

Animal Advisory Committee**Minutes****Wednesday 13 December 2023****Present: Councillors:** Mary-Lou Jarvis (Chair)**Residents:** Geoff Rundle
Mark Heeley
Rebekah Lam**Staff:** Andrew Charles (Team Leader – Regulatory Services)
Roger Faulkner (Team Leader Open Space and Rec Plan)
Billy Abbassi (Ranger – Animal Control)
Paul Saffery (Ranger – Animal Control)
Sophie O'Malley (Administration Officer)**Meeting opened:** 5.00pm held using teleconferencing technology and in person at the Miller Room at 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay

1. Opening

Meeting opened at 5:03pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Country**3. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted by Cr Nicola Grieve, Bridgette Regener, Lea Dazley and Michael Linton.

Staff apologies: Colin DeCosta, Suzy Rich, Paul Fraser, Scott Pedder

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Late Correspondence

Nil.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

Item No: 6.1
Subject: **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2023**
Author: Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

Resolved:

THAT the minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting held on the 20 July 2023 be confirmed. Minutes moved by Cr Jarvis and seconded by Rebekah Lam.

- The committee briefly reviewed previous minutes advising to the new members that the review came due to the Plans of Management which included 1500 comments. 50% touched on dogs not strongly for or against, evenly split. Council decided that it needed to look at changing controls and expand areas.

7. Items for Discussion

Item No: 7.1
Subject: **NEW BUSINESS**
Author: Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

Resolved:

THAT the committee:

- **Provide an update on the REF following the Palm Beach Case**
 - Next progression of findings is the Council report, however, delayed due to the Northern Beaches and Shoalhaven Court cases
 - In both cases, environmental protection groups took each Council to Court, based on proposals to allow dogs to be off leash in areas considered environmentally sensitive– Court did not rule on if dogs should or should not be allowed in these areas, but it ruled on the process undertaken and if Council took due diligence
 - Council must take into account environmental factors under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. It does not trigger a DA but change in activity in dog activity is considered a “change in activity” which can be approved if you have undertaken a review of environmental factors which includes natural environment, traffic impact, noise impact, cleanliness, parking impacts etc.
 - Legal advice has been received– for every proposed change (currently 18 proposed changes) a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) needs to be completed. REFs will be conducted by independent consultants
 - Changes made in the past are considered done – no environmental activity needed
 - REF then to be approved by the delegated authority – Director of Planning and Place, Scott Pedder
 - Director of Planning and Place has decided to have all REFs prepared and then report to Council
- **Review pet focused activities for 2024/2025 and review those of 2023**
 - Roger Faulkner reported that previous events were a success however, his team only manage the bookings. Rotary clubs tend to organise the events
- **Provide suggestions for managing animal waste**
 - Only suggestion made was for increased campaigns for awareness

- **Provide an update on animal registration**
 - Colin asked for clarification on what specifically was required, however no response received. Cr Jarvis has asked in the next meeting for an update on number of dogs and cats registered in LGA
 - **Discuss reports and advisings on foxes, rats and cats**
 - Rats are considered vermin and not regulated or controlled by Council
 - Foxes are considered a non-native pest and managed by Department of Primary Industries
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8. General Business

Item No: 8.1
Subject: **Business arising from previous minutes**
Author: Sophie O'Malley, Administration Officer

Resolved:

THAT the Committee provide an update on the current LGA wide dog control review.

- The Committee were briefed on the previous findings and the process as it was included in the previous minutes
 - Kutti Beach not mentioned in previous discussion. A very strong response 26 submissions against off leash out of 29 submissions
 - Recommendation has been changed to make prohibited at all times
 - Kutti Beach will go to Council to consider recommendation
 - See above 7.1 – in relation to update on process
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9. Advisings

Nil.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled around March 2024 – date to be determined.

Meeting Closed at 5:48pm.
