

Essential revisions:

1. Remove the preamble on preservation of wildlife as ultra vires to the allowed purposes of the bylaw under the Local Government Act.
2. Restore the existing limits on number of dogs to two with flexibility to approve more.
3. Consider more options for sharing locations by either space or time.
4. In general keep the proposed allocations where districts were satisfied with them but revise or restore those in the BOI/Whangaroa district where there is so much dissatisfaction and concern.
 - a. Restore the 2006 wording re Long Beach off leash area
 - b. Implement Sullivan's beach off leash with access from northern Te Haumi
5. Create programmes for dog owners to aid wildlife preservation and resolve community conflicts on an ongoing basis by working cooperatively with Council and with other interested parties.
6. Rethink the Registration and RDO strategy as it is plainly failing with very large numbers of unregistered dogs causing problems for both dogs and people.
7. Rethink the handling of stray or missing dogs since the present punitive strategy inhibits reporting and community solutions as well as creating conflicts.
8. As a policy principle, enforcement action and penalties will be pursued only where actual and significant harm has ensued or is at risk. Common sense will be applied.
9. The pound quality and performance should be audited independently by SPCA NZ and reported annually.

Recommended revisions:

10. Avoid duplication with the Dog Control Act, Animal Welfare Act and Wildlife Act but reference them.
11. We find the Thames Coromandel Bylaw 2016 a useful model in several respects:
 - a. Simplicity
 - b. Provides flexibility to consider and approve exceptions by the Council
 - c. Provides separate schedules for each Community Board area with all the rules for a location in one place
 - d. Supports temporary exclusion areas appropriate to protecting wildlife – these should apply to people as well as dogs where necessary.
12. Improve handling and re-homing of impounded dogs.
13. Programmes to encourage de-sexing and micro-chipping. Focus more on positive incentives rather than punitive.