

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025-2030



Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board:

03/11/2025

Date Plan comes into effect:

24/03/2026

Review Date:

24/03/2031



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Kurna and Ngadjuri Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Country that makes up the Light Regional Council. We respect their spiritual relationship to their Country and acknowledge that as Traditional Custodians, their cultural heritage and beliefs are still as important today. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We also recognise that their relationship with Country was deeply sustainable, and Council can learn much from their way of life and continuing knowledge.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
.....	
Background	6
.....	
Management of Dogs	7
.....	
Management of Cats	9
.....	
Objectives, Strategies and Outcome Measures	11
.....	
References and Related Documents	16
.....	
Appendix A: On-leash and Off-leash Parks and Reserves	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About Council

Light Regional Council is located to the north of metropolitan Adelaide in South Australia. It covers an area of 1,278 km² and includes a significant part of the world-renowned Barossa Valley wine region. The district's towns include Freeling, Greenock, Kapunda, Roseworthy and Wasleys and the suburb of Hewett. In 2025, there were 4076 dogs registered in Light Regional Council.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Plan is to guide the direction of the Light Regional Council's management of dogs and cats for the next five years (2025-2030). This new Plan replaces the Council's existing Dog and Cat Management Plan.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) which requires all councils in South Australia to develop a plan of management relating to dogs and cats within their area.

This document provides guidance to Light Regional Council regarding its legal obligations pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (which are currently under review) as well as a broader approach to the management and integration of dogs and cats within our growing community.

Mission

To be regarded as an exemplary Council that puts the people of Light first, while creating a place that is also welcoming to visitors and their pets. Through the services we deliver, we will provide the basis for a community and visitors who can enjoy the region safely and harmoniously together with their pets.

Vision

Our vision is to have a community who live with and enjoy the safe integration of dogs and cats in the region.

BACKGROUND

Section 26A of the Act requires councils to prepare a plan of management relating to dogs and cats (the Plan).

The aim of this Plan is to:

- Promote responsible dog and cat ownership
- Protect and consider public safety
- Harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership for the community and our residents
- Fulfil the requirements of the Act and local laws

This Plan is a combination of education, encouragement, and enforcement actions to assist with changing people's attitudes and behaviors towards responsible dog and cat ownership.

Process to develop the Plan

This Plan is a combination of education, encouragement, and enforcement actions to assist with changing people's attitudes and behaviors towards responsible dog and cat ownership.

- Evaluation of outcomes from previous plan
- Assessment of Issues identified through complaints, reported incidents, statistics, and legal cases
- Consultation process inviting community engagement and considering all feedback



MANAGEMENT OF DOGS

Council's approach to owners' legal requirements and responsible dog ownership includes actions to monitor and address the following:

- Microchipping and desexing compliance
- Dog Registration
- Enforcement of by-laws
- Leashing requirements
- Animal behaviours affecting the community including wandering at large, barking, harassment, and attack incidents
- Arrangements for the detention and care of seized and impounded dogs; and
- Fostering partnerships with community organisations; e.g. rehoming organisations, veterinary services, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League.

Council will continue to work on community education and information. Council believes that assisting our community to achieve happy and socially adaptive pets adds value to the quality of life of many people and encourages and supports a connected community with a focus on health and wellbeing.

Our focus areas for education and support are as follows:

- Providing spaces for the exercise and enrichment of dogs
- Providing advice and avenues to explore and address dog behaviour as it arises
- Community education about the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership



On-Leash/Off-Leash Areas

On-leash Areas

Where a dog is required to be on-leash, the leash must be no more than 2 metres in length.

Definition of Dog On-Leash Areas

The Council's Dog By-Law No 5 lists a dog on-leash area as any of the following:

- Local government land or public place formally designated by council resolution as requiring dogs to be on a leash.
- Any park during periods when organised sport is being played.
- Any wetland area.

Off-leash Areas

When a dog is off-leash an owner must always have effective control of the dog. This means that the dog must be:

- In close proximity to the owner or person responsible
- Be able to be seen by the person responsible at all times; and
- Be under effective command (the dog should return under a command or cue)

Dog Prohibited Areas

Under Council Dogs By Law No.5 Dogs are not permitted in the following locations:

- **Enclosed Children's Playgrounds**

Dogs are strictly prohibited within the boundaries of any enclosed playground designated for children.

- **Unenclosed Playgrounds**

Dogs must not enter or remain within 5 metres of any unenclosed children's playground.

For a comprehensive list of designated **on-leash and off-leash parks**, as well as **dog prohibited areas** within the Light Regional Council, refer to **Appendix A** in accordance with Section 26A(2).

MANAGEMENT OF CATS

Council's Approach to Legal cat Ownership Requirements

The Council is committed to ensuring responsible cat ownership through compliance with key legal standards, including:

Microchipping and Desexing

Promoting adherence to mandatory microchipping and desexing requirements under the Act to support animal welfare and identification.

By-Law Enforcement

Implementing and maintaining by-laws that regulate the number of cats per household and aim to reduce the impact of owned cats on neighbours and the local environment.

The Council is committed to working with the community to promote responsible cat ownership, with a focus on the welfare and wellbeing of cats, their owners, and the broader community. This includes promoting responsible cat ownership by undertaking the following:



Community Education

Raising awareness about the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership to foster a more informed and compassionate community.



Practical Guidance

Offering clear advice on appropriate cat numbers per household, effective containment strategies, and essential health care practices.



Environmental Consideration

Encouraging cat owners to minimize the impact of their pets on neighbours and local wildlife through responsible containment measures.



Cat By-Law No 6 (2022) - Governance Summary

In 2022, Council enacted Cats By-Law No 6 of 2022 to establish clear regulatory standards for the management and control of domestic cats within the Council area. The by-law supports responsible pet ownership and aims to mitigate community and environmental impacts. Key provisions include:

Ownership Limits

A maximum of four cats is permitted per property. Exceptions may be granted upon formal application and approval by Council.

Compliance Oversight

Council reserves the right to issue notices to cat owners to ensure adherence to the by-law and rectify any breaches.

Nuisance Prevention

Cat ownership must not result in nuisance or disruption to neighbouring properties. Owners are responsible for managing their pets to prevent adverse impacts.



OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND OUTCOME MEASURES

Dog and Cat Management		
Mandatory Microchipping		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Track Distribution Frequency To support responsible pet ownership and compliance with state legislation, Council will implement targeted education initiatives to inform residents about mandatory microchipping requirements for cats and dogs.	To promote awareness and compliance with mandatory microchipping requirements, Council will implement the following education methods: • Digital Communication Use the Council website and official social media channels to share clear, accessible information about microchipping obligations and benefits. • Direct Engagement Provide face-to-face education during interactions with residents—particularly when responding to wandering or impounded dogs, or addressing animal-related complaints. • Registration Follow-up Deliver targeted education during the follow-up process for new dog registrations, ensuring owners understand their legal responsibilities. These strategies aim to increase community understanding, improve compliance rates, and support responsible pet ownership across the Council area	Track Distribution Frequency Document the total number of times educational materials have been disseminated to the community. Record Format Diversity Identify and record the number of distinct formats used to deliver educational content (e.g., brochures, social media posts, face-to-face, signage).
Increase Microchipping Rates for Dogs and Cats To improve compliance with mandatory microchipping requirements and support responsible pet ownership, Council will implement targeted initiatives aimed at increasing the number of microchipped dogs and cats within the local area.	Community Microchipping Events Explore hosting a discounted microchipping day for residents, and consider partnering with neighbouring councils to deliver joint events that maximise reach and participation. Veterinary Collaboration Work with local veterinary clinics to promote microchipping requirements and encourage uptake during routine visits and pet registrations. Impounded Animal Microchipping Ensure all dogs impounded and rehomed through Council facilities are microchipped prior to release.	Event Impact Track the number of dogs and cats microchipped during Council-supported microchipping days. Community Uptake Monitor the percentage increase in microchipped dogs and cats across the Council area over time. These actions align with Council's broader goals of improving animal welfare, enhancing pet traceability, and fostering a responsible pet-owning community.
Mandatory Microchipping To ensure adherence to mandatory microchipping requirements and support responsible pet ownership.	Microchipping Requirement Require all un-microchipped dogs and cats to be microchipped in accordance with legislative obligations. Targeted Enforcement Issue expiation notices for non-compliance where prior education and engagement efforts have not resulted in behavioural change.	Reduction in Non-Compliant Animals Measure the percentage decrease in the number of dogs and cats found to be un-microchipped during Council interactions. Pound / Shelter Intake Trends Track the percentage reduction in un-microchipped dogs and cats arriving at Council-managed pounds or shelters over time. These enforcement actions complement Council's education initiatives and contribute to improved animal welfare, traceability, and community safety.

Mandatory Desexing

Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Mandatory Desexing Requirements To support responsible pet ownership and ensure compliance with state legislation, Council will implement a targeted education campaign to raise awareness of mandatory desexing requirements for cats and dogs.	Digital Communication Require all un-microchipped dogs and cats to be microchipped in accordance with legislative obligations. Multi-Channel Distribution Deliver educational content through a variety of formats, such as printed brochures, and face-to-face engagement.	To measure the effectiveness and reach of Council's education efforts regarding mandatory desexing requirements, the following indicators will be tracked: • Distribution Frequency Record the total number of times educational information is disseminated across all communication channels. • Format Diversity Document the number of distinct formats used to deliver educational content (e.g., brochures, social media posts, website updates, community events, direct engagement).
Increase numbers of desexed dogs and cats in the local Council area	Veterinary Partnerships Establish and strengthen partnerships with local veterinary clinics to encourage desexing and promote its benefits during routine visits and pet registrations. Online Information Access Feature clear, accessible information about the National Desexing Network (NDN) on Council's website, including links to resources and eligibility for subsidised services. Campaign Promotion Actively promote National Desexing Network annual National Desexing Month (NDN) each July through Council communication channels, including social media, newsletters, and community noticeboards.	Progressive Increase in Desexed Animals A sustained rise in the number of dogs and cats that are desexed within the Council area over time. High Compliance Among Eligible Pets A high proportion of dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 are desexed in accordance with legislative requirements. Reduction in Non-Standard Registrations A measurable decrease in the number of dogs and cats registered under the 'non-standard' category due to non-compliance with desexing requirements. These outcomes support Council's broader goals of reducing stray animal populations, improving animal welfare, and fostering responsible pet ownership.
Monitor compliance with the mandatory desexing requirement	To ensure integrity in the registration process and promote compliance with mandatory desexing requirements, Council will monitor eligibility for the 'Standard Dog/Cat' registration rebate by requiring documented proof of desexing at the time of registration. Issue expiations as needed for ongoing non-compliance when identified.	Reduction in Enforcement Actions A measurable decrease in the number of expiation notices issued for non-compliance with desexing requirements. Decrease in Non-Desexed Shelter Intakes A reduction in the number of non-desexed dogs and cats arriving at Council-managed or affiliated pounds and shelters.

Nuisance Barking		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Monitor compliance and action nuisance barking complaints	- Promote the use of trainers and veterinarians to assist owners to manage behavioural problems such as barking. - Provide education about Council's procedures and offer information from the Dog and Cat Management Board to assist residents. - Encourage safe socialisation, exercise and environmental enrichment to reduce boredom barking such as puzzle feeders and chew toys.	Reduction in the number of ongoing complaints of barking dogs in the area.

Responsible Dog and Cat Ownership		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Increase community knowledge of dog and cat ownership laws	- Display information about dog and cat laws at Council premises and on the website. - Utilise social media for education and to promote responsible pet ownership. - Display links to the Dog and Cat Management Board's websites on Council's website and social media. Share relevant posts from Board's social media.	- Reduction in the percentage of certain expiations over time (e.g. off-leash expiations, public defecation expiations etc.). - Identify number of times educational information distributed. - Utilise several different formats used to distribute information.
Promoted awareness and benefits of cat confinement in the community	Provide information to owners of cats which are subject to complaints about the benefits of cat confinement.	- Number of different locations where information about cat confinement distributed such as Council offices and libraries, veterinary clinics, community centres and online platforms and social media. - Reduction in the number of complaints about wandering/nuisance cats.

Dog Registration		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Identify unregistered dogs	- Monitor and follow up on dog registrations which are not renewed each year via reminder letters and direct contact with dog owners. - Pursue dog registrations where dogs are identified through complaints or impounding.	Reduction in the number of identified unregistered dogs.
Implement measures to uphold registration compliance	Expiations issued as required for dogs that are not registered.	Progressive decrease in penalties issued for registration violations.

Dogs Wandering at Large		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Reduce the number of wandering dogs in the local Council area	- Promote awareness among dog owners regarding relevant legislation, potential risks associated with wandering dogs, and available enforcement measures. - Facilitate the safe return of wandering dogs whenever possible, using the opportunity to educate and support owners in implementing effective containment strategies. - Conduct targeted patrols in public areas to identify and detain dogs found wandering at large, ensuring community safety and compliance with legislation.	Reduction in dogs impounded over time.

Breeder and Breeder compliance		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
To ensure breeders comply with their legal obligations under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.	Conduct an audit of registered breeders to review their compliance obligations and offer targeted educational support. Review all breeder operations to verify that business premises are lawfully approved under relevant planning and development regulations.	- Promote greater awareness among existing and emerging dog breeders regarding their legal responsibilities and best practices. - Pursue grant funding from the Dog and Cat Management Board to support as needed breeder education initiatives, including community outreach and information sessions delivered in partnership with the Adelaide Plains Council.

Other Initiatives		
Objective	Strategies	Outcome Measures
Provide an environment where residents and their dogs can enjoy connecting	- Investigate the feasibility of establishing dedicated dog parks to promote safe socialisation and physical activity for dogs within the community. - Undertake a comprehensive audit of signage across all parks and designated areas listed in the on- and off-leash dog register, ensuring updates are made where necessary to improve clarity and compliance.	- Decrease in antisocial and reactive dog incidents over time. - Decline in reports of dogs off-leash in designated on-leash areas.
Provide a reliable rehoming service for abandoned and stray dogs	- Leverage social media platforms to promote dogs available for rehoming and increase community engagement. Collaborate with rescue organisations to access fostering support and expand care capacity. - Engage veterinary professionals to conduct health checks and behavioural assessment prior to adoption. - Offer a trial adoption period and provide comprehensive guidance to support successful integration for new pet owners.	In 2024, the Council introduced a forward-thinking Dog Rehoming Policy designed to give every dog a fair chance at a safe, loving home. This policy reflects the Council's commitment to animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and community care. Clear guidelines to be maintained for assessing dog rehoming and ensure transparency and consistency in decision making.

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Light Regional Councils Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028
- Light Regional Council By-Law 5 – Dogs
- Light Regional Council By-Law 6 – Cats
- The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- Dog and Cat Management Board website
- Light Regional Councils Enforcement Policy
- Light Regional Council Dog Rehoming Policy and Procedure 2024

APPENDIX A: ON-LEASH AND OFF-LEASH PARKS AND RESERVES

A 'park' is defined in the Act as: "a park, garden, reserve or other similar public open space, or a foreshore area, within the area of a council".

Below is a table listing Council's dedicated on- and off-leash areas. Maps of these areas can also be found on Council's website.

Freeling

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Freeling Recreation Park (Sports oval)	Hanson Street	Off-leash, unless formal sports are being played
Freeling Wetlands	Schuster Street	On-leash
McCallum Road Park (includes unfenced playground)	Stollberg Road	On-leash
Mattiske Park (includes playground and public toilets)	Corner of Rogers Street & Peake Street	Off-leash
Park Range Reserve	Fiddlewood Drive	Off-leash
Pedler Boulevard Park (includes playground)	Pedler Boulevard	Off-leash
Railway Reserve	Gray Street	Off-leash

Greenock

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Greenock Creek	George Angus Drive	Off-leash
Greenock Centenary Park (includes fenced playground in park)	Martin Street	Off-leash (Dogs prohibited in fenced children's playground)
Marsh Walk (Shared path)	Off George Street	Off-leash

Hewett

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Hewett Shared Use Path	Various locations along North Para River	Off-leash
Park (includes playground)	Osprey Parade/Songlark Grove	On-leash
Park	Osprey Parade/Brolga Way	Off-leash
Park	Lorikeet Grove/Songlark Grove	Off-leash
Park	Rosella Circuit	Off-leash
Park	McKinlay Square	On-leash
Park	Teal Court/Kingfisher Drive	Off-leash
Linear Park	Expedition Drive/Burke Parade/Oaklands Circuit	Off-leash

Wasleys

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Joseph Wasleys Reserve	Forster Street	Off-leash
Charles Mullen Mudla Wirra Road (includes Road reserve with historic monument)	Mudla Wirra Road	Off-leash
Wasleys Oval Recreation Grounds (includes unfenced playground in reserve)	Station Street	Off-leash (Dogs prohibited within 5 metres of unfenced children's playground)

Kapunda

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Kapunda Trotting Club & Track	Hancock Road	Off-leash
Kapunda Oval (includes enclosed children's playground in reserve)	Coghill Street	Off-leash (Dogs prohibited in fenced children's playground)
The Swann Path (Kapunda Rail Trail)	Between Hill Street & Coghill	Off-leash
Hill Street Park (Enclosed children's playground)	Hill Street	Dogs Prohibited
Davidson Reserve (Duck Pond)	Willow Drive	On-leash
Map the Miner	Thiele Highway	On-leash
Solomon Street (Drainage line)	Solomon Street	Off-leash
Kapunda Mine Site (Walking trail)	Mine Street	On-leash
Gundry's Hill Lookout	Hawke Street	Off-leash

Roseworthy

Park/Reserve	Address	On/Off-leash
Shamrock Way (Lagoon)	Near treatment plant	Off-leash
Railway Terrace (includes playground in park)	Opposite post office	On-leash
Roseworthy Oval (when oval not being utilised by Trinity College during school hours and events)	Regent Street, Roseworthy	On-leash