

Have your say on

Hamilton Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2015

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires every council in New Zealand to have a Dog Control Policy. The policy encourages responsible dog ownership and sets out where dog owners can take their dogs in the city. It also outlines the Council's approach to dealing with dangerous dogs. A bylaw is needed to enforce the policy.

We've recently worked with dog obedience clubs and trainers and SPCA Waikato to review our Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. As result of the review, we're considering making a few changes that will:

- clarify dog owners' responsibilities
- help us manage dogs that roam repeatedly
- let us implement our new dog exercise area plan.

What we're proposing

- To clarify the boundaries of dog exercise areas by including maps in the policy and bylaw.
- Inserting a clause in the bylaw which allows the Council to require dogs that repeatedly roam to be neutered. This should reduce the dogs' urge to roam and prevent unwanted litters of puppies.
- To update the off-leash dog exercise areas to reflect the areas in the recently adopted Dog Exercise plan.
- To clarify that multiple dog permits are renewed annually and that a permit may be revoked or modified at any time during the year if non-compliant.
- To update the definition of working dogs to include security dogs in the bylaw.
- To update some of the wording in the bylaw and policy to align it with the Dog Control Act.

Have your say

You can make a submission online at hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay. Hard copies of the draft bylaw and statement of proposal are available from the Ground Floor Reception of the Council Municipal Building in Garden Place, any Hamilton City Library or by calling 07 838 6895.

Completed submission forms should be sent to Strategy and Research Unit, Hamilton City Council, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton 3240.

To find out more about the policy and bylaw and the changes we're proposing visit hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay

**Submissions close 4pm
7 April 2015.**