



APPENDICES MINUTES

Council Meeting

Thursday, 6 May 2021

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REMIT FROM PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND AGM 2021

Author: Leyanne Belcher, Democracy Services Manager

Authoriser: Wayne Maxwell, Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to obtain a decision from the Council on support for a remit to this year's Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting.
- 2 Porirua City Council have requested support for a remit asking that LGNZ request the Government to introduce 'Puppy Farm' legislation to reform the dog breeding and pet shop industries in New Zealand and better regulate the sale of dogs and puppies.

DELEGATION

- 3 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

BACKGROUND

- 4 Porirua City Council is proposing to submit a remit to the 2021 LGNZ Annual General Meeting on legislation regarding Puppy Farming.
- 5 Remits must have formal support from at least one zone or sector group meeting, or five councils, prior to their being submitted.

ISSUES AND OPTIONS**Issues**

- 6 The proposed remit must be forwarded by Porirua City Council to Local Government New Zealand no later than 5.00pm, Friday 14 May 2021, to allow time for the remits committee to properly assess remits.

Option 1

- 7 That Council may support the Remit as proposed.

Option 2

- 8 That Council may decline to support the Remit.

CONSIDERATIONS**Policy considerations**

- 9 There are policy considerations at this time.

Legal considerations

- 10 There are no legal considerations.

Financial considerations

- 11 There are no financial considerations.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 12 There are no Tāngata whenua considerations.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**Significance policy**

- 13 This matter has a low level of significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement planning

- 14 An engagement plan is not needed to implement this decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15 That Council supports the remit from Porirua City Council to Local Government New Zealand: That LGNZ request the Government to introduce 'Puppy Farm' legislation to reform the dog breeding and pet shop industries in New Zealand and better regulate the sale of dogs and puppies.

APPENDICES

1. Porirua City Council Remit to LGNZ and covering letter from Anita Baker

COUNCIL MEETING 6 May 2021

MATTER OF AN URGENT NATURE

Appendix 1



REMIT TO LGNZ

That LGNZ request the Government to introduce 'Puppy Farm' legislation to reform the dog breeding and pet shop industries in New Zealand and better regulate the sale of dogs and puppies.

Proposed by: Porirua City Council

Supported by: XXXXXXX

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

1. Nature of the issue

The sale of puppies has increased dramatically around the country with high prices being paid for sought after breeds. Around the country, investigations have uncovered squalid backyard operations with multiple dogs living in shocking conditions. Irresponsible breeding has resulted in genetic deformities. Mother dogs used for breeding are often subjected to multiple, consecutive pregnancies until they are of no longer use.

Many of these genetically deficient puppies are being used for breeding as they age, further adding to the problem with dogs often not showing signs of health conditions, (requiring costly veterinary treatment), until they are older.

2. Background to its being raised

Nationally, Dog Control and SPCA Officers have noticed increasing numbers of backyard breeding being undertaken as a money maker for unscrupulous breeders. Several breaches of the Animal Welfare Act have been detected concerning the housing, feeding and general care of the dogs concerned.

Some breeders cater to the popular dog of choice and in many communities around the country, this can be a menacing dog type or mix of a menacing dog type, with significant behavioural issues and the physical power to cause serious harm to people or other animals.

The issue is also observed in Australia with the State of Victoria adopting the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017. This Act addresses the following:

- limits the number of fertile female dog breeders can keep
- restricts pet shops to selling dogs and cats sourced from shelters, pounds or enrolled foster carers
- clarifies the role of foster carers
- defines 'recreational breeders' and 'microbreeders'
- confirms the definition of 'farm working dogs'
- introduces an animal sale permit system
- improves traceability of dogs through the establishment of a Pet Exchange Register
- strengthens pet advertisement offences.

In the absence of national legislation, territorial authorities such as Porirua City Council are unable to regulate the industry. Bylaws cannot trump legislation within an Act and as such requiring breeders to register puppies from breeding programmes would be 'ultra vires' to the requirement of age (3 months) for the registration of dogs under the Dog Control Act 1996. Bylaws can mitigate risk at a local level but do not provide national consistency.

Porirua City Council
PO Box 50218
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04 237 5089
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COUNCIL MEETING 6 May 2021 MATTER OF AN URGENT NATURE

Appendix 1

3. New or existing policy

This is a new policy

4. How the issue relates to objectives in the current Work Programme

This aligns to the LGNZ Three Year Business Plan (2019/20-2021/22), that recognises quality and community safety as a key social issue, with social issues being one of the five big issues for New Zealand councils. Specifically, the commitment to 'work alongside central government and iwi to address social issues and needs in our communities, including a rapidly growing and an ageing population, inequality, housing (including social housing) supply and quality, and community safety.

5. What work or action on the issue has been done on it and the outcome

As far as Porirua City Council is aware, Central Government has no plan to develop legislation or guidance for this issue.

As New Zealand-wide complaints and investigations continue to escalate about the poor practise of some breeders involved in puppy farming, a national approach is needed to make any substantive progress on regulating the industry.

6. Any existing relevant legislation, policy or practice

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 is currently the only legislative tool at the disposal of enforcement officers (mainly SPCA officers) and deals with animal welfare conditions. It does not adequately address specifics of dog 'puppy farm' breeding programmes, breeding female numbers etc.

7. Suggested course of action envisaged

That LGNZ calls on the Government to develop and implement national legislation to achieve national consistency for the unregulated 'puppy farming' industry in New Zealand.

It is suggested that LGNZ engage directly with relevant ministers and ministries to ensure Local Government has an appropriate role in the development of nationally consistent legislation.

COUNCIL MEETING 6 May 2021 MATTER OF AN URGENT NATURE

Appendix 1



Ref: LGNZ Policy Remit – Puppy Farming
Mayor Anita Baker
Mayor@porirua.govt.nz
04 237 5089

Mayor Guru Gurunanthan
Kapiti Coast District Council
Via email: k.gurunanthan@kapiticoast.govt.nz

27 April 2021

Dear Guru

Re: LGNZ Policy Remit Regarding Puppy Farming

During the recent review of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy, the issue of puppy farming was raised as a matter of concern to our Council by two of my councillors. After seeking advice, we were advised that to implement any solution to this issue under the current legislation would be ultra vires.

The councillors proposed a remit to seek intervention from Government to change the legislation and ban the practice of 'puppy farming' was approved at a meeting of our Council on 1 April 2021. This remit is attached.

We are now seeking the support of four other councils, to enable the inclusion of this remit at the LGNZ AGM in July. We would appreciate if you could please put this remit in front of your council for their support.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions,

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Baker', written in a cursive style.

Anita Baker
Mayor of Porirua City

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The logo for 'porirua city' features the words in a blue, sans-serif font. The 'p' is lowercase and the 'city' is in a slightly larger font size than 'porirua'.

COUNCIL MEETING 6 May 2021 MATTER OF AN URGENT NATURE

Appendix 1



REMIT TO LGNZ

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Proposed by: Porirua City Council

Supported by: Kapiti Coast District Council

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