



GOYDER

South Australia's Heartland

Dog and Cat Management Plan 2022 - 2027

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Executive Summary

The Regional Council of Goyder (the Council) is situated northeast of Adelaide, with the regional centre of Burra located approximately 140km from the Adelaide CBD. Goyder extends between Eudunda, to the south and Terowie to the north, spanning approximately 137 km. The region has a population base of approximately 4,174 and covers an area of 6,618 square kilometres.

This Dog and Cat Management Plan (the Plan) has been prepared by the Council to undertake its responsibilities under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) and will guide domestic animal management by the Council over the next five (5) years.

The Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for dog and cat management. The Plan has been prepared by Council, drawing on information from a broad range of stakeholders, with public consultation on the draft prior to its approval by the Council and Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board).

Domestic animal control has widened into a greater array of contexts following the introduction of the Act. Knowledge of both animal and human behaviours is not only a requirement but is a necessity for those working in the field of animal management and compliance. There is a growing recognition that enforcement of laws, will not on their own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in behaviour, it needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches such as public education and improved signage as well as providing facilities to exercise dogs in a secure and safe environment.

There is now considerable evidence to support the understanding not only of the benefits of owning pets but also the benefits of having them de-sexed and micro-chipped. The ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats responsibly in this new environment, requires Council to take a strategic approach to managing domestic pets. This plan will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can plan, co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

On a day-to-day basis Council is required to provide an animal management service to ensure that animals do not denigrate the amenity and community safety throughout the Council region.

Background

Strategic Context

The Goyder Master Plan 2021-2036 and the *Local Government Act 1999* drives the Council's vision, organisational values, and legislative requirements of its management of the region. Any plan Council develops under these structures aims to demonstrate our commitment to the six pillars established to deliver and monitor the Master Plan.

Other plans and sections of legislation covering public health, planning, animal welfare, impounding, environment protection and natural resource management will be linked where applicable.

Planning Process

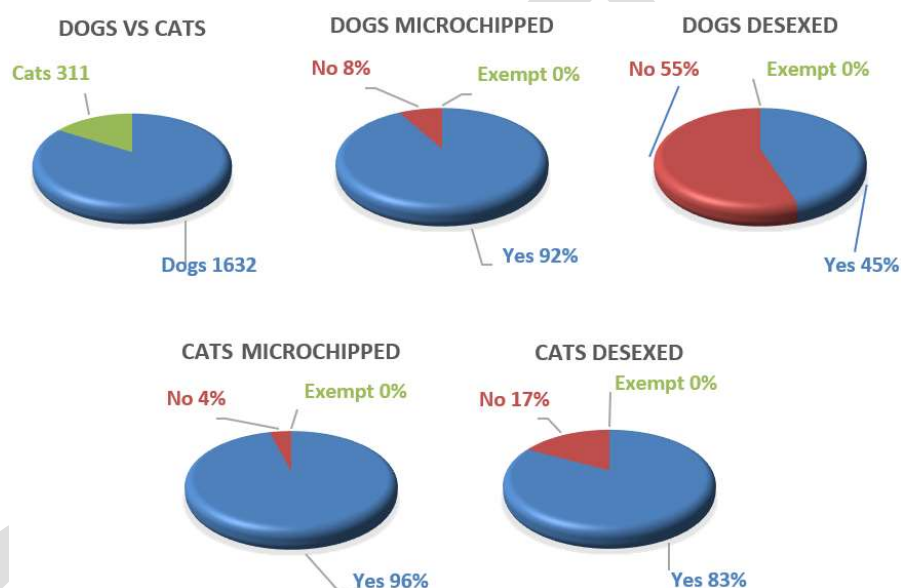
This plan will supersede the Animal Management Plan 2017-2022, with a change in title to better reflect the Plans intended scope and purpose.

Plans must cover a 5-year period and must be prepared and presented to the Board at least six months before it is to take effect. A plan must be approved by the Board before it takes effect. Council may, with the approval of the Board, amend a Plan at any time during the five-year period.

While developing or reviewing a plan Council will evaluate the outcomes of previous plans and take into consideration any issues identified through complaints, reported incidents, statistics, and legal cases etc. Suggestions from the community and relevant stakeholders is encouraged and will be considered throughout the consultation process.

Dog and Cat Snapshot

In July 2022 the Council region was home to 1,943 registered animals ¹. The following is a snapshot of key statistical data.



Council responds to animal complaints and requests, ranging from general enquiries through to the reporting of incidents involving dogs, including attacks, and barking issues.

	2020-21 Financial year				2021-22 Financial year			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Dog incidents	3	3	4	-	3	1	No Compliance Officer	2
Barking Dog Complaints	-	-	2	1	7	10		5
Missing Dogs	1	1	5	2	2	6		1
Wandering Dogs	10	10	18	14	23	17		9
Orders/Notices	2	2	1	-	1	3		4
Expiations	10	79	8	-	16	18		4
Cat Complaints	-	1	-	2	3	-		2
Cat trap hire	2	2	1	2	-	1		2
(Dog & Cat Management Figures 2020 – 2022)								

¹ Dogs & Cats Online

The Law and Guidelines

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 brought in a new legal framework to South Australia covering both dogs and cats. Under the Act the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) has been established to plan for, promote, and provide advice about the effective management of dogs and cats throughout South Australia and to oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

The Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017 contain supplementary rules and specifications and is considered an extension of the Act.

The Act – Council Responsibilities

Sections 26 and 26A of the Act outlines the Council responsibility for management of dogs and cats. The Council is responsible for administering and enforcement, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining a register of dogs and other such registers, providing information to the Board and appointing a suitable person to be registrar;
- Make arrangements for issuing and replacing certificates of registration and registration discs;
- Appoint at least 1 full-time authorised person or make other satisfactory arrangements for the exercise of the functions and powers of authorised persons;
- Make arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under this Act;
- Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats;
- Each council must keep separate accounts of money received under this Act and of money expended in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats; and
- Councils may charge fees and apply rebates.

Council has requirements to develop a plan relating to the management of cats and dogs within its area. This plan must:

- Address how the Council intend to meet the requirements above;
- Include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off-leash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited; and
- Cover a 5-year period.

Council has two Authorised Persons under the Act, one being the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and one being the Compliance Officer (CO).

The Act - Owner Responsibilities

If you are a South Australian dog owner, you must:

- Have your dog desexed and microchipped (unless exempt);
- Register your dog on Dogs and Cats Online;
- Keep your dog securely confined to the property it is kept;
- Keep your dog on a leash in public places. Dogs in parks may be off leash provided they are under effective control by command;
- Clean up after your dog;
- Do not allow your dog to be in a school, kindergarten, or childcare centre without permission;
- Make sure your dog does not chase, harass, or attack a person, animal or bird or chase a motor vehicle or bicycle;
- Not allow your dog or cat to breed, unless you are registered to do so;
- Make sure your dog is not a nuisance (e.g., Barks excessively); and
- Restrain your dog if you are transporting it in the open tray of a Ute.

If you are a South Australian cat owner, you must:

- Have your cat desexed and microchipped (unless exempt);
- Register your cat on Dogs and Cats Online; and
- Make sure your cat isn't a nuisance.

By-Laws

The Council does not have any By-Laws relating the management of dogs and cats. The need for such laws and what they would entail will be assessed during the term of this plan. Any By-Laws will go through the appropriate process as specified in this Act and the *Local Government Act 1999*, including reporting to the Board and public consultation.

By- Laws under the Act, can include, limiting the number of dogs or cats that may be kept on any premises, applying curfews, specify additional identification and control requirements, establish areas where dogs can and cannot be and implementing a registration scheme for cats. By-Laws relating to dogs and cats will need to specify the areas they are applicable, as well as exemptions that can be applied.

Revenue and Fees

Councils must charge fees for administering the Act and for the registration of dogs and dog businesses including additional fees for late payment of registrations. Money received by a council under this Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats, with separate accounts to be kept for this purpose. Additionally, council must pay into a fund administered by the Board, a percentage fixed by regulation of the dog registration fees received by Council.

Fees are to be reviewed and set annually. They expire on the 31st of May, with new fee structure to be set before the 1st of July of each year.

Council must, in the case of a microchipped and spayed/neutered (standard dog or cat), provide

for a percentage rebate of a fee that would otherwise be charged for the registration of a dog or cat under the Act.

Council may charge fees to persons alleged to have committed expiable offences under this Act through expiation notices.

Mission Statement

To create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the Council community.

To recognise that companion animals are part of the community, contributing to its quality of life, and to ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated whilst recognising the differing needs of all members of the community such as non-pet owners.

To recognise that in a rural community, working (livestock) dogs are an integral part of the day-to-day life on the land, contributing greatly to successful farm management practices.

To recognise the need for highly skilled dogs to aid the disadvantaged in our community, commonly referred to as accredited assistance dogs.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of Council under this plan and the related objectives:

- 1. Provide effective management of cats and dogs**
 - a. Ensure that Authorised Officers of Council operate within the provisions Act;
 - b. Ensure that Authorised Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Act;
 - c. Maximise dog registration;
 - d. Minimise dogs wandering at large;
 - e. Enforce identification of dogs;
 - f. Maximise the community's understanding of the Authorised Officer's role and the Council's role in the community;
 - g. Introduce data collection to better understand dog and cat management issues;
 - h. Enforce where necessary the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - i. Ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners and animal management issues.
- 2. Provide a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.**
 - a. Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas; and
 - b. Provide strategic dog waste bag dispensers.
- 3. Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.**
 - a. Encourage education of dog and cat owners;
 - b. Encourage and support a program of microchipping;
 - c. Encourage and support a program of de-sexing; and
 - d. Present annual information sessions to school aged children in the region.
- 4. Ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment.**
 - a. Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to the Council;

- b. Reduce nuisance caused by cats; and
- c. Reduce the following detrimental impacts of dogs and cats
 - Dog attacks/harassment
 - Barking dogs
 - Wandering at Large
 - Dog faeces in public places

5. Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs, cats, and animals in general.

- a. Ensure impounded dogs are returned to owners as soon as practicable;
- b. Ensure all impounded dogs have clean safe facilities; and
- c. Ensure that off leash areas are suitable for dogs to be exercised.

6. Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership

- a. Encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people; and
- b. Invite regular input regarding dog and cat management issues from interest groups throughout the community.

7. Protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats.

- a. Clearly define areas unsuitable for dog and cat recreation and exercise; and
- b. Identify threatened or vulnerable areas where management actions may be required.

Animal Management Strategy

Provide effective management of cats and dogs

1.a Ensure that Authorised Officers of Council operate within the provisions Act: The strategies to ensure that Officers of Council operate within the provisions of the Act are to create a set of guidelines for use by Staff and to ensure that regular training and development of skills are provided on an ongoing basis. Consistency of advice is critical and must be a high priority.

1.b Ensure that Authorised Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Act: Council staff cannot operate consistently without clear direction and guidelines, as individuals will often interpret Legislation in differing ways. The Act is the primary Legislation, and Procedures are the mechanism to implement the Act and any By-Laws in place.

1.c Maximise dog registration: Legislation in South Australia requires that all dogs over three (3) months of age must be registered. Councils cannot expect to obtain an acceptable level of dog management without obtaining maximum registration. This can therefore be seen to be the most important issue at hand and is the key factor controlling all other effective and successful dog management strategies.

Dog registration ensures that:

- Owners are registered as well as their dogs;
- Maximum funding is available for Councils to carry out responsibilities under the Act; and
- Responsible dog owners and the rest of the community do not have to financially support irresponsible dog owners.

1.d Minimise dogs wandering at large: Adequate fencing is a necessity for responsible dog ownership. A dog wandering at large can be a threat to livestock and members of the public, particularly children, the disabled and older people and Council is aware that serious attacks can arise in these circumstances. Council will therefore implement strategies to minimise its occurrence in the community.

Under the provisions of the Act it is an offence to allow a dog to wander at large. A dog will be taken to be wandering at large if it is in a public place, or a private place without the consent of the occupier and no person is exercising effective control by way of a physical restraint.

A dog will also be considered to be wandering at large if in a park and no person is either exercising physical restraint or by command, the dog being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the dog at all times.

The strategies are in two parts; the first is to encourage owners to have adequate fencing and control over their dog and the second is the actions of the Council to dogs 'wandering at-large'.

1.e Enforce identification of dogs: Identification of dogs is imperative to provide sound animal management practices. Residents and visitors to the area must identify their dogs at all times. Generally speaking pet owners do not allow their pets to wander at large.

Accidental escape accounts for approximately 90% of dogs wandering at large. Often these dogs are not identified and therefore cannot be returned to the owner. The costs associated with impounding unidentified dogs and the stress placed on the animal and their owners can be avoided.

As of 1 July 2018, it is a legislative requirement that all dogs and cats must be micro-chipped before they reach twelve (12) weeks of age. Any changes of ownership, address or telephone number, must be changed by the dog or cat owner through the Dog & Cat Online website (DACO) built for the purpose of registration and ownership details, within fourteen (14) days of the change.

All dogs and cats born after 1st July 2018 must be de-sexed before the age of six (6) months or within twenty-eight (28) days after the new owner takes possession (whichever is the later) unless exemption is granted on medical grounds, legislation or due to breeder registration with the Board.

1.f Maximise the community's understanding of the Authorised Officer's role and the Council's role in the community: Many people have little, or no understanding of the role performed by Authorised Officers and Council in the Community. This can lead to mistrust and a lack of respect for the Officers and the Council. Officers must become better at providing information regarding the very important role they perform in the Community on behalf of Council.

1.g Introduce data collection to better understand dog and cat management issues: Council must have accurate information to fully understand animal management issues. It is difficult to measure issues and complaints reported to Council utilising current systems. This will be improved ensuring accurate quarterly reporting by the Compliance Officer.

1.h Enforce where necessary the responsible ownership of dogs and cats: Consistent enforcement of the provisions of the Act is an important factor in educating the public to act responsibly with their pets. Responsible pet owners expect irresponsible pet owners to be dealt with through the provisions of the Act. There cannot be an incentive to act responsibly with your pets unless there is a disincentive for those who are not responsible.

This Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that caters to everyone's needs that will not only benefit dogs and cats but also their owners, the wider community and those charged with the responsibilities of animal management.

Councils appoint Authorised Officers under the Act who have the power to:

- Issue expiation notices;
- Request that a person produce a dog, certificate or records issued under the Act, for inspection;

- Request that a person suspected of an offence (or about to commit one) give their full name and address and produce identification;
- Seize and detain dogs under certain circumstances; and
- Collect evidence, including photographs or video for an investigation.

Council has one (1) full-time Authorised Officer and several Administration Support Staff. The Authorised Officer is trained in animal management and is the public face of animal management in the area. The Officer's role is to educate, mediate and enforce the provision of the Act including a good understanding of the issues effecting public safety and amenities in relation to dogs and cats. Council is providing adequate patrols for non-compliance with the Act.

1.i Ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners and animal management issues: Under the provisions of the Act, Council must utilise money generated from dog management in dog and cat management. The implementation of this plan is a clear demonstration of Council's desire to fulfil this obligation. In addition, Council's Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring that an independent ledger of funds is kept and is available for scrutiny by the Board. Council will conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds.

Provide a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community

2.a Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas: Providing suitable on and off leash activity areas is vital to the success of animal management in the area. Dog owners must have suitable areas to exercise their dogs safely.

Purpose built off-leash dog parks are located in Burra, Farrell Flat and Eudunda, and are designated parks for the exclusive exercising of dogs. In all cases effective control of the dog by its owner is enforced as a condition of entry. These parks are further detailed in Appendix 2.

The off-leash dog parks are established and functioning well. Council will investigate any enhancement opportunities to visitors to the park, for both the community members and the dogs. Council will consider enrichment equipment for the dogs, providing dogs with a dynamic environment of positive stimulation, exercise and interactions.

Members of the community must have the ability to use other public land without fear of harassment by uncontrolled dogs. In areas such as streets, roads, and in places the public congregate such as shopping areas, dogs must be restrained effectively. Areas such as this are unsuitable for off-leash activities. In parks assessed by Council for their suitability, dog owners should be able to exercise their dogs without restraint providing the owner exercises effective control.

2.b Provide strategic dog waste bag dispensers: There are 8 dog waste bag dispensers in operation across the region. Council will add more in response to issues or requests, encouraging the community to suggest additional locations.

Burra:

- Dog obedience club shed at tennis club
- Dog Park by entrance gate
- Creek Park reserve on bin
- Bin in main street by newsagents

Terowie:

- BBQ shelter main street

Eudunda:

- Dog Park on fence inside entrance gate
- Bin in Eudunda gardens southern corner

Farrell Flat:

- Dog Park by entrance gate
- Duncan Park x 2
- Golf Course (to be installed)

Booborowie:

- Recreation Ground
- Booborowie IGA (to be installed)

Robertstown:

- Recreation Ground (to be installed)

Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

3.a Encourage education of dog and cat owners: Generally speaking, most dog and cat owners want to do the right thing. Registration of dogs and general compliance with the Act can be improved throughout the community. Council must do everything in its power to ensure that residents and visitors understand their obligations to act responsibly with their pets. Information is provided on Council's website, at Council agencies and leaflets are included with re-registration notices.

There are three factors that contribute to successful pet ownership. They are:

1. **The Owner**, who needs to be aware of responsibilities of pet ownership, ensures that the dog is registered, immunised, micro-chipped and de-sexed in accordance with legislation. The owner is also responsible for ensuring that the dog is trained, and to be aware of the dog's behaviour at all times, including when away from the home such as at work. The owner is also responsible to ensure that the dog has adequate food, water and shelter and that the dog is regularly exercised.
2. **The Breed determines the size**, and often the temperament of the dog and its susceptibility to genetic defects. When selecting a pet, it is important to seek appropriate advice on the health of animals being considered and their suitability to the home / yard that the dog will be kept in and the family that the dog will be joining, particularly if small children, the disabled and the elderly are involved.
3. **The Home environment** is made up of the part of the home that the dog will access. In most cases this will include an enclosed yard and possibly part of the house. Important factors are the adequacy of the fencing, whether the dog can see out of the yard through a gate, adequacy of shelter, food / water and whether there are children, the disabled and the elderly, closeness of neighbours and other dogs and access to on-leash and off-leash exercise areas.

Successful pet ownership has both financial and time commitments, and it is therefore important that people contemplating pet ownership endeavour to match their choice of pet to their particular home and family circumstances.

3.b Encourage and support a program of microchipping: Microchipping compliance is relatively high in registered animals; unregistered animals will be targeted by the Council with a joint registration and microchipping program.

Council will investigate a microchipping program, with new registrations to be processed at the same time.

3.c Encourage and support a program of de-sexing: Council will provide information and promote the de-sexing of dogs and cats not intended to be used for breeding to alleviate unwanted litters. Currently there are only 7 active breeders out of the 80 registered and 55% of dogs and 17% of cat are not desexed and can breed. Council will investigate where it can improve the compliance through de-sexing and enforcement programs, including the use of a service provider offering desexing of cats and dogs in regional areas.

3.d Present annual information sessions to school aged children in the district: Presenting information on pet safety and pet care to primary students is an effective way of educating future

pet owners. Younger students are keen to share new knowledge with their parents and other family members.

Ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment.

4.a Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to Council: Knowledge is the Council's best tool to reduce the number of dog attacks that occur in the community. Collecting this data will enable the Council to understand the situations that lead to such attacks and therefore the community must be encouraged to provide information regarding all attacks regardless of the severity. All the information required to report an attack is available on Council's Website.

4.b Reduce nuisance caused by cats: Under the provision of the Act an un-owned cat can be trapped when found wandering on private property. If an occupier traps a cat and it is identifiable the cat must be released unless the cat is more than one kilometre from a genuine place of residence. Under the provisions of the Act a cat must be identified by way of a collar with ownership details or by way of a microchip.

Council has cat traps available to the public under informed use conditions.

Nuisance and unchecked breeding in stray cats are an increasing issue within the region, with many reports received from the Eudunda and Burra townships. These cats or their ancestors were once owned by people and have been abandoned or lost, often being supported and fed by well-intentioned people, increasing the issue. These stray cats and cats with irresponsible owners pose a significant challenge for Council to manage, requiring careful consideration.

Council is currently investigating a cat management project, including registration, microchipping and a desexing programs for owned cats, and the management of stray cats. This will likely be a multistage project and may include the implementation of Bi-Laws to better regulate cat ownership and allow for enforcement. At the end of the project a cat management framework will be put in place and become the general business of the Council.

Education and awareness of responsible cat ownership is a required component in any cat management project. Owners must have their cat desexed and microchipped (unless exempt), registered on DACO and ensure their cat isn't a nuisance. There is little uptake for free cat registration in the region, with methods to incentivise registration to also be investigated.

4.c Reduce the following detrimental impacts of dogs and cats: To reduce the incidence of dog attacks Council must educate the public to act responsibly. Dog attacks and harassment is of great concern to the general community, particularly in relation to children, the disabled and the elderly.

Of great concern is the number of unreported attacks and that most attacks (85%) occur on private property.

Whilst very few dogs are involved in attacks and harassment, all dogs have the potential to bite, regardless of size, age, breed, or temperament. Particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective, or possessive. How to avoid being bitten or how to read a dog's body language are important issues on which to educate the public.

- Barking dogs - Barking dog complaints are a difficult and time-consuming area of Council responsibility. Barking dog complaints are subjective depending on an individual's tolerance for dog noise. For Council to resolve these complaints full cooperation is required from the complainant to collect meaningful evidence suitable to a Court of law. Council has a standard operating procedure for all dog noise nuisance complaints.

The complainant must follow the standard operating procedures, as failure to do so will result in the matter being set aside by Council. On receipt of a complaint Council will provide information to the dog owner and diaries to the complainant. When the diaries are returned, an investigation will follow. Upon substantiation the Council will take the appropriate course of action.

Mediation between the parties affected is the most effective solution. Often the dog owner is unaware that there is a problem, and the question is often asked “why did the complainant not discuss the matter with me?” OR “I work all day; how could I know there is a problem?”

- Dog faeces in public places - The management of dog faeces is an important environmental and health issue. Dog faeces pollute waterways, public places and is an issue on which the community has strong feelings.

In addition, the region relies heavily on tourism and faeces in public places has a detrimental effect on visitors. Councils are providing leadership in this area by providing dog tidy bags to promote the picking up of dog faeces. It is widely acknowledged that Councils that provide faeces removal dispensers dramatically reduce the incidence of discarded faeces in the community. Problems associated with vandalism have been overcome by placing the dispensers in areas of high visibility.

Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs, cats and animals in general.

5.a Ensure impounded dogs are returned to owners as soon as practical: The Authorised Officer will utilise local area notice boards and social media to display photos and a description of dogs that have been impounded.

5.b Ensure all impounded dogs have clean safe facilities while impounded: The Council’s dog impounding facility is currently being completed and will meet the requirements of the Act and other legislation.

Council will operate its dog impounding facility in accordance with the *Guideline for Council facilities used for the detention of dogs and cats under the Act* issued by the Board.

5.c Ensure that off leash areas are suitable for dogs to be exercised: This will be achieved through regular attendance and maintenance of the park, with improvements assessed and implemented as outlined in 2.a. Community members will be encouraged to provide feedback and to report any incidents to Council.

Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership

6.a Encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people: There is evidence to support the benefits of owning pets and their use in therapy. However, until recently this evidence has not been considered by local government.

A range of different studies has demonstrated evidence of a link between pet ownership and better health. More work needs to be done to determine whether this link is causal or merely correlational (i.e., do pet owners share some other factor which yields health benefits?), and not all studies demonstrate a link between pet ownership and better health outcomes.

Dogs encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. They have been shown to stimulate conversation between strangers in public places and they improve people’s sense of security - both in the home and with their owner in public places. Pets are also great companions, in some cases helping to

combat loneliness and social alienation. These benefits are as important for the elderly, disabled and single person households as they are for households with children.

Part of the challenge involves removing barriers to owning pets.

Local government has a role to play in harnessing these benefits - not to encourage people to buy a pet but to even up the balance in the consideration of domestic animal issues and by removing unnecessary barriers to pet ownership.

With due regard for the benefits of pet ownership, there is an opportunity for Council to facilitate a day for dog and cat owners to get together and celebrate their best friend, be it a dog or a cat. By doing so, there is an opportunity for Council and the public to interact and exchange information. Similar events have proved very beneficial.

6.b Invite regular input regarding dog and cat management issues from interest groups throughout the community: This is always encouraged with Council's open-door policy, individuals and community groups are encouraged to provide feedback on all of council's planning and operational processes.

Protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats

7.a Clearly define areas unsuitable for dog and cat recreation and exercise: The region is home to several National/Conservation Parks where dogs and cats are not permitted. Rangers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service are responsible for the control of all animals in the park. Authorised Officers support their activities by aiding as required. Clearly there is a good working relationship between the agencies and the strategy does not require changing.

7.b Identify threatened or vulnerable areas where management actions may be required: Council will endeavour to identify any vulnerable areas in the region that will benefit from dogs and cat management. This could include the protection of environmental assets and threatened species where no restrictions are currently in place. Council will investigate a collaborative approach with relevant community groups and agencies.

Appendix 1: Key Performance Indicators

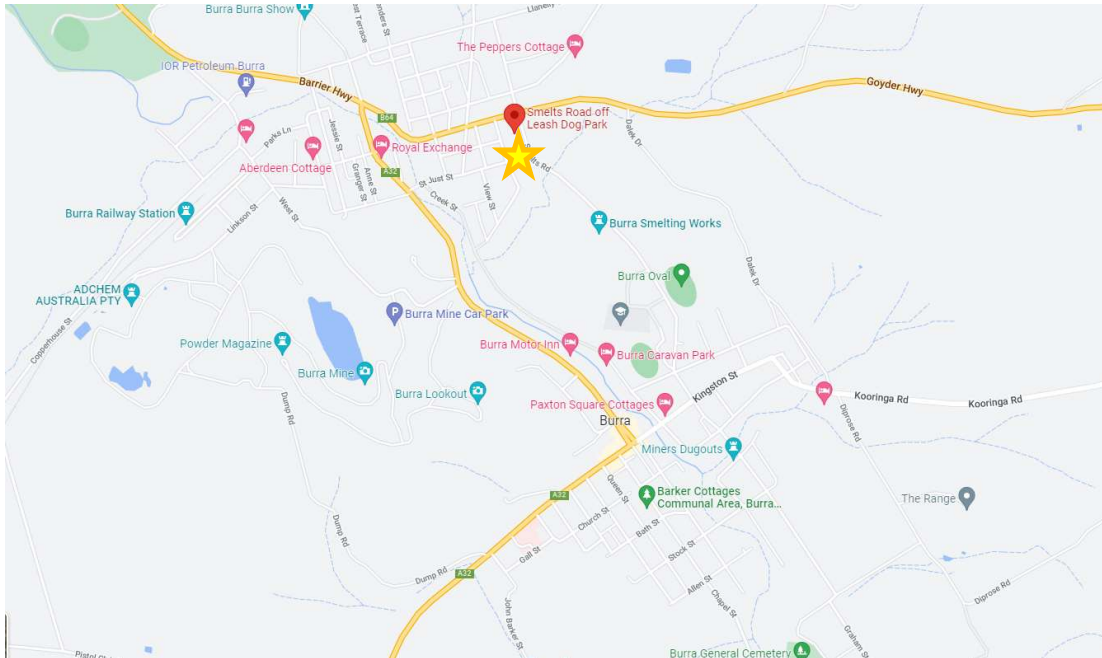
Objective	Actions	KPI's
Provide effective management of dogs and cats	<p>Ensure that Authorised Officers of Council operate within the provisions Act</p> <p>Ensure that Authorised Officers operate within predetermined guidelines in accordance with the Act</p> <p>Maximise dog registration</p> <p>Minimise dogs wandering at large</p> <p>Enforce identification of dogs</p> <p>Maximise the community's understanding of the Authorised Officer's role and the Council's role in the community</p> <p>Introduce data collection to better understand dog and cat management issues</p> <p>Enforce where necessary the responsible ownership of dogs and cats</p> <p>Ensure the expenditure of registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners and animal management issues</p>	<p>Conduct staff reviews annually</p> <p>Review policies and procedures on a cyclic basis</p> <p>Compare registration compliance with previous years and aim to increase it over the life of the plan through education and enforcement.</p> <p>Collect data regarding dogs wandering at large and impounded by Council without current registration and aim to decrease it through education.</p> <p>Provide information on the Authorised officer role in interactions with the community</p> <p>Review the data currently collected and improve to align to Council and DACB's reporting requirements</p> <p>Compare dog attack/harassment reports with previous years and encourage public reporting with a target to increase it.</p> <p>Data Collection and analysis of warnings and expiations compared with previous years with a target to reduce</p> <p>Conduct regular reviews of income and expenditure to ensure that Council is using best practice with available funds.</p>
Provide a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community	<p>Provide suitable on and off leash activity areas</p> <p>Provide strategic dog waste</p>	<p>Maintain existing off leash dog parks, investigating improvement and additional</p>

	bag dispensers	areas Increase dog waste bag accessibility in the community
Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership	<p>Encourage education of dog and cat owners</p> <p>Encourage and support a program of microchipping</p> <p>Encourage and support a program of de-sexing</p> <p>Present annual information sessions to school aged children in the region</p>	<p>Review and improve information regarding education material distributed to residents and visitors</p> <p>Aim to run regular joint registration and microchipping programs</p> <p>Scope and implement education program for local schools</p>
Ensure public safety and enhance the amenity and environment	<p>Encourage the community to report all dog attacks and harassments to the Council</p> <p>Reduce nuisance caused by cats</p> <p>Reduce the following detrimental impacts of dogs and cats including dog attack/harassment, barking, wandering at large, and dog faeces in public places</p>	<p>Promote dog attack and harassment reporting</p> <p>Provide cat traps to the public for hire</p> <p>Scope stray/feral cat management plan/project</p> <p>Investigate reports from the impacted public</p>
Provide for the welfare and safety of dogs, cats, and animals in general	<p>Ensure impounded dogs are returned to owners as soon as practicable</p> <p>Ensure all impounded dogs have clean safe facilities</p> <p>Ensure that off leash areas are suitable for dogs to be exercised</p>	<p>Utilise social media for public notices of impounded dogs</p> <p>Operate our dog impounding facility in accordance with the <i>Guideline for Council facilities used for the detention of dogs and cats</i> under the Act</p> <p>Maintain established parks, assessing for improvements</p>
Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership	<p>Encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people</p> <p>Invite regular input regarding dog and cat management issues from interest groups</p>	<p>Attendance and owner appreciation for activity days.</p> <p>Review information provided to residents and visitors to the Council area.</p>

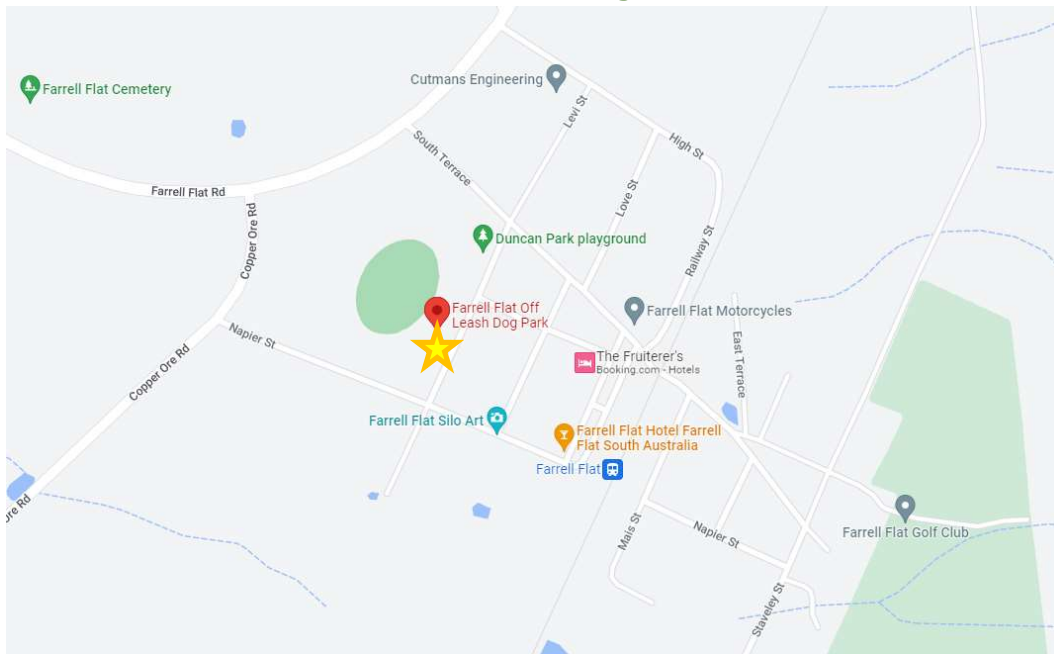
	throughout the community	
Protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats	<p>Clearly define areas unsuitable for dog and cat recreation and exercise</p> <p>Identify threatened or vulnerable areas where management actions may be required</p>	Maintain and improve relationships with external agencies to increase the protection of environmental assets and threatened species

Appendix 2: Off leash dog parks in the Goyder region

Burra - Smelts Road Off Leash Dog Park



Farrell Flat – Cameron Terrace Off Leash Dog Park



Eudunda - Nicholson Reserve Off Leash Dog, Park Drive

