

# Domestic Animal Management Plan

2020 - 2024

## Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Mayors Message</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Frankston City Council Demographic Profile</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Frankston City Council Animal Demographic Profile .....	3
<b>What is a Domestic Animal Management Plan</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan .....	4
The Community Safety Department .....	5
Current Animal Management Programs & Services .....	6
Council Orders to Manage Domestic Animals .....	8
Domestic Animal Businesses .....	8
<b>Community Consultation</b> .....	<b>8</b>
How we consulted with the Community .....	8
What the Community Said .....	9
<b>Identified Issues</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Issue 1:</b> Dog Waste.....	10
<b>Issue 2:</b> Dogs Being Exercised Off Lead.....	11
<b>Issue 3:</b> Cat Curfews.....	12
<b>Issue 4:</b> Dogs on the Foreshore.....	13
<b>Issue 5:</b> Fenced Free Roam Areas .....	14
<b>Issue 6:</b> Dogs in Central Frankston.....	15
<b>Issue 7:</b> Dog Attacks .....	16
<b>Issue 8:</b> Enforcement by Council Officers .....	17
<b>Action Plan</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Progress and Reporting</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Staff Training</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Endorsement</b> .....	<b>20</b>

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country

Frankston City Council (Council) acknowledges the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong in this special place now known by its European name, Frankston.

Council recognises the contribution of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to our community in the past, present and into the future.

## 2. Mayors Message

Many Frankston City residents consider pets to be important members of their families and are very mindful of their responsibilities as pet owners.

In fact, 5,395 cats and 15,148 dogs are currently registered with Council. It is important that guidelines are in place to manage these pets so that they can live in harmony with neighbours, the wider community, local wildlife and the environment. This is the purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

This well-considered plan was updated following community consultation earlier this year. It covers areas such as dogs on the foreshore and in our parks and reserves, free roam areas, cat curfews and general responsible pet ownership matters.

The plan also demonstrates the work underway to improve services, programs and policies relating to domestic animals and Council's continued focus on education. We are confident many issues and conflicts can be avoided by arming our community with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their pets.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and contributions, and for working with us to ensure pets enrich the lives of Frankston City residents for the next four years.

**Frankston City Council Mayor**  
**Sandra Mayer**

## 3. Frankston City Council Demographic Profile

The Frankston City Municipality, located on the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay approximately 45 kilometres south east of Melbourne, is known for its beautiful coastline, award-winning beaches and natural bushland, vibrant lifestyle, diverse community and growing business, arts, education and health facilities.

The city currently is home to 134,143 (ABS Census 2016) people, which is expected to increase to 152,494 people by 2036. Frankston is ideally located with a stunning aspect next to the Bay and also connected to the rest of Melbourne and state highways by both rail and freeways.

As the strength and diversity of the city continues to grow, we will experience increasing attendances at festivals and events and participation in recreation and community groups.

## Frankston City Council Animal Demographic Profile

Category	Figures as at 30 June 2020 for Financial Year 2019-2020
Population	134,143 (2016 Census)
Households	56,873
Area	129.6km
EFT Authorised Compliance Officers	46.41
Hours of training per officer annually	Ref FCC learning and development framework
Registered dogs	15,148
Registered cats	5,395
Registered dangerous dogs	5
Animal prosecutions at court	86
Animal Infringements	477
Impounded dogs	682
Dogs reunited with owner	529
Dogs adopted through Lost Dogs Home	70
Other adoptions (Foster Care) 84Y Agreements	4
Dogs euthanized	45
Cats impounded	556
Cats reunited with owner	111
Cats adopted through Lost Dogs Home	183
Cats euthanized	226
Other adoptions (Foster Care) 84Y Agreements	22

### 4. What is a Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under the provisions of The Domestic Animals Act 1994 all Councils in Victoria are legislated to have developed a Domestic Animal Management Plan which will be renewed every 4 years.

This plan outlines the services, programs and policies the Council has established to address the administration of the Act and the management of domestic animal issues in their community.

## Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan:

The Domestic Animal Management Plan sets the strategic direction in terms of animal management within Frankston City for the next four years and will allow review on an annual basis if required. It will reflect what Council does in relation to animal management and develop ways to improve current practices and set future directions and action plans.

In developing a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) the plan must address the following responsibilities.

- Develop a domestic animal management plan that promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community, and protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats.
- Identify a method of evaluating whether the animal management services provided by the Council are adequate and outline the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act.
- Provide information on the day to day operation of the Council, the current programs Council has in place and the policies the Council has adopted in relation to the following standards of animal management:
  - a) To promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats
  - b) To ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation
  - c) To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
  - d) To address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
  - e) To encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
  - f) To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
  - g) To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the Regulations
- Identify the current Local Laws and Orders made under the Act and provide a review of these to determine if they are effective. Similarly the Council must identify any other specific animal management issues within their municipal district.
- Review the plan annually and publish an evaluation of the implementation of their plan in the Council's annual report. The plan, including new initiatives, is required to be fully reviewed every 4 years.



## **Summary of Current Animal Management Programs & Services:**

Frankston City Council provides a range of programs and services to manage the day to day requirements set out in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Local Government Act* and any other applicable piece of legislation or regulation. These services and programs have been highlighted below.

### **Identification and Registration**

#### **Services**

- Media Releases
- New animal owner packs
- Vet packs
- Social Media
- Website
- Proactive registration door knocks
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed
- Reduced registration fees for assistance & service dogs

### **Dog Nuisance Complaints**

#### **Services**

- Provide barking dog information kits to residents
- Advertise helpful information via Council website
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

### **Dangerous/declared dog Complaints**

#### **Services**

- Yearly inspection program conducted
- Case review team allocated to assess intentions to declare
- Respond to complaints received
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed
- Discounted dog obedience training

### **Routine Patrols**

#### **Services**

- Patrol register to record complaints received and follow up patrols
- Proactive patrols conducted of parks and reserves
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed ie dogs off leash/unregistered
- Provide educational signage

## Pound Operational Hours

### Services

- Monday – Friday 10:00am – 6:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am – 1:00pm
- Sunday 9:00am – 1:00pm

## Microchipping

### Service

- Lost Dogs Home undertake a discounted microchipping program

## Desexing Voucher Program

### Service

- Ongoing program provided by Council for pensioner/healthcare/war veteran card holders
- Council legislated compulsory desexing

## Cat Nuisance Complaints

### Services

- Cat cage loan program
- Advertise helpful information via Council website
- Current cat curfew between sunset and sunrise
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

## Domestic Animal Business

### Services

- Inspection program conducted
- Ensure compliant with Codes of Practice
- Respond to complaints received
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

## Dogs Controlled In Public Areas

### Services

- Order in place requiring dogs on lead in a public place
- Orders allowing dogs off leash in 33 designated free-roam areas and 4 fenced free roam parks
- Review of fenced dog free roam areas
- Respond to complaints received
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

## Prohibited Areas

### Services

- Orders in place to protect native flora and fauna reserves/ environmentally sensitive areas
- Conduct patrols
- Respond to complaints received
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

## Communication and Education

### Services

- Council advertising
- Officers liaison with community stakeholders
- Attend Council events
- Information kits provided by Council
- Provide education and enforcement for offences committed

## Council Orders to Manage Domestic Animals

- Order – Dogs restricted in Central Activities Area of Frankston
- Order – Dogs restricted access to Foreshore areas during summer
- Order – Dogs not permitted to be walked off lead in Foreshore Areas
- Order – Dog free roam areas in Frankston City, including fenced dog parks
- Order – Cats not permitted to roam between dusk and dawn

## Domestic Animal Businesses

All domestic animal businesses must be registered annually with Frankston City Council and comply with the appropriate mandatory Code of Practice. Council Officers undertake regular inspections of domestic animal business facilities and they are required to register each year. Council reports the number of domestic animal businesses registered within the municipality annually to the Department of Agriculture.

## **5. Community Consultation**

### How we consulted with the Community

Council consulted the community during the period from the start of May to 15 June 2020. The surveys were advertised via all Council media platforms including website and a media release issued by the Mayor. The Community had the ability to provide feedback by completing a detailed survey or by providing a written submission. The total number of submissions made to Council was 733, these submissions were made by members of the community completing a survey online or by written submission directly to Council.

The community consultation was somewhat restricted by the COVID-19 Pandemic which limited Council's ability to engage with the community face to face, during events or by holding community meetings, however 733 responses is a very strong response from the community.



## What the Community Said

The community highlighted several areas of concerns, in order to clearly focus on key issues the top 8 issues the community highlighted were:

1. Dog waste not being picked up by owners in public areas
2. Dogs being walked off lead and irresponsible owners
3. Cats roaming during the day and night
4. Dog regulations in foreshore areas
5. Not enough fenced dog free roam parks and dogs being walked on sports ovals
6. Dog regulations in the Central Activities Area of Frankston
7. Dog attacks and public safety
8. Stronger Enforcement from Council's Compliance Officers

### Community Feedback Sample Statements:

*"The reason why I received the survey invitation was that I borrowed a cat trap from the council back in February. The service and follow up I received was first rate but the cat was far too cunning to trap. I requested the trap because my wife witnessed a cat after dusk mauling and killing a ring tail possum and its suckling young right in front of her whilst emptying the recycle bin"*

*"If Frankston City Council could include responsible dog owners freedom it would go a long way to bringing back residents to Frankston. Many now go to Mornington where dogs are accepted as part of the community family. Dogs make people happy as you will see anytime you have Pets Day Out. They get people talking and smiling. We need something to make us smile these days with the COVID -19 lockdown"*

*"I have only lived in Frankston City for 4 years however I must say it has been the worst experience I've ever had when it comes to irresponsible pet owners and I'm a pet owner myself so I don't hate animals. I lived in the Mornington Peninsula Shire for over 20 years prior and NEVER experienced the problems I have daily since moving here. I love the parks and walkways provided by Frankston City (much better than Mornington Peninsula) but unfortunately pet owners ruin these"*

*"I would fully support any rule changes or education programs that are encouraging pet owners to take more responsibility of their pets. I have two small kids and we are sick of people having their dogs off their leash and running up to our kids while they say 'don't worry they are friendly.' It scares my kids and makes us feel that we need to pick them up to protect them. I understand that everyone loves their own dog but we don't trust other people's dogs around our children"*

*"Everywhere you look in parkland there is dog waste. How are kids meant to play there? Keep dogs off the sporting grounds. Every time a group wants to use it they have to pick up other people's dogs waste"*

*"At 79 I'm a very keen cyclist (and I think a considerate one) but prefer to avoid the road areas as much as possible. The bike tracks are perfect and while pedestrians are one thing, dogs running free in these areas frighten me a lot"*

## 6. Identified Issues

### Issue 1:

#### Dog Waste

Any person who is in the control of a dog in a public space is responsible for picking up after their dog and must carry an appropriate device to do this at all times. Council's authorised officers have the ability to issue on the spot infringements to those that do not comply with this Local Law.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- *"This is important to me because - 1. Because this is my workplace, 2. Stepping in waste and taking it back to vehicle to have lunch and 3. Running over dog waste with the mower or worse hitting it with the brush cutter defiantly makes for a bad day, because it stays with you all day"*
- *"I do not have a dog, but very annoyed when I walk along the Frankston board walk between Oliver's Hill and Frankston Pier and almost always there are remnants of dog droppings"*
- *"Everywhere you look in parkland there is dog waste. How are kids meant to play there? Keep dogs of the sporting grounds. Every time a group wants to use it they have to pick up other people's dogs waste"*

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Compliance Officers undertake regular patrols of parks, reserves and open space areas to educate dog walkers and issue infringements where required
- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required
- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Increase media highlighting the need for the community to carry dog waste bags and to pick up after their dogs.
2. Undertake an audit of all dog waste bin locations and the relevant signage in parks and reserves

## Issue 2:

### Dogs Being Exercised Off Lead

It is a requirement that dogs are kept on a lead in all public areas, unless signs indicate otherwise such as in designated free roam areas. The purpose of this requirement is to reduce dog attacks and general conflict between dogs in the community.

Frankston City Council provide 33 free roam areas municipality wide and designated 4 fenced free roam areas at Frankston North, McClelland Drive, Langwarrin and Ballam Park. Whilst dogs may be exercised off lead in these areas it is important that dog owners follow the requirements specific to that park as these areas are also used by the general public.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- *“Dog off lead areas can be great, but if they are near a road they need to be fenced for everyone’s safety. Also, I tend to avoid off lead areas as so many people do not have their dogs under effective control and my dogs get harassed unwantedly”*
- *“There are no leash free areas in Frankston South and I don't want to have to drive to be able to use one”*
- *“There are plenty of open spaces that could be properly fenced to allow more leash free areas locally”*
- *“A designated leash free area can be used to promote responsible dog ownership. Rangers have the opportunity to interact with owners and provide them tips and ideas in better dog management”*
- *“I don’t believe off lead areas are necessary”*

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Compliance Officers undertake patrols of foreshore areas in peak periods or undertake blitzes when required
- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required
- Compliance Officers undertake regular patrols of parks, reserves and open space areas to educate dog walkers and issue infringements where required
- 33 Free Roam Parks provided throughout the Municipality with 4 dedicated fenced free roam areas
- Provide maps and education material in relation to free roam areas and how to exercise dogs safely

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy by December 2021, which identifies suggested locations for future dog parks and the minimum standards they should be built to
2. Undertake a detailed audit of all signs in public areas in relation to the exercising of dogs
3. Investigate new ways to engage with pet owners including digital platforms and Smart Phone Applications
4. Increase Compliance Officer patrols in hot spot locations
5. Review the current resources that provide information on free roam areas and responsible pet ownership

## Issue 3:

### Cat Curfews

Irresponsible cat ownership has a large impact on our community. Frankston City Council has a current cat curfew between dusk and dawn this means there is a legal requirement for a cat to be secured inside a private property during these times. This prevents cats from wandering or roaming onto neighbouring properties at night. Council currently provide a cat cage hire service so cats may be trapped during night time hours.

An owner of a cat is legally required to microchip, register and desex their cat and the cat must also be wearing a collar with a council registration tag on it. Residents are also encouraged to put a bell on the cat's collar and keep it inside at night.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- *"Cats left out to roam during the day or overnight killing native fauna is an issue that bothers me"*
- *"Constant roaming of cats - damaging property, killing other pets and causing significant environmental damage"*
- *"Too many cats are prowling the streets and in other people's gardens including ours during the day and between dusk and dawn. This is a big issue and they defecate in our garden and in our veggie patch. Yuck! Owners don't adhere about keeping cats on their property, they let them roam"*
- *"Cats roaming. There should be a 24 hour curfew"*
- *"Tighten policing and registration of cats"*

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Provide a cat cage hire service to residents
- Investigate and respond to complaints in relation to cats roaming from their home property
- Enforce the cat curfew from dusk to dawn
- Encourage and educate residents to comply with the cat curfew
- Collect and impound stray cats when captured in a Council supplied cat cage

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Review the current Council Order of the night time cat curfew to consider extending it to a 24/7 cat curfew
2. Participate in consultation on state wide feral cat management
3. Review the current processes and procedures in relation to the management of cat nuisance complaints
4. Increased public education campaign to encourage and enforce residents to keep cats on their property, highlighting the benefits to native fauna and their cat's safety.

## Issue 4:

### Dogs on the Foreshore

Most Frankston coastal areas contain areas of high environmental significance, such as sand dunes and these are important to wildlife, for this reason Council has restrictions for dogs in beach areas, these include;

- Dogs not permitted on any Frankston City beach between the hours of 9.30am and 7.30pm during; December, January, February, March.
- Dogs are permitted at all other times provided they are under the effective control of a chain, cord or leash.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- “Not all beaches should have roam free areas. All nature reserves should either have no dogs or dogs on leads”
- “The current restrictions with dogs on beaches should stay the same”
- “There are often dogs at the beach on sunny days even in summer and I think it is unfair to ban them. I would love to be able to take my leashed dog to the beach on a warm summer evening”
- “Please allow dogs on leads in Frankston city and a dedicated dog beach or after hours/winter access. We would use and contribute to Frankston economy and business much more if we can take our whole family and pets were included”
- “I’d love to be able to take my dog to an off leash area so I can enjoy the beach with my dog. Currently have to drive to Carrum or even Safety Beach where there is an amazing one”

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Undertake Compliance Officer patrols of foreshore areas in peak periods or undertake blitzes when required
- Restrictions for dogs on beaches between 1 December and 31 March
- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required
- 33 Free Roam Parks provided throughout the Municipality with 4 dedicated fenced free roam areas

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Develop a Dogs in Public Places policy by December 2021 that includes requirements for dogs being exercised on beaches and free roam areas
2. Review the current Council Order restricting dogs on beaches
3. Undertake a detailed audit of all signs in Foreshore areas in relation to the exercising of dogs on beaches
4. Upgrade conservation area signs where necessary

## Issue 5:

### Fenced Free Roam Areas

Socialisation for dogs is important, in particular for young dogs when they are learning to interact with other dogs. Dog parks provide an opportunity for dogs to become aware of other dogs and reduces the likelihood of dog attacks in the community.

Fenced dog parks also provide benefits for people including, opportunities for people with mobility issues to exercise their dogs freely and safely, promotes social engagement and sense of community and can provide a safe place for social interaction.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- “I also think FCC should consider fenced dog parks. My dogs have good recall but I don’t trust unfenced off-lead areas”
- “There are no leash free areas in Frankston South and I don't want to have to drive to be able to use one. There are plenty of open spaces that could be properly fenced to allow more leash free areas locally”
- “Fenced areas are important but they need to be more than just grass. They need to have trees, water, bins and natural enrichment”
- “Off lead areas should be well signed and/or fenced off for the protection of other pedestrians”
- “Dogs can exercise freely in these areas. They should be on leads at other times”

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Provide 4 fenced free roam areas at, Telopea Reserve Carrum Downs, Melaleuca Reserve Langwarrin, Ballam Park Karingal and McClelland Dive Skye
- Compliance Officers undertake regular patrols of parks, reserves and open space areas to educate dog walkers and issue infringements where required
- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required
- Provide maps and education material in relation to free roam areas and how to exercise dogs safely

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Develop a Dogs in Public Places policy by December 2021, which identifies suggested locations for future dog parks and the minimum standards they should be built to
2. Construct a fenced free roam area at Sandfield Reserve, Carrum Downs

## Issue 6:

### Dogs in Central Frankston

The broad range of views expressed during our community consultation process shows the issue of dogs in central Frankston remains a contentious issue. The current dog ban in central Frankston is in place to reduce the likelihood of dog attacks and dog faeces in high pedestrian areas.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- “Frustrating that you can’t walk your dog in parts of Frankston”
- “Frankston City Centre current rules basically have me shopping or visiting elsewhere - pushing my business elsewhere. It doesn't encourage a friendly, vibrant city that I want to be a part of”
- “I would like to express my dissatisfaction that Frankston City is a dog free area. To be honest, if a dog is on the lead at all times, I cannot understand how this can be an issue”
- “Please DO NOT change the current restrictions for the city centre of "no pets", I have never experienced so many problems with leash free dogs”
- “Please keep Frankston City free of dogs”
- “PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW DOGS INTO THE TOWN CENTRE as this will only make matters worse - if owners can't control their dogs and/or clean up after them in residential areas I'd hate to see the state of the city centre”

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Compliance Officers respond to complaints made by the public and undertake targeted enforcement where required
- Where resources allow, undertake daily patrols of central Frankston
- Provide regular media articles in relation to the dog ban in central Frankston
- Provide education to the community, advising that dogs are not permitted in central Frankston

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Develop a Dogs in Public Places policy by December 2021, which further consults with the community regarding dogs in central Frankston
2. Review the current Council Order restricting dogs in the city centre
3. Increase patrols and enforcement of the current dog ban order until such time the order is reviewed

## Issue 7:

### Dog Attacks

Dog attacks range in severity from a dog rushing to a serious attack causing injury or death, attacks can involve people, domestic pets and livestock. Often there are medical costs, legal costs and physiological trauma associated with an attack and it is for these reasons all reported dog attacks are treated with the highest priority from Council Officers. With the right training and management dog attacks are preventable.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- “One of my dogs has been attacked around 4 times in her 3 years of life in Frankston Council”
- “Greater consequences for owners allowing off lead dogs with no recall to approach others and make them feel unsafe/attacking their on lead dog”
- “Dogs getting out of their Property and attacking dogs on a lead being taken on their daily walk”
- “Too many dogs in leash area that are off leash and attacking or rushing other dogs on leads.
- Owners don’t care”
- “My on lead dog keeps being attacked by different off lead dogs when we walk in neighbourhood streets or parks”
- “Recently new people are walking in the area and have no control of their dog off the lead hence attacks occur”

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Yearly inspection program conducted for declared dangerous and menacing dogs
- Discounted dog obedience training program
- Immediate response or as soon as possible response from a Compliance Officer
- Seize dogs and prosecute where necessary
- Record and investigate all dog attacks
- Where required declare dogs dangerous or menacing

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Provide stronger education and media surrounding how to prevent dog attacks
2. Develop tools and resources for owners on how to prevent dog attacks
3. Increase community awareness and encouragement to report dog attacks to Council
4. Increase patrols of hot spot areas or where there have been increased reports of aggressive dogs



## Issue 8:

### Enforcement by Council Officers

Council employs 14 Compliance Officers to manage and respond to animal related matters. The officers are qualified and strive to provide the best possible outcomes for the broader community. Unfortunately given the size of our municipality it is not always possible to have an officer in the right place at the right time, however every effort is made to respond and act to all complaints made to Council in a timely manner.

#### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- “There needs to be more enforcement of leash laws during the hours when people are actually out walking their dogs (ie after hours and weekends)”
- “There is no enforcement of the rule that cats aren't allowed to roam at night. There should be checks and fines issued, so that cat owners start to do the right thing”
- “There needs to be proactive enforcement by council rangers”
- “Enforcement need so be publicly obvious, consistent and continuous with adequate resources”
- “I have never seen an enforcement officer there”
- “I have lodged a complaint in the last 12 months re the problem and suggested more enforcement patrols to penalise irresponsible owners. More publicity re the council laws and significant more enforcement activity is necessary”

#### WHAT WE CURRENTLY DO

- Employ 14 dedicated Compliance Officers to respond to animal management matters
- Respond to approximately 4,000 animal management matters per year
- Prosecute approximately 100 animal management matters at court every year
- Undertake proactive patrols in all council reserves, parks and public areas
- Provide responsible pet ownership education to the community via correspondence, phone and in person
- Issue infringements for non-compliance and animal related offences (868 issued for financial year 2019/2020)

#### NEW ACTIONS FOR 2020-24

1. Increase media to show the enforcement measures council is applying in the community
2. Where proactive patrols are being undertaken ensure that our officers are highly visible
3. Publish successful court outcomes through the relevant media channels
4. Schedule out of business hours proactive patrols, in particular on days of good weather

## 7. Action Plan

Council meeting held on **Insert Date** acknowledged the communities feedback and agreed to the below action plan this included the need to further explore, a free roam area on the foreshore, a 24 hour cat curfew and to permit dogs on lead in the Central Activities Area.

<b>New Action</b>	<b>Scheduled</b>
Increase media highlighting the need for the community to carry dog waste bags and to pick up after their dogs.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Undertake an audit of all dog waste bin locations and the relevant signage in parks and reserves	<b>July 2021</b>
Purchase dog waste bags for Compliance Officers to give out to the community during proactive patrols and at events	<b>Ongoing</b>
Increase Compliance Officer patrols in hot spot locations	<b>Ongoing</b>
Develop a Dogs in Public Places Policy	<b>December 2022</b>
Undertake a detailed audit of all signs in public areas in relation to the exercising of dogs	<b>July 2021</b>
Investigate new ways to engage with pet owners including digital platforms and Smart Phone Applications	<b>July 2022</b>
Review the current resources that provide information on free roam areas and responsible pet ownership	<b>July 2021</b>
Review the current Council Order of the night time cat curfew to consider extending it to a 24/7 cat curfew	<b>December 2021</b>
Participate in consultation on state wide feral cat management	<b>Ongoing</b>
Increase the public education campaign to encourage and enforce residents to keep cats on their property, highlighting the benefits to native fauna and their cat's safety	<b>Ongoing</b>
Review the current Council Order restricting dogs on beaches	<b>December 2021</b>
Undertake a detailed audit of all signs in Foreshore areas in relation to the exercising of dogs on beaches	<b>July 2021</b>
Upgrade conservation area signs where necessary	<b>July 2021</b>
Construct a fenced free roam area at Sandfield Reserve, Carrum Downs	<b>July 2021</b>
Review the current Council Order restricting dogs in the city centre	<b>December 2021</b>
Provide stronger education and media surrounding how to prevent dog attacks	<b>Ongoing</b>
Develop tools and resources for owners on how to prevent dog attacks	<b>July 2021</b>

Schedule out of business hours proactive patrols, in particular on days of good weather	<b>Ongoing</b>
Publish successful court outcomes through the relevant media channels	<b>Ongoing</b>
Where proactive patrols are being undertaken ensure officers are highly visible	<b>Ongoing</b>
Increase media to show the enforcement measures council is applying in the community	<b>Ongoing</b>
Increase community awareness and encourage reporting dog attacks to Council	<b>Ongoing</b>

## 8. Progress & Reporting

All Councils are required to renew their Domestic Animal Management plan every 4 years and undertake a review annually, these reviews are provided to the Department of Agriculture as required under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

The success of the Frankston City Domestic Animal Management Plan will be assessed based on the following achievements.

- ✓ Council Promotes and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats
- ✓ We ensure that people comply with regulations and any related legislation
- ✓ The plan minimises the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- ✓ Officers address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- ✓ Council encourages the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- ✓ The plan minimises the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
- ✓ We effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs and ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the Regulations
- ✓ Frankston is regarded as a trusted, knowledgeable resource for pet owners
- ✓ Frankston residents are not negatively impacted by irresponsible pet owners
- ✓ Harm to wildlife by domestic animals is minimised

We will measure the performance of this plan by:

- ✓ Monitoring the amount of domestic animals that are registered
- ✓ Evaluate the amount of domestic animals that are impounded / seized
- ✓ The amount of animal management complaints received by Council
- ✓ The amount of domestic animals that are fostered / rehomed

## 9. Staff Training

All of our staff are suitably trained and have the relevant experience to undertake all animal management tasks and duties.

Our officers are required to have a Certificate IV in Animal Control & Compliance, Certificate IV in Government Statutory Compliance or extensive industry experience.

Our Compliance Officers regularly undertake refresher training in animal handling, court proceedings and conflict resolution. A training register is maintained, detailing all the qualifications and training

courses completed by each Compliance Officer. Frankston City Council also offers our staff the ability to further their skills and qualifications by offering an attractive study support program.

## 10. Endorsement

At the Frankston City Council Meeting held on 10 August 2020 Council resolved:

### Council Decision

Moved: Councillor Bolam

Seconded: Councillor Aitken

That Council:

1. Notes the public consultation results for 2020-2024 Domestic Animal Management Plan; and
2. Adopts the 2020-2024 Domestic Animal Management Plan and action plan; and
3. Approves the plan to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994.