



Media Release
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Proposed new Selwyn dog rules out for consultation

Public forums have been set up to discuss the Selwyn District Council's review of its dog bylaw and policy.

Council has undertaken the review of the 2006 Dog Control Bylaw because of legislative requirements and it made sense to concurrently review the Council's Policy on Dogs.

Proposed changes identified by a working party set up to review the rules include a requirement that people with a dog in a public place must carry a container for removal of dog faeces, and that Council might in future allow dogs off-leash on reserves when they are not in use for sports or organised events.

The following forums have been set up for the public to hear and comment on the review's findings:

- Leeston Library/Service Centre, Tuesday, 3 July, 7pm - 8pm
- Lincoln Event Centre, Monday, 9 July, 7pm - 8pm
- Darfield Library/Service Centre, Wednesday, 11 July, 7pm - 8pm
- Rolleston Community Centre, Tuesday, 17 July, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Senior Animal Control officer Steve Clarke has visited several Reserve Management Committees in the district, along with eliciting feedback from the two community boards and district township committees.

"The control of dogs and the ability to exercise dogs are extremely important issues for people. We've got around 9500 non-working dogs registered to 6660 individual dog owners in our district and we need to make sure our rules are going to work for our communities," he says.

Legislation dictates that the policy must provide for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners while minimising any nuisance, distress or danger to the community. Currently Selwyn district only offers the Foster Park Dog Exercise Area in Rolleston as an off-leash exercise area within a township.

“Visits to Reserve Management committees showed how complex this issue is with some very strong opinions expressed. Prebbleton for example is currently a totally prohibited reserve, however with 217 dogs registered in the township, their reserve management committee believes total prohibition is not the answer. Other committees believe that the Foster Park Dog Exercise Area is more than adequate.

“Some sporting bodies don’t want dogs on sporting fields and the challenge for the Council will be to find a balance between the views of sports clubs and dog owners. The working party felt the current bylaw made insufficient provision for off-leash dog exercise areas,” he says.

“I urge people who have opinions to make submissions in support or against so that the end result reflects the feelings of the community.”

Consultation on the draft Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw opens on Monday, 18 June. Copies of the drafts are available from Selwyn District library/service centres and on the Council website www.selwyn.govt.nz/haveyoursay. The information will also be sent out to all dog owners on the Council’s dog control register, along with the community boards and all Reserve Management and Township Committees.

Written submissions must be received at the Selwyn District Council by Friday, 3 August.

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For more information, contact Selwyn District Council Helpline, 347 2800.