out of the district to be able to have more than two (2) dogs.
- Education was important for the community and for dogs. There needed to be better education regarding where dogs could go offlead and for picking up dog waste.
- Wellbeing was important. Anxiety is a problem in the community and dogs help children and adults feel more relaxed. COVID had seen higher dog owner and people were spending more time at home with their dogs
- Opposed the reduction of dogs exercise parks. Dog owners should received a discount for registration due to the reduced amenity.

Good Morning Madam Chair, Mayor Sanson and Councillors

I'm not going to bore you with reading my submission as you have already done that, but rather highlight on some points as well as items brought up over the last 2.5 days of presentations (yes I've tuned in to them all being lucky to be able to work from home at the moment).

I'm a pedigree dog breeder, DNZ member, DNZ & International conformation show judge. I'm also the Secretary/Treasurer for Hamilton KA as well as Treasurer for the Great Northern Siberian Husky Club. Therefore my passion is breeding health tested pedigree dogs, showing and sled racing.

There are 9088 dogs registered to rural properties, assuming all are SOP owners that's \$490K in registration fees – 60% of the income for Dog Control, yet we account for 0.31% of the complaints – seems us law abiding rural multi dog owners are funding a huge portion of the animal control budget used for the remaining 99.6% of complaints. Seems like we should be pushing for more rebates considering our very low use of AC officers time, but you want to permit us if they have more than 2 dogs – WHY? This is the question which has been asked many times and no logical or definite answer has been given except “it's another tool to be used in issuing infringements” or “for animal welfare” for 0.31% of the complaints? I'm still asking WHY? Who is driving this, the community or council? 660 submissions have been received, excluding exercise areas, how many are in favour of permitting rural properties? Even Paula, who is not a dog owner said in her submission yesterday afternoon she cannot find any evidence why this is required or what it's going to achieve. Council already has these tools in the tool box, so to me the problem does not sit with rural multi dog owners. As for welfare – council already has the power to act if there are welfare concerns, or call in the appropriate agencies. Information has been requested re the number of complaints involving farm or working dogs which has been denied due to too much work to find this out, however for council to know without a doubt that there were 58 complaints involving 156 dogs and 7 rural properties, the details of the other complaints must be known otherwise where do those numbers come from, it's a mathematical impossibility to know a portion of a certain number without knowing the entire number. To put this in context there have been a total of 17046 complaints in the last 5 years (3529, 3374, 3470, 3619, 3054) and 58 are for multi dog rural properties 0.34% in 5 years, however council wishes to permit these owners for “welfare” reasons. How are you going to handle the remaining 16988 complaints without the extra tools of a permit for 1 & 2 dog properties or for those unregistered dogs?

Back in 2007 when this issue was raised and included farm/working dogs in the permit proposal, FF came out swinging against it and the proposal was dropped. Suddenly the new proposal now excludes farm/working dogs and has the full support of FF, however when asked why they think it's a good idea to permit rural owners they couldn't answer that and veered off into talking about reverse sensitivity and people moving into rural areas moaning about farm noise (I can guarantee multi dog owners are not going to be the complainants – we all live here for the rural lifestyle with animals and farm noise). FF say all farmers look after their farm dogs extremely well and their vets will attest to that, I'm pretty sure my vet will attest to the fact as a multi dog owner I look after my dogs extremely well, so is that evidence for exclusion? We heard from the Anna at the Animal Sanctuary that she takes in farm dogs that have been neglected on a regular basis yet Council maintains farm/working dogs are well looked after, Tracey Oakes maintains most rural dogs are well looked after, so again where's the logic – all dogs should be treated equally if animal welfare is the basis. If the farm/working dogs are so well treated then why are farmers against a property inspection and free permit within the next 12 or 18 months – because it's a stupid idea and complete waste of resources. If you excluded gundogs, pig dogs, hunting dogs, DNZ breeders, Agility & Obedience competitors, foster and rescue groups they would most likely also support the proposal, that doesn't leave too many properties to permit in the end. The news article from 2007 stated Council did not engage with any farmers, dog clubs, hunting groups, societies or animal interest groups prior to asking for submissions, here we are 15 years later and the exact same thing has occurred, except it seems “discussions” have been held with FF and agreement reached that they support this by-law and be left out of rural permitting (in their submission on Monday it was said “Allan when we discussed this last week”), so even if this was not an official consultation there is most definitely an element of bias and discrimination against a group of owners with 0.31% of complaints per year and overwhelming support from FF even though they acknowledged the majority of councils around NZ have no limits on the number of rural dogs. Considering FF is a nation wide group, why do they think rural dog owners in the Waikato District need permitting as opposed to all other rural dog owners throughout the country? Maybe us multi dog owners need to take on more

retired working dogs as we won't require permits for them as FF has requested – no permits for life on working dogs (is this because some farmers retire to lifestyle blocks with a few dogs?) So the reality is I can have 6 retired working/farm dogs with no permit but my 4 pedigree Siberian huskies will require a permit? If the hunting dogs are included then my Parson Russell Terriers of which I've bred dogs for DOC work, private contractors for feral cat control and other working purposes will also not require a permit, so the line starts getting a bit blurred.

Every rural dog owner that has an SOP (for which we paid \$25) has already had a property inspection, is fully fenced and have at least the basics as set out in the Animal Code of Welfare, does this mean you have no faith in the staff that have already carried out these inspections? 900 properties will need inspecting at 3 per day for 300 working days which means 1 ACO will be removed from doing the real work in dealing with the remaining 3518 complaints. Where's the logic in this, there isn't any. Again I ask who is driving this, the community which you represent or someone on the Council?

One of the councillors asked for examples of councils where they have a good dog control by-law – look at South Taranaki DC – they go so far as offering all rural dog owners big discounts as this is a group that do not cause dog control issues even with unlimited numbers in a dominant farming community. The same for our neighbours at Matamata Piako DC, unlimited rural ownership and then individual rebates for responsible owners per dog. Full rego starting at \$118, no complaint rebate \$35, Desexed/working/DNZ registered dog (you have to provide proof or sign a working dog declaration) \$30, Responsible Owner \$15 leaving a fee of \$38 per dog for responsible rural owners regardless of number. The next neighbour over Hauraki offer a rebate for owners with multiple dogs, from the 4th dog up it's \$35/dog regardless no conditions, no rural limit, why does WDC think the multi dog rural owners here are worse than those in neighbouring districts?

On 6th January 2022 I emailed a request for information under the LGOIMA asking a few questions. I received an acknowledgement and then a reply saying WDC is to respond within 20 working days – this would've been 28th January after submissions had closed, but we are now a further 18 working days later and still no information has been forthcoming – it does make me wonder if I'm scratching in a patch that has sufficient evidence to prove that permits limiting rural dog owners to 2 dogs is pointless or that working/farm dogs should be included.

I live next to 43 Bone Road, Huntly – we all detest puppy farmers and animal hoarders and in April 2021 35+ dogs and puppies were uplifted from this address when the owner passed away. She was known to both AC and SPCA – yet was free to carry on breeding dogs that lived in pig pens like enclosures 3 or 4 to a pen or housed in garden sheds. There was no power or running water to the shed they lived in and yet this was deemed appropriate for them to keep and care for 35+ dogs, unknown number of horses and sheep in such a poor way they had to be slaughtered.

Were the dogs registered? If not, why not?

If yes, were these dogs registered as working/farm dogs given the property is in excess of 20ha – if so then there's excellent grounds why all dogs should be included in permitting for animal welfare reasons.

How many complaints had been received for this property over the last 5 years?

What actions were undertaken?

Is this property one of the 7 and the dogs part of the 156?

I'm keen to know how having a permit for this property would've made AC job more successful because obviously it wasn't.

I asked for actual scenarios explaining how having a permit would've made a difference to the outcome of cases so we can understand the why's and see how these are going to work – I suppose with such a tiny percentage of cases to choose from may have made this task difficult.

Considering council has withheld this information I still require the answers to my official request, however overdue it may be.

I suggest council go back to the drawing board on the unnecessary, time wasting permit proposal and engage in conversation with pedigree breed clubs, breeders, gundog clubs, pig hunting clubs, obedience & agility clubs, dog

trainers, boarding kennels, various rescue groups, animal sanctuaries and other dog groups and find out where the real issues lie and what they want to achieve and how we as dog lovers can perhaps help.



23rd February 2022

New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc
P. O. Box 3981
Christchurch 8140

Dog Control Policy and Bylaws Consultation
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742
consult@waidc.govt.nz

Re: Waikato District Council proposed Dog Control Bylaw 2015 and Dog Control Policy 2022

Please see as follows a copy of my oral submission delivered today

Oral submission to WDC re Waikato District Council proposed Dog Control Bylaw 2015 and Dog Control Policy 2022

1. Flawed premise

There is a problem with Dogs being neglected in Rural areas in Waikato district that requiring people to have a permit for more than two dogs will fix the problem.

Quantifying the problem:

The proposed change in policy and permit requirement is based on

58 complaints out of a total of 17,046 (.34%) over the past 5 years

involving 7 out of 913 properties (.76%) 906 compliant properties will require a permit

having 156 unregistered dogs experiencing neglect out of a total of 9088 registered dogs in the rural area (1.71%) but in reality, a lower percentage if you include those unregistered dogs as well

The Council contends that is a significant number, statistically it is not. In fact, it is the opposite

Of note also is that the WDC saw many of the dogs multiple times and yet allowed dogs to remain on the properties in question. This raises questions about the degree of the neglect that was observed.

2. Flawed Rationale

- (i) People in rural areas with more than 2 dogs are more likely to neglect them. Requiring them to have a permit will allow the Council to monitor them more closely. In the cases used as evidence by the WDC the persons were non-compliant to start off with and I would suggest that given the dogs were unregistered in the first place had there been a requirement for a permit they would not have applied for one either. I contend that people who have 2 or less dogs are just as likely to neglect them as someone who has three dogs.
- (ii) Similarly having a one-off permit will not provide any ongoing ability to monitor the dogs. If someone has a propensity to neglect their dogs they are certainly not going to exhibit that when applying for a one off permit. It is more likely to occur subsequently. Council staff will again rely on the public to bring it to their attention irrespective of the permit requirement.
- (iii) Is there clear evidence that the requirement for a permit to have more than two dogs in the urban/country setting has significantly reduced cases of neglect in those areas.
- (iv) That staff are unable to Act against persons neglecting dogs in rural settings without the proposed permit. Simply Not true there is a whole Act of parliament called the Animal Welfare Act that can be used. I have been an expert witness for the SPCA in animal welfare cases and the Act has plenty of teeth.
- (v) Hunting Dogs cannot be exempted because the Council chose to exempt working dogs and hunting dogs are not included in that definition. Choosing to exempt working dogs does not prevent the Council exempting hunting dogs
- (vi) The Council contends that owners of working dogs will not neglect them and therefore do not require a permit. However, if that same trustworthy person also has two jack Russell's and a Labrador they become a potential problem and therefore require a permit. Clearly not true
- (vii) I have not seen any cost benefit analysis for this proposal. I suspect the cost for the Council to process each permit including visiting each property will be much greater than \$60 also given it will be free for the first 18 months.

Summary

The premise for the proposed Policy and By Law is not supported by the data and the rationale for it is flawed.

As the Councillors will have seen by the number of submissions against this proposal the majority of your constituents don't want it so we submit you should reject the proposed changes and go back to the drawing board. Correctly analyse the problem and make sure any proposed actions will actually correct it to a significant degree.

Follow up actions:

NZPHA to research how other Councils deal with this issue and how hunting dogs might be able to be identified.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Ottmann', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Garry Ottmann

Secretary NZPHA

027 221 8337

admin@nzpighunting.org.nz

Te Awa Reserve should remain a well-used community recreation reserve and playground

*Reasons why
Tamahere Park (SE corner) is far more suitable
for the proposed Dog Exercise Area*

Prepared by Keith Sharrock,
65 Te Awa Rd, Tamahere (directly adjoining Te Awa Reserve)

Good afternoon. I'm Keith Sharrock. Thanks for this opportunity to speak to you. My wife Carmen and I have enjoyed living right next door to Te Awa Reserve for the past 27 years, and have seen it transformed from a bare paddock into a well-used and valued community recreation reserve and playground. We are strongly opposed to it becoming a fenced off, dedicated Dog Exercise Area, despite being dog owners ourselves.

We are convinced that the SE corner of Tamahere Park is far more suitable for this purpose, for reasons that I would like to present to you now.

This 8 minute presentation will support and supplement our written submission. I'll happily answer questions on both at the end.

Option 1: Te Awa Reserve

- 80 x 50 m within perimeter of trees
- Two adjoining houses, and two across road
- No dog-proof fences
- Steep bank and path to river on western boundary
- Picnic table at top of river path
- Playground in SE corner
- Small unsealed carpark (4-5 car) in NE corner



Here we see Te Awa Reserve looking diagonally right across it towards the SE corner. It is smaller than indicated by the incorrect scale at the bottom of Map 29 supplied by Council, offering a maximum of 80 by 50 meters of grassy area within the perimeter of trees.

There are two adjoining houses, and two others opposite, across the narrow road. Our living room is just 8 m from the southern boundary.

Our boundary fences are not dog-proof. There are no fences at all on the other two, longer boundaries.

A steep bank and well-used path down to the river, with a picnic table at the top, are on the western boundary.

There is a playground in the SE corner and a small unsealed carpark for 4-5 cars in the NE corner. These last two features merit further discussion.

Te Awa Reserve Playground

- ~ 20 years old, clean, safe, well maintained
- Well-used by young families from a wide area (e.g. this playgroup from Tauwhare/Matangi)
- Preferred by many over Tamahere Park playground because:
 - Shady trees
 - More peaceful
 - Better swings
 - Bark vs rubber
- "Hidden gem!"



The playground is 20 years old, clean, safe and very well maintained. It is well-used by young families from a wide area. For example, on Anniversary Day a couple of weeks ago I chatted with five separate families who I noticed using the playground, asking where they were from. They ranged from Matangi, Oaklea Lane, Pencarrow Rd, Te Awa Lane and Devine Rd.

More recently I noticed this playgroup from Tauwhare and Matangi, who stayed for a couple of hours.

They said they prefer this playground over Tamahere Park and Matangi playgrounds because it offers shade, is more peaceful, has a better range of swings, and its bark chip base is cooler than rubber matting.

"A hidden gem" was one memorable description.

They were all distressed to hear from me that Council is considering closing it, and wondered why only dog-owners, and not the general public, have been consulted.

Te Awa Reserve's Car Parking

- Small gravel car park, holding 4-5 cars, sandwiched between two blind 90° bends
- Sometimes full due to current uses of reserve
- Overflow often park unsafely on verges
- A widely-advertised Dog Exercise Park would require much more off-street parking



Te Awa Reserve is served by one small gravel car park holding 4-5 cars, sandwiched between two blind 90° bends in the road.

Children need to walk the full length of the reserve to get to the playground from the carpark.

It is sometimes full due to current uses of the reserve. Overflow often park unsafely on the verges.

A widely-advertised Dog Exercise Park would require much more off-street parking, which would eat into an already smaller-than-optimal grassy area.

Te Awa Reserve's Other Uses

- Social cricket/large group picnics and barbeques
- Family and playgroup picnics
- Family frisbee
- Fireworks
- Strolling & exercise
- Horse & dog walking
- Access to the river bank for swimming, fishing, walking, wedding photos and dog off-leash exercise
- Contemplation



Te Awa Reserve has many other uses, such as social cricket combined with large group picnics.

There are more frequent smaller family and playgroup picnics, Frisbee throwing, kite flying, along with other fun & games, and fireworks occasionally.

It is also used for strolling, exercise and horse & dog walking.

Access to the river bank for swimming, fishing, walking, wedding photos and dog off-leash exercise involves firstly crossing the full width of the reserve to reach the path entrance.

Here Carmen is sitting at the picnic table near the entrance to the river path, as many do, contemplating the likely fate of this tree that was partly uprooted by the recent cyclone.

Option 2: Tamahere Park SE cnr

- 60 x 30 m proposed, along fenceline from road up to path
- Ample expansion options (20 x 60 m + 35 x 35 m on SE & SW edges of carpark)
- Just one adjacent house, protected by a high dog-proof fence on SE boundary
- Centrally located in Tamahere, well connected by roads and paths



Fortunately there is a second option being considered. The proposed area in the SE corner of Tamahere Park marked on the Council-supplied Map 30 extends 60 m along the fenceline on the SE boundary, presumably up to the concrete path (not shown on Map 30), and 30 m out from the fence to about where Carmen is sitting.

60 x 30 m seems a bit small for a Dog Exercise Area, but there appear to be ample expansion options as shown, to cover the entire area shown in this picture.

There is just one adjacent house, well protected by a high dog-proof fence on the SE boundary.

This park is centrally located in Tamahere, also easily accessed from Matangi and Tauwhare, and well connected by roads and paths.

Tamahere Park's Car Parking

- Sealed carpark with 22 marked spaces, close to proposed Dog Exercise Area
- Space to turn within carpark, so no need to reverse onto road
- Excellent visibility at exit, well away from corner
- Typically almost empty
- Other carparks serve hall, school, sports fields and playground



Looking to the left from under that same tree, there is a sealed carpark with 22 marked spaces, well off the road. It offers space to turn in, so there is no need to reverse out into the traffic, and excellent visibility at the exit, well away from the corner.

Typically it is almost empty, since other carparks serve the hall, school, sports fields and playground.

Tamahere Park's Other Uses

- No obvious other uses for section proposed as Dog Exercise Area
- Children's playground and intervening sports fields would be completely separate.
- Shade for picnics and barbecue facilities are available elsewhere on the park, well away from the proposed Dog Exercise Area.



There are no obvious other uses for the SE corner of Tamahere Park proposed as the Dog Exercise Area.

The children's playground is at least 400 m away (barely visible in the distance, on the opposite side of this very large park). It is served by a separate carpark, so safety of children using it would not be compromised. Intervening sports fields would not be encroached upon. Shady trees for picnicking, and barbecuing facilities are supplied on the opposite side of the park, well away from the proposed Dog Exercise Area.

It would become a useful **additional** feature in this popular hub, rather than preventing most other current and valued functions, as it would at the much smaller Te Awa Reserve.

 	Te Awa Reserve Grassy Flat Area	Tamahere Park SE Corner
Available without sacrifice of playground & other valued functions	No	Yes
Sufficient safe off-street parking	No	Yes
Large enough/expandable	Barely/No	Barely/Yes
Easier to fully fence securely	No	Yes
Minimal impact on neighbours	No	Yes
Centrally located in Tamahere	No	Yes
OVERALL SUITABILITY	UNSUITABLE	IDEAL

In this summary slide, on the left I've listed the most important criteria that a site must satisfy to be suitable to be made into a Dog Exercise Area. These have all been discussed in the preceding slides, but I should re-emphasise the first two, which are critical.

Firstly, the site should be available without sacrifice of a playground and/or other valued recreational functions.

Secondly, it needs sufficient safe off-street parking.

Te Awa Reserve satisfies neither of these, nor any of the other important criteria listed here. It is a treasured community asset with many current uses that would be incompatible with the proposed fully-fenced Dog Exercise Area.

Fortunately, Council has identified an alternative option; Tamahere Park's SE corner, which is currently under-utilised. It satisfies all the criteria listed here, so seems ideal!

Thanks very much for your attention. I hope this helps you to make a wise decision. I'm now happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dog Exercise Area

Te Awa Reserve
Or Tamahere Park?

Te Awa Reserve

Established as a park after consultation with local residents.

Is on a quiet, no- exit residential road.

The trees are now well established.

Contains a playground and picnic facilities.

The park is well used.























Other Issues

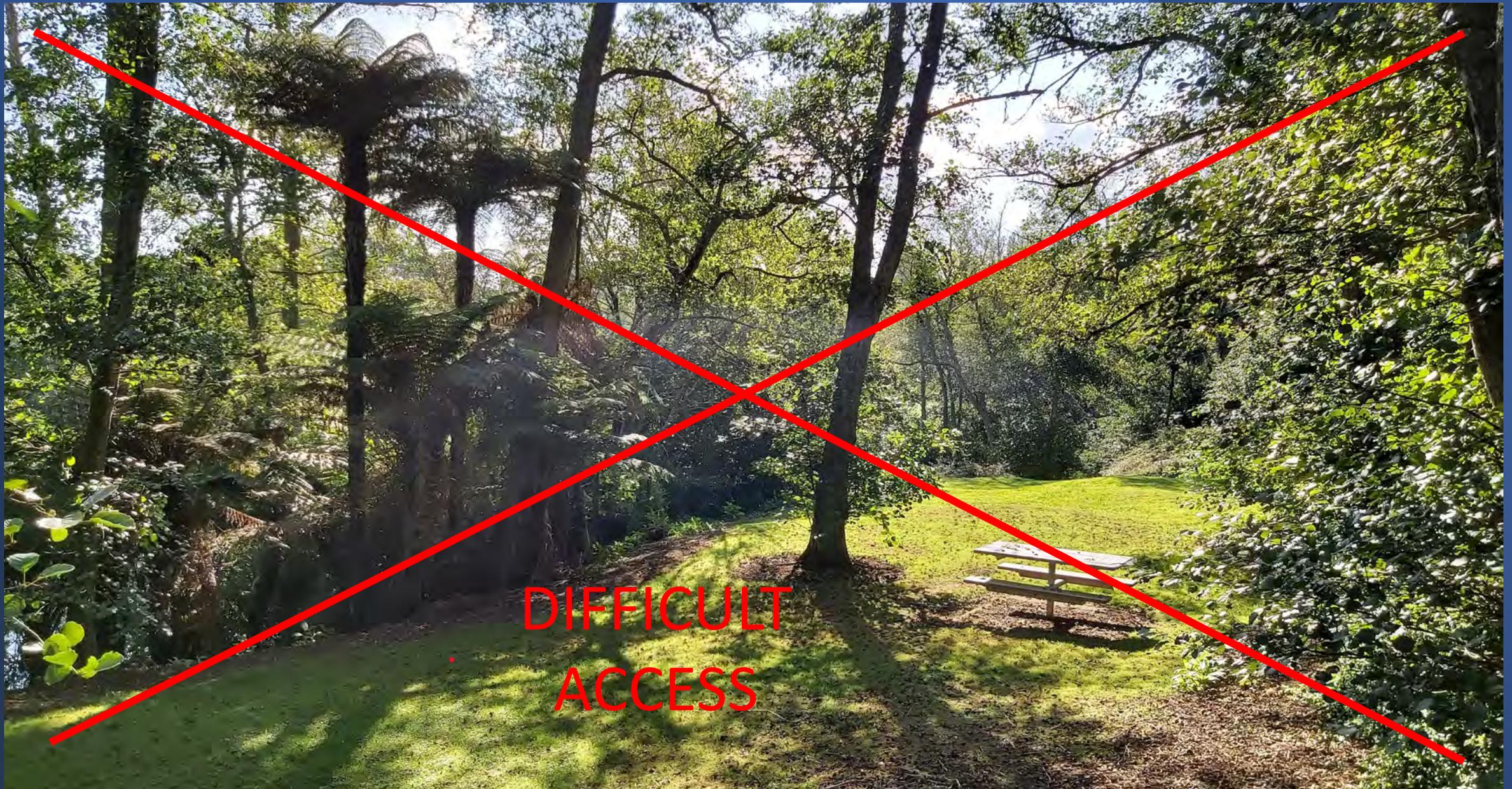


**NO
TOILETS**





PEST CONTROL



DIFFICULT
ACCESS

Compare:

- Minogue Park fenced dog exercise area.



Click to add text







Conclusion

- Tamahere Reserve was established as a park at the request of the local residents and should remain as a park accessible to all. There is nowhere else like it in Tamahere.
- It has only just become fully established and is now well used, not just by local residents but by the wider community who appreciate its assets.
- It is not a suitable space for a fenced dog exercise area because:
 - It would result in removal or relocation of a much-loved playground.
 - It is on a quiet cul de sac road on the periphery of Tamahere in comparison to the centrally located Tamahere Park.
 - There is inadequate parking, The Reserve is adjacent to a blind 35km/hr corner and parking is very limited. On road parking is dangerous.
 - Access to the picnic ground on the lower reserve would only be through the dog exercise area. Tamahere Park is a much more suitable venue.
 - There are no toilet facilities.

Conclusion

- Please consider an alternative location for a dog exercise area in Tamahere and allow us to maintain our beautiful little park.