Have your say on the proposed changes to the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw

Feedback opens Monday 1 April and closes Friday 10 May, 2019

We reviewed the current Policy on Dogs and Dog Management Bylaw in November 2018 and are proposing changes to improve dog management in Auckland.

The main changes we propose are to:

- reorganise the Policy and Bylaw information into user friendly themes
- remove duplication from the Bylaw, which will simplify future amendments
- reduce confusion about dog access rules and improve voluntary compliance by:
  - presenting the rules in the schedule in a consistent manner
  - applying a consistent definition of time and season
  - applying consistent rules to multiple dog ownership
- address emerging issues around dog management by:
  - including specific reference to the Code of Welfare
  - extending environmental protection to include flora
- clarifying the enforcement requirement to neuter uncontrolled dogs
- clarifying the council’s jurisdiction on privately owned public spaces
- promoting responsible dog ownership amongst owners of dogs classified as ‘menacing’ on the basis of their behaviour
- reviewing access rules in regional parks.

To provide feedback on the proposed changes you can:

- visit [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay) to provide feedback online and find out about the drop-in sessions that are taking place during the consultation period
- scan this form and email it to dogsbylawreview@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- by placing your completed form in an envelope and sending to the following freepost address:
  
  Auckland Council  
  Dog Management Bylaw  
  Freepost Number 241331  
  Private Bag 92300  
  Victoria Street West  
  Auckland 1142

Once the consultation has closed, all feedback received will be presented to the Deliberations Panel before a final decision is made. You are welcome to attend and observe proceedings at 1.30pm to 5.00pm on Friday 21 June, 12.30-5.00pm on Wednesday 26 June and 1.30 to 5.00pm on Wednesday 3 July, 2019. If additional deliberations are required these will be held from 1.00-5.00pm on Thursday 4 July and Friday 5 July, 2019. All meetings will be held at the Reception lounge, Level 2, Auckland Town Hall.
Feedback on the Dog Management Policy and Bylaw Review

Proposal 1:

Remove the schedule of access rules from the Dog Management Bylaw 2012.

Reason

The current Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 both contain the same schedules of dog access rules (a list of public places where dogs can/can’t go). Removing this duplication from the Bylaw will make it easier to make changes to the schedule in the Policy. This is because the Policy does not need to be approved by the Governing Body.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

□ Agree □ Disagree □ Other

Please tell us why:

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Proposal 2:

All local board dog access rules within Schedule 2 of the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs will be presented in the same way. The rules will now list designated dog exercise areas, off leash areas, areas where a time and season rule is applied, and prohibited areas. Public spaces not listed in Schedule 2 have the default rule of dogs on leash.

This will not change local dog access rules that are currently applied in any local beach, park or reserve, only the way the rules are presented.

Reason

Currently, Schedule 2 (the list of local dog access rules) applies different default dog access rules for each local board area. If we present dog access rules in the same way for each local board area, it will be easier to know where dogs are allowed.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Other

Please tell us why:
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The intent of this proposal is not to change any current local dog access rules. If you think there are any local beaches or parks where the type of rule applied will change this proposal, please specify these below:
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Proposal 3:

A multiple dog ownership licence will only be required for urban residential properties where there are more than two dogs at the property.

Reason

The purpose of a multiple dog ownership licence is to promote dog welfare by ensuring the property is suitable for more than two dogs. Currently, there are different requirements for multiple dog ownership, depending on where you live in Auckland. This proposed change would provide a consistent approach to licensing across Auckland.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Other
Proposal 4:

Amend the time and season definition in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs to ‘10am-7pm from the Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March’. This definition would consistently be applied in all areas currently using a time and season rule (including identified regional parks).

Reason

The purpose of a time and season rule is to minimise the conflict between dogs, their owners, and other users of busy, public places. Currently, there are 17 variations to the time and season definition. We want to standardise the definition to make it easier for the public to know when dogs are allowed on beaches that apply the time and season rule.

Alternative option

We are also considering the option of allowing local boards to make variations to the regional time and season definition.

This variation option means local boards would be able to customise the time and season definition to the needs of the community, but will also result in ongoing inconsistency throughout the region.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

☐ Standardised regional definition  ☐ Local variations  ☐ Other

Please tell us why:

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If a standardised regional definition is applied, what is your view of the proposed definition of ‘10am-7pm from the Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March’?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Other
If you'd like the time and season definition changed, what would you like to change it to?

Start time:
- 7.00am
- 7.30am
- 8.00am
- 8.30am
- 9.00am
- 9.30am
- 10.00am
- 10.30am
- 11.00am
- Other (Please tell us what time):

Finish time:
- 4.00pm
- 4.30pm
- 5.00pm
- 5.30pm
- 6.00pm
- 6.30pm
- 7.00pm
- 7.30pm
- 8.00pm
- Other (Please tell us what time):

Season start:
- Daylight savings (late September)
- Labour Weekend (late October)
- 1 December
- Other (Please tell us when):

Season finish:
- 1 March
- 31 March
- Easter weekend (varies)
- Daylight savings (early April)
- Other (Please tell us when):

Proposal 5 (These proposed amendments apply to regional parks only):

Proposal 5A
Implement a standard lambing season rule to prohibit dogs from 1 July to 1 December in regional parks that have stock.

Reason
Currently, regional parks apply various rules to prohibit dogs during lambing season. A standard rule makes it easier for dog owners to know when they can take their dogs to regional parks with stock. These rules are being proposed to protect stock in the regional parks that currently have a lambing season rule (Hunua Ranges, Mahurangi, Omana, Pakiri, Tapapakanga, Te Rau Puriri, Waitawa, Wenderholm).

What is your opinion on this proposal?
- Agree
- Disagree
- Other
Proposal 5B

We are proposing to amend dog access rules in the following regional parks to protect wildlife: Glenfern Sanctuary, Muriwai Regional Park, Long Bay Regional Park, Waitakere Regional Park - Whatipu.

1. **Glenfern Sanctuary**

   Dogs are prohibited from the sanctuary for the protection of wildlife.

   **Reason**

   Dogs are currently prohibited from Glenfern Sanctuary to protect wildlife. This is a newly acquired piece of land and the current rules need to be included in Schedule 2.

   **What is your opinion on this proposal?**

   □ Agree □ Disagree □ Other

   Please tell us why:

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. **Muriwai Regional Park**

   (a) On Muriwai Beach, dogs are allowed under control off leash at all times north of the surf tower

   (b) Dogs are prohibited south of the surf tower to protect the gannet colony.

   **Reason**

   The surf tower is being used as the boundary marker to make it easier for the public to know where dogs are allowed and prohibited.

   **What is your opinion on this proposal?**

   □ Agree □ Disagree □ Other

   Please tell us why:

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All personal information that you provide in this submission will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. Our privacy policy explains how we may use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. We recommend you familiarise yourself with this policy.
3. **Long Bay Regional Park**

(a) Dogs are prohibited north of Vaughn's stream
(b) The following time and season rule applied to the beach south of Vaughn’s stream:

**Summer**
- Morning - under control off leash
- Daytime - under control on leash
- Evening - under control off leash

**Winter**
- All times - under control off leash

c) Dogs are allowed under control on a leash in the small car parking area immediately east of the southern entrance to the park
d) Except as provided in (a) - (c) above, dogs are prohibited from Long Bay Regional Park and associated beaches.

**Reason**

Dogs are currently prohibited north of Vaughn’s stream using the temporary ban for the protection of vulnerable wildlife. We are proposing to make this ban permanent to ensure continued protection of wildlife north of the stream. South of Vaughn’s stream would apply the regional standard time and season definition. The addition of the on leash rule in the southern car park allows for dog owners to take their dogs to the beach without breaching the bylaw.

**What is your opinion on this proposal?**

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Other

Please tell us why:

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4. **Waitakere Regional Park – Whatipu**

Dogs are prohibited west of Don McLean Road and south of Walker Ridge track.
Reason

Dogs are prohibited from Whatipu Scientific Reserve for the protection of wildlife. We are proposing to prohibit dogs from the road and any walking tracks that lead to this reserve to retain this protection.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

□ Agree  □ Disagree  □ Other

Please tell us why:

______________________________________________________________________________

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Proposal 5C

Retain all other dog access rules in regional parks.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

□ Agree  □ Disagree  □ Other

Please tell us if there are other dog access rules in regional parks you think should be changed and why:

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Proposal 6:

Extend council’s ability to make temporary changes to dog access rules to protect flora vulnerable to dogs, such as kauri.

Reason

The current Bylaw allows council to temporary prohibit dogs from areas to protect vulnerable wildlife. Extending this provision allows for Auckland Council to be more responsive to environmental needs, such as preventing the spread of kauri dieback.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

□ Agree  □ Disagree  □ Other
Proposal 7

Owners of dogs classified as menacing due to behaviour will have the opportunity to have their dog's classification reviewed. The classification may be reviewed if the owner provide evidence of completing a dog obedience course (at the owner's expense), and the owner has not obtained any infringements in relation to the dog within a 12-month period. The removal of classification of the dog is at the discretion of Council.

Reason

The change is intended to incentivise dog owners to modify their dog’s behaviour and promote responsible dog ownership.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Other

Please tell us why:

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Some more information about you

These questions help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with Auckland Council.

All questions are optional, and this information will remain private.

Do you own a dog?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Are you?

☐ Male  ☐ Female  ☐ Gender diverse

What age group do you belong to?

☐ <15  ☐ 15-24  ☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44  ☐ 45-54  ☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74  ☐ 75+

What ethnicity(s) do you identify with?

(tick all that apply)

☐ Pākehā/ NZ European  ☐ Māori

☐ Samoan  ☐ Cook Island Māori

☐ Tongan  ☐ Chinese

☐ Southeast Asian  ☐ Korean

☐ Indian  ☐ Middle Eastern

☐ Latin American  ☐ African

☐ Other (please specify): ___________________