



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

4 JUNE 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 4 June 2024.**

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

AGENDA

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and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....3

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES.....5

2.1 Companion Animals Community Committee 7 March 20245

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 7 MARCH 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/796

AUTHOR: Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 7 March 2024 are provided to the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee for adoption.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “6.1. Ensure that infrastructure exists for the safe exercising of domestic dogs”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within the Companion Animals Community Committee Budget for 2023-2024.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Companion Animals Community Committee at its meeting held 7 March 2024.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.2 and 3.4 from the minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee Meeting of 7 March 2024.
 - 3.2.1 *That a letter be written on behalf of Council to the NSW Parliament lobbying for the change to desexing laws.*
 - 3.2.2 *That Cr Mallard attend the Orange Show on 27 April 2024 on behalf of the Committee.*
 - 3.2.3 *That Council's Social Media channels be used to encourage animal owners have their pets wear collars and/or tags with contact details.*
 - 3.2.4 *That signage in off leash areas clearly showing which areas are off leash and areas that are not.*
 - 3.4.1 *That Forbes Road Reserve (Lombardi Way) and Young Street (North Orange) off-leash dog exercise areas be given a clearer name.*
 - 3.4.2 *That there be an increase in the scheduled maintenance at off-leash dog parks.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee at its meeting held 7 March 2024 be adopted.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 CACC 7 March 2024 Minutes
- 2 CACC 7 March 2024 Agenda, D24/19716 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS' WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 7 MARCH 2024

COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr J Hamling (Mayor), Mrs Pam Davis, Mr Neil Jones, Mrs Susan Sanders, Ms Danielle Haase, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Pound Officer, Companion Animal Registrar, Pound Administration Officer.

Senior Environmental Health Officer, Greg Perry was welcomed to the meeting. He will be attending the meeting over the next twelve months in place of Manager, Building & Environment.

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Ms D Haase/Cr J Hamling

That the apologies be accepted from Ms Anne Reith, Director Development Services, Manager Building and Environment and Ms Helen Wood for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 7 March 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Cr Mallard declared a Significant, Non-Pecuniary Interest as his daughter has commenced employment at the Pound.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED**Ms P Davis/Mr N Jones**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 7 December 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting held on 7 December 2023.

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 CUSTOMER REQUEST STATISTICS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/62

The Pound Supervisor advised there are 70 cats/kittens currently in the pound.

Cr Mallard appreciated the way the statistics are set out on the page. He queried rehoming of the cats and kittens. The Pound Supervisor advised that the Animal Welfare League are helping with the rehoming and Canobolas Veterinary Clinic were starting to take kittens now that the vaccine is available.

Mr Jones queried the number of attacks in December. Were they serious to humans? The Senior Environmental Health Officer advised that these dog attacks were a Ranger concern. Attacks were not generally serious, only on rare occasions. The Pound Supervisor suggested that a Ranger be a part of the Meetings.

Ms Haase queried the December Minutes, regarding the dog attacks. In the absence of the Manager Building & Environment was not in attendance, no further discussion took place.

RECOMMENDATION**Ms D Haase/Ms P Davis**

That questions regarding the dangerous dog attacks and statistics be put to the Rangers and reported back at the next meeting.

3.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/213

Mrs Sanders noted the Bloomfield leash free area, the maintenance is marvellous. She had found shattered glass at the car park area and had phoned Council to advise them.

Mr Jones noted that at Bloomfield Park there are still dogs who are off-leash in an on-leash area. He believes there should be clearer signage in the area showing which areas are off leash. He noted that this had been discussed previously.

Cr Hamling noted the Animal Welfare League Hospital are in Orange this Saturday, they will be providing general examinations, microchipping. He noted that they will have limited cat vaccinations.

Ms Haase stated that Mullion Produce will no longer be selling puppies. Orange Show is on the 27 April 2024. Cr Mallard was formally invited to attend on behalf of the Committee, of which he accepted. Virgin Australia announced on social media that small dogs are allowed on planes, they need to be in a cat carrier that fits under the seat. Diesel and Blue Doggie Day Care are looking for a taxi driver three days a week. They are also having a trainee program running with 1 x Certificate 2 and 1 x Certificate 3 which is helping with the skill shortage of dog groomers in the area.

Cr Mallard noted there was some media coverage in January from 7News and WIN regarding the Pound being closed due to puppies having Parvo.

The Pound Supervisor noted Bathurst Pound and a lot of other pounds are closing when full. There is no sign of this ending. An increased level of dumping may be due to financial reasons. Adoption levels are down in rehoming organisations. One thing to change this would be a change in legislation, in getting every animal desexed. Ms Haase suggested a letter from Council lobbying this change. NSW Parliament held an inquiry last year, transcripts can be read online.

Discussion took place on what other avenues to investigate which would take pressure off the pounds. Encouraging companion animal owners to have tags or collars for dogs and cats. Mr Jones agreed that this is another strategy to get pets home, it is simple and effective. Mrs Davis said there was a law for dogs to wear collars, can we fine them. The Senior Environmental Health Officer said this would be very hard to enforce and people are in financial hardship. Ms Haase suggested asking the Communication & Engagement Team within Council to arrange for social media coverage encouraging animal owners to use collars/tags with their names and numbers on them.

RECOMMENDATION

Ms D Haase/Ms S Sanders

1. That a letter be written on behalf of Council to the NSW Parliament lobbying for the change to desexing laws.
2. That Cr Mallard attend the Orange Show on 27 April 2024 on behalf of the Committee.
3. That Council's Social Media channels be used to encourage animal owners have their pets wear collars and/or tags with contact details.
4. That signage in off leash areas clearly showing which areas are off leash and areas that are not.

Cr Hamling left the meeting with the time being 12.57pm

3.3 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS AND COUNCIL MEETING OUTCOMES

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/214

Mr Jones requested to discuss the following from Council's last meetings outcomes:

1. *That Council provide clearer naming for Off Leash Areas.*

Forbes Road Reserve (Lombardi Way) is not designated as a park and the Council's Off Leash Dog Exercise Area and the brochure does not reference it. It requires a clearer name. Young Street (North Orange) also does not have a clear name. Once a name has been decided upon, the Council's website and brochure will need to be updated.

2. *That Council organise a community tree planting day at the off-leash areas for users of the dog parks.*

Young Street (North Orange) has had trees planted, it does require more. Lombardi Way requires more trees. March Street Park has good shading and seating. Mr Jones queried who organises this. The Senior Environmental Health Officer will follow up who would need to be contacted in implementing this.

3. *Investigate implementation of RSPCA NSW "Keeping Cats Safe at Home" Project in Orange.*

The Pound Supervisor advised that Council did apply to be a part of this programme, and were unsuccessful. It is a four year programme with eleven (11) Councils from various regions included. An email has been sent to the RSPCA Keeping Cats Safe at Home programme requesting further information.

4. *Measures to support greater compliance of microchipping and registration of dogs and cats, and encouragement of use of collars and identification tags on all domestic dogs and cats.*

Previously discussed, see under 3.2 Committee Member News. Ms Haase said she had been asked to speak at a school about microchipping and registration. The feedback she received was that a lot of children went home asking their carers if their dog/cat was microchipped and registered. Education within the community would be beneficial. She suggested the volunteers go to the schools and speak.

5. *Increased budget for subsidised microchipping and desexing programmes.*

The budget figures for 2024/2025 have not been released yet. Ms Haase queried what the allocation would be for bad dogs compared with parks and trees. The Senior Environmental Health Officer will follow up.

Mr Jones queried the ground maintenance at Lombardi Way off-leash park, there is an abundance of paspalum, which can affect some dogs who are allergic. The mowing for all areas has a schedule, suggested that Council put in more money for more scheduled maintenance of these off-leash parks.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr N Jones/Ms P Davis**

1. That Forbes Road Reserve (Lombardi Way) and Young Street (North Orange) off-leash dog exercise areas be given a clearer name.
2. That there be an increase in the scheduled maintenance at off-leash dog parks.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.44PM.



COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7 MARCH 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Thursday, 7 March 2024** commencing at **12:30 PM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Lisa Frost on 6393 8992.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

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COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**7 MARCH 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr J Hamling (Mayor), Mrs Pam Davis, Mr Neil Jones, Ms Helen Wood, Mrs Susan Sanders, Ms Danielle Haase, Ms Anne Reith, Director Development Services, Manager Building and Environment, Pound Officer, Companion Animal Registrar, Pound Administration Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Companion Animals Community Committee at this meeting.

COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**7 MARCH 2024**

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 7 December 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting held on 7 December 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 7 December 2023

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 7 DECEMBER 2023

COMMENCING AT 12.39PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Mrs Pam Davis, Mr Neil Jones, Ms Helen Wood, Mrs Susan Sanders, Manager Building and Environment, Pound Supervisor, Companion Animal Registrar, Pound Officer - Administration

Guest: Grace Pelli

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Ms S Sanders/Ms P Davis

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Hamling (Mayor), Ms Danielle Haase Ms Anne Reith, Director Development Services, for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 7 December 2023.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Ms P Davis/Ms S Sanders

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 14 September 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting held on 14 September 2023.

MINUTES OF COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2023

3 PRESENTATIONS**3.1 COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/2088

S Sanders: Selling RSPCA raffle tickets – good sales

Manager Building and Environment: The Senior Environmental Officer will be attending meetings next year. The , Companion Animal Registrar will be retiring, and Pound Officer - Administration will be taking over the Minutes of this meeting. The Pound is short staffed and have advertised to fill these positions. Applications have been received and they are currently being reviewed.

N Jones: Requested update on Council website to be clearer regarding adoptions and who to contact. Manager Building and Environment responded that it was difficult to make changes to the website and it had been discussed with Comms.

Pound Supervisor: The pound does do adoptions, however, most dogs were moved to Rescue organisations, which provided the pound with more room. Adult cats were hard to adopt, kittens have gone to Rescue organisations. There is a shortage of vaccines hindering the adoption process of the cats. Our euthanasia is on par with other Councils of our size.

D Haase (by email): Diesel and Blue won 2 awards at the Business Orange awards. 1. Excellence in Innovation and 2. Outstanding Business of the Year. She has also joined the Business Orange Committee so is able to be a conduit for businesses.

RECOMMENDATION**Ms P Davis/Mr N Jones**

That the Committee member news reports be acknowledged.

3.2 MAINTENANCE OF OFF LEASH AREAS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/2087

N Jones: Received an email from the public regarding Lombardy Way Off Leash, general maintenance to be improved. Mowed rather than slashed. Manager Building and Environment requested if he received any further emails like this, they be forwarded to Council general email.

North Orange Off Leash – Another email regarding erection of a ‘buffer’ fence to the neighbours who share the boundary.

Bloomfield Park – the condition of this park was complimented by visitors from Braidwood.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr N Jones/Ms P Davis**

1. That Council provide clearer naming for Off Leash areas.
2. That Council organise a community tree planting day at the Off Leash areas for the users of the dog parks.

MINUTES OF COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**7 DECEMBER 2023**

3.3 CUSTOMER REQUEST STATISTICS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/2078

The new format for the graphs was received well by the Committee.

Manager Building and Environment said there had been some bad dog attacks in the area. Possible suggestions were to fence Wirrabarra Walk, it would be costly to complete this.

RECOMMENDATION**Ms S Sanders/Ms P Davis**

That the Customer Request Statistics be acknowledged.

3.4 GENERAL BUSINESS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/2089

- Meeting dates for 2024 (due to Council election in September 2024, only three meeting have been planned):
7 March 2024; 6 June 2024 & 1 August 2024.
- The Senior Environmental Officer to be added to the Agenda attendees.
- S Sanders asked what Council could do regarding puppy farms. The Pound Supervisor advised that this was not a matter for Council, the RSPCA should be contacted.
- Bathurst Pound is opening next week.
- An informal morning tea for the Companion Animal Registrar will be held next year on 3 January, venue to be advised.
- The Desexing Program was held - 19 dogs and 5 cats at an approximate cost of \$6,100.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr N Jones/Cr Mallard**

That the Committee thanks the Companion Animal Registrar and acknowledge her support and achievements to the Committee over the past 9 years.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.40PM.

COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2024

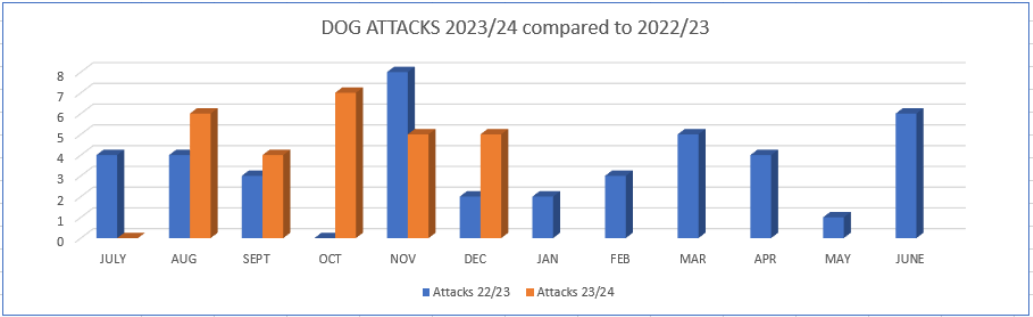
3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 CUSTOMER REQUEST STATISTICS

2023-2024 Customer Request Statistics

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Attacks 22/23	4	4	3	0	8	2	2	3	5	4	1	6
Attacks 23/24	0	6	4	7	5	5						
Barking /Noise 22/23	30	36	24	30	51	32	54	60	68	52	35	47
Barking /Noise 23/24	46	41	28	41	44	29						
Stray 22/23	32	26	24	39	39	23	40	36	36	26	44	37
Stray 23/24	26	38	33	41	46	15						

Dog Attack Activity



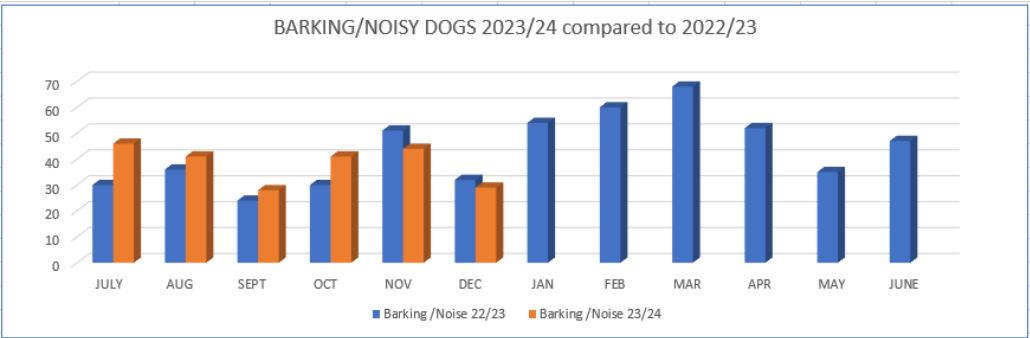
Dog attacks for November 2023

- 5 attacks involving 6 dogs
- 4 human victims
- 2 animal victims
- 3 on private property
- 2 in a public place

Dog attacks for December 2023

- 5 attacks involving 7 dogs
- 1 human victims
- 2 animal victims
- 2 on private property
- 5 in a public place

Barking Dog Activity



COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2024

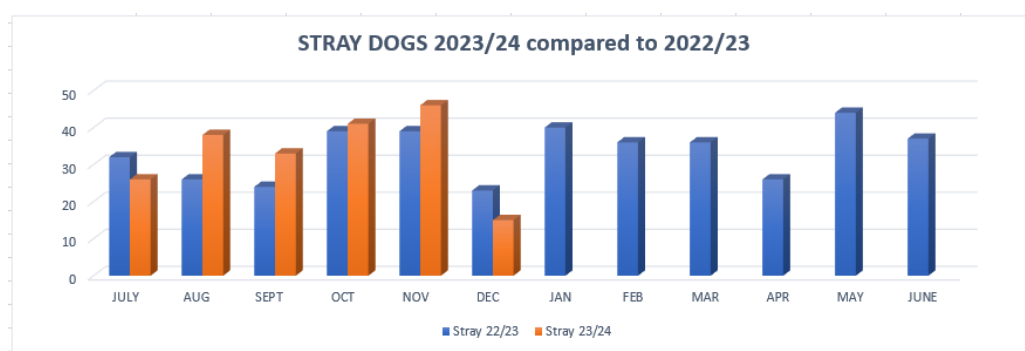
3.1 Customer Request Statistics

Council Ranger and Pound Activity – Dogs**November 2023**

- 25 were returned home by the Rangers
- 51 arrived at the Pound
- 29 were returned to their owners
- 14 transferred to rescue organisations
- 1 was adopted
- 11 were euthanised – 9 unable to rehome, 1 restricted breed, 1 behavioural

December 2023

- 25 were returned home by the Rangers
- 50 arrived at the Pound
- 24 were returned to their owner
- 13 transferred to rescue organisations
- Nil were adopted
- 8 euthanised due to being unable to rehome

**Orange City Pound Activity – Cats****November 2023**

- 18 arrived at the Pound
- 1 was returned to their owner
- 4 were transferred to rescue organisations
- 1 was adopted
- 7 were euthanised (1 x feral, 1 x illness, 5 due to unable to rehome) 2 died with one on arrival

December 2023

- 63 arrived at the Pound
- Nil were returned to their owner
- Nil were transferred to rescue organisations
- 1 was adopted
- 11 were euthanised (1 x feral, 4 x illness, 6 unable to rehome)

COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**7 MARCH 2024**

3.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWS

Committee members can report on their area of interest.

3.3 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS AND COUNCIL MEETING OUTCOMES

Neil Jones to discuss the following:

1. Enhancements and ongoing management of Off-leash dog exercise parks, including implementation of Council decision at meeting of 6 February;

"That Council determine recommendations 3.2 and 3.4 from the minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting of 7 December 2023. 3.2;

1. That Council provide clearer naming for Off Leash areas.
2. That Council organise a community tree planting day at the Off Leash areas for the users of the dog parks."
2. Investigate implementation of RSPCA NSW "Keeping Cats Safe at Home" Project in Orange.
3. Measures to support greater compliance of microchipping and registration of dogs and cats, and encouragement of use of collars and identification tags on all domestic dogs and cats.
4. Increased budget for subsidised microchipping and desexing programmes.