



Media release

Wednesday 21 November 2012

New Dog Bylaw Recommended for Approval

Following extensive public consultation and the consideration of a large number of submissions, a Council Working Party has recommended a new dog control by law for approval.

The proposed bylaw allows for the use of reserves for dogs to be exercised off a leash when they are not in use for sporting or other public events. The Working Party hopes the changes will result in the greater use of reserves and more options for dog owners to exercise their animals.

Although a number of submitters did not support the change, the Working Party believes that the bylaw strikes a reasonable balance in the use of public areas by sporting bodies and other users including the large number of dog owners (over 6000) in the District.

Under the proposed bylaw dogs will be prohibited from reserves when they are being used for public events. This includes all marked playing fields and a 5 metre perimeter around them.

To address the potential issue of dog fouling, a number of other actions have been recommended in conjunction with the proposed changes, including additional signage, waste bins, low-tolerance stance to enforcement, education and monitoring.

Ends

For information on the proposal please contact Steve Clarke, Senior Animal Control Officer, Ph. (03) 347 2843.