



## DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

16th January 2007

<b>DSDS4</b>	<b>COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>{ Folio No. * }</b>
	<b>FILE: 975: 976 JGR</b>	

### SUMMARY:

Reporting that Council as part of Promoting Better Practice – Action Plan for implementation of the Department Local Government Review– Council is to review its Companion Animal Management Plan and appoint an advisory committee to undertake the review.

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### REPORT:

In 1999 Council developed a Companion Animal Management Plan for the Shire after the introduction of the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.

The Department of Local Government Review Report- Promoting Better Practice made two (2) recommendations concerning the management of animals within the Shire, being: -

22. *Council should review its 1999 Companion Animal Management Plan to ensure that it is being effectively implemented and particularly deals with the issues of:*
  - a. *micro-chipping of dogs and cats*
  - b. *up-skilling of staff to enable Council to carry out micro-chipping*
  - c. *hardship relief, and*
  - d. *the return of micro-chipped companion animals to owners.*
  
23. *Council should establish a companion animal advisory committee to oversee the development and implementation of the Companion Animal Management Plan.*

Council has provided a time frame to complete this by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

The purpose of the Companion Animal Management Plan and Panel is to:

- Review the current plan and provide advice to Council on its on-going implementation.
- Balance the needs of the Community, Environment and Companion Animals.
- Focus on key areas of known issue:

1. Noise Pollution – Barking Dogs
  2. Identification Registration and Impounding of Animals
  3. Public Safety
  4. The adequacy / inadequacy of existing leash free areas
  5. Environmental
- Provide pathways for prioritising actions; and
  - Provide measurable indicators for assessment of the plan outcomes.

It is recommended that the Companion Animal Advisory Panel (CAAP) consist of the following members: -

- 2 Councillors;
  - 5 Community members;
- Director Sustainable Development Services or his nominee

Expressions of Interest are to be called from the Community for members who demonstrate they have relevant skills and capabilities, which would assist the CAAP in achieving its key responsibilities and primary functions.

### Community Members

The following criteria should be used as a guide in assessing appointments to the Panel:

1. Animal welfare – knowledge of issues
2. Veterinary experience
3. Feline background and understanding
4. Canine background and understanding
5. Social Welfare
6. Environmental protection.

Following receipt of Expressions of Interest, a report will be prepared to enable Council to choose the members of the Panel.

During the review process of the management plan it is likely that the Panel invite persons from key organisations and / or professions in the local area being:

- a. Wild Dog Officer from the Kempsey Rural Lands Protection Board;
- b. Local Mid North Coast Inspector – RSPCA;
- c. Officer from local office of Department of Environment and Conservation; and
- d. Veterinarian.

Council's Coordinator of Environment will be responsible for the day to day operations of the Companion Animal Management Plan. The role of Council officers on the CAAP is to provide administrative support to the Panel as well as to provide:

- Status reports to the Panel on the progress of the Plan on a quarterly basis;
- Regular updates on any operational community issues;
- Sound research advice and recommendations to the Panel on issues; and

- Feedback to the Panel on community expectations and concerns regarding companion animal management in the Council area.

***Report Implications***

- ***Environmental***

***In making a commitment to the Companion Animal Management Plan Council would be taking a more active role in promoting and overcoming current environmental issues associated with Companion Animals within the Shire.***

- ***Social***

***In making a Commitment to the Companion Animal Management Plan Council will be promoting a Community that has input in the development of a Plan that serves the whole of the community.***

- ***Economic***

***Council will need to appropriately resource the Companion Management Plan that will included, but not be limited to providing Public Education and promoting the CAAP.***

***In the long term, Council could expect cost saving in the areas of Animal Management, for instance issues concerning noise, impoundment, Council registration microchip systems, and pollution will all be addressed by the CAAP with the view of improving the current procedures.***

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council resolve to advertise for Expressions of Interest from the Community to serve on the Companion Animals Advisory Panel.**

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**R B Pitt**  
**DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**