

8th April 2026

Mayor, Cr Stephen Jolly

Email: Stephen.Jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Re: Follow-up to Teams meeting

Animal Care Australia would like to thank you for meeting to discuss the proposed animal restrictions in Council’s Local Law review.

As requested, we provide the following information relating to how NSW Council’s implement restrictions when needed as a response to a proven animal welfare concern or a resident that shows a clear intent to not follow directions for dealing with noise or other amenity concerns.

Below are two examples for your reference:

Clarence Valley Council:

Keeping Animals Policy document -

<https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/files/policies/keeping-animals-policy-v2.0.pdf>

For point:

3.2 Managing complaints when Council involvement is required (page 2)

When investigating a complaint regarding the keeping of an animal(s), Council will consider the recommendations and guidance notes provided in Table 1 and the following criteria to determine whether or not to give an order or initiate other preventative actions against animal owners.

4. Policy statement (page 4)

Table 1 provides additional criteria for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Council, pet owner/s, immediate neighbours and the broader community. It provides guidance on the way certain animals should be kept on premises within our local government area.

It should NOT be interpreted that keeping animals in excess of the numbers or not in accordance with the manner specified in the table amounts to prohibited land use. Rather, the table and the criteria in the preamble provide an indication of what will be considered by Council to determine whether a nuisance is being caused and whether enforcement action should be initiated.

Upper Hunter Shire Council:

Keeping of Animals in Upper Hunter Policy document -

<https://www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/documents-and-policies/policies/policy-local-orders-keeping-of-animals-and-birds-in-upper-hunter-shire-27.11.2023.pdf>

Policy Statement (page 2)

It is not intended within this policy to completely regulate the manner in which animals should be kept. It is, however, necessary that this policy should inform the reasonable limits

(both statutory and advisory) which apply concerning the maximum number of animals and the circumstances under which they may be kept on premises.

Council's Powers to Control and Regulate the Keeping of Animals (page 4)

Generally, Council's powers to control and regulate the keeping of animals are provided under Section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021.

The Council may, in the appropriate circumstances, issue an Order to:

- prohibit the keeping of various kinds of animals
- restrict the number of various kinds of animals to be kept at a premises
- require that animals be kept in a specific manner.

Table of requirements (page 5)

Note: The information contained within this policy is provided as guidelines. Council will consider all aspects of the policy and the individual circumstances of the case when determining the appropriate form of action in response to any complaints received.

In practice, these tables are used by officers as a Guide and residents are not forced by mandatory Local Laws into requiring Excess Animal Permits. This approach does not limit the ability of Officers to deal with complaints. It simply restricts those who are not doing the right thing rather than penalising everyone (via the costs of excess animal permits) through mandatory restrictions.

Equally by not financially burdening people or mandating animal numbers, residents are less likely to avoid seeking veterinary care for their animals through fear of the veterinarian realising the resident owns excess numbers and reporting them. This equates to greater animal welfare outcomes as animals are not hidden from curious or prying eyes.

As stated in our previous correspondences, the Tables should also refer to existing State Codes of practice for reference points as to whether animals are being kept appropriately.

Should you require further details please do not hesitate to reach out as we would be happy to meet with you and further discuss this matter.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly

President

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About Animal Care Australia

As a nationally recognised animal welfare organisation, Animal Care Australia encourages continued development of animal welfare standards and Codes of Practice for animal husbandry, breeding, training, sale, and sporting exhibitions for a wide range of animal species, including pets, companion animals, animals used for educational or entertainment purposes or kept for conservation.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers to lobby for real animal welfare. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation, and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare.

By educating our members and the public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, Animal Care Australia is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- advocating for stronger welfare outcomes
- advocating to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques
- educate the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of their needs
- educate the public in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights