



SUBMISSION BY WAIKANAЕ COMMUNITY BOARD ON – DRAFT DOG CONTROL POLICY AND BYLAW

The Waikanae Community Board (“WCB”) is a creature of statute, taking its current constitution from the Local Government Act 2002. The Waikanae Board is established pursuant to s49 of that Act. Such a Board where established is for each community in accordance with schedule 6 of the Act.

Role of community Boards

The WCB has legal mandate to make a submission in terms of section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002 and provides:

52 Role of community boards

The role of a community board is to—

- (a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and*
- (b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and*
- (c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and*
- (d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and*
- (e) communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and*
- (f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.*

The Waikanae Community Board (WCB) welcomes the opportunity to be able to make a submission on the KCDC Draft Dog Control Policy 2018 and the KCDC Dog Control Bylaw 2018.

The WCB generally supports draft changes to the Policy and the Bylaw, but wishes to make comment on the following points and well as those that relate specifically to the Waikanae Ward.

Dogs on Sports Fields

The definition of “sports field / playing fields” in the draft Bylaw is still confusing. It states: “All grassed areas marked and defined as a sports ground”. The next sentence states: “The entire gross area of ground, including all individual playing fields”. These sentences seem to contradict each other. Schedule 2 proposes that the periphery of all playing / sports fields would become dog on-leash areas at all

times. This is fraught with difficulty as “periphery” is not defined by a distance, and thus is open to endless interpretations.

The WBC believes the best approach is that “The entire gross area of ground, including all individual playing fields” is not a dog on- or off-leash area.

On-leash restricted area and sensitive sites

The WCS does not agree with the current drafting of the Bylaw on sensitive areas as well as the proposal for an on-leash restricted area. The board notes that a number of the deemed sensitive areas are in the Waikanae Ward so this will impact Waikanae residents who have dogs.

The drafted definition of “sensitive sites” seems somewhat arbitrary by referring to an “important habitat”, and “as a general rule” refers to “ecological and cultural sites”. KCDC has a number of criteria that identify ecologically sensitive areas and the definition and further explanation in the draft Bylaw does not align with these criteria. Therefore, there is no clear pattern as to why some areas are deemed sensitive sites and others are not.

Although culturally sensitive areas are included under this heading, no culturally sensitive areas are proposed, so if these proposed changes are included in the final Bylaw, this term should be dropped.

The WCB does not support restricting dogs to remain on formed pathways and walking tracks in sensitive sites as drafted, although the board agrees if these proposed changes are included in the final Bylaw, they should be on-leash.

The Board believes this rule restricting dogs to remain on formed pathways and walking tracks is a step too far as this is controlling where a person goes with a dog rather than controlling a dog that is already on a leash. When someone is out walking it is not clear how the demarcation between an on-leash and an on-leash restricted area will be made, and how this is going to be enforced.

Furthermore, the definition of “*On-leash restricted area*” is provided on the Bylaw, but in the maps it is referred to as “*On-leash restricted*”. These terms must be consistent. This definition is not referred to in the Schedule 2 of the Bylaw.

Mahara Place and Pukekawa Reserve

The WBC does not support the proposed change to make Mahara Place a dog-on-leash area. The proposed new amenities for Mahara Place will not be compatible with dogs, even ones of leads.

The WBC does not support changing Pukekawa Reserve from a dog-off-leash area to a dog on-leash area. The board is not aware of any issues that necessitate this change.

Dog Park

The WBC recommends that a Dog Park is built in Waikanae in a suitable location. This could be at no cost if the WBC uses its joint project model between KCDC and the community to build the perimeter fence.

The Board supports the submission of Sonia Coom for Dog Park as presented to the Board at its last meeting.

Additional off-leash dog exercise areas

The WBC also notes the KCDC has identified the possible need for additional off-leash dog exercise areas. The Board supports the addition of the two proposed sites in Waikanae, Kaiwaru Trig Forest and Nga Whakangutu Reserve. The board's first preference is for an additional off-leash dog exercise area in the Nga Whakangutu Reserve. The board notes that currently the Nga Whakangutu Reserve is leased for grazing.

Speaking to this submission

The WBC wishes to speak to this submission.

Jocelyn Prvanov
Chair -Waikanae Community Board

14 September 2018