



# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **AGENDA**

**2 DECEMBER 2025**

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, 2 December 2025**.

Barry Omundson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

## **AGENDA**

### **EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building by the rear entrance and gather at the entrance to the car park. This is Council's designated 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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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **MEMBERS**

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr T Mileto (Mayor), Cr T Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor), Cr K Duffy, Cr G Judge, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr M McDonell, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr M Ruddy, Cr J Stedman, Cr J Whitton

### **1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence**

### **1.2 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 Minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee of 4 September 2025

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/2319

AUTHOR: Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025 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 “3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents’ wellbeing both physical, social and psychological”.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within the Companion Animals Community Committee Budget for 2025-2026

#### POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Companion Animals Community Committee at its meeting held on 4 September 2025.
- 2 That the minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee from its meeting held on 4 September 2025 be adopted.

#### FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	Nil
Financial	Nil
Reputation/Political	Nil
Environment	Nil
Compliance	Nil
People & WHS	Nil
Information Technology/ Cyber Security	Nil

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Committee Agenda and Minutes are attached for the information of Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025, 2025/2065 [↓](#)
- 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025, 2025/1909 [↓](#)

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**MINUTES OF THE COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

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

ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr David Mallard (Chairperson), Pam Davis, Neil Jones, Susan Sanders, Danielle Haase, Rosie Rowse, Manager Compliance

Observer: Mr Peter Fleming, Senior Principal Research Scientist

**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLVED****Member D Haase/Member N Jones**

That the apologies be accepted from Anne Reith, Nadine Sweeney, Cr Marea Ruddy, Director Development Services, and Companion Animals Registrar for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 4 September 2025. The Pound Supervisor will not be able to attend regularly due to workload. Questions about Pound operations can be directed to the Manager Compliance.

**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**

National Wild Dog Action Plan – Peter Fleming, Senior Principal Research Scientist, containment predator threats. Advised the Committee on his position, does not expect this to be an issue.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**RESOLVED****Member P Davis/Member N Jones**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 June 2025 (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 5 June 2025.

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**3 PRESENTATIONS**

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**3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE 5 AUGUST 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1774

There were no recorded questions or controversies arising from the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting in relation to the Minutes. It was noted Cr Duffy requested a report from staff on parking at the Lombardy Way off-leash area. The Committee formally adopted the Minutes as presented.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The committee acknowledge the presentation from the Chair.

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**3.2 RSPCA OUTREACH DESEXING PROGRAM**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1881

Member Rosie Rowse presented an overview of a recently held RSPCA Community Day funded through the RSPCA's Outreach Program. The community day was held in July, with Committee Member Rosie Rowse's workplace, Orange Vet Hospital, being involved. The result of the day was: \* 15 priority bookings for desexing, \* 42 desexing of a mix of cats and dogs. Microchipping and vaccinations were done at the same time, when needed, all funded by the RSPCA. The business received positive feedback from the community, with residents returning calls. Orange Vet Hospital had a lot of new clients, including aged pensioners and low-income demographic common in the uptake. It was noted that a lot of the animals desexed showed signs of having had multiple litters of puppies and kittens. The RSPCA indicated to them that there was more funding available for the Outreach Program.

Pam Davis advised that Summer Street Vet was undertaking a cat desexing program at the moment, offering discounted rates.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member D Haase**

That the presentation from Member R Rowse on the RSPCA Outreach Desexing Program be acknowledged and entered into the Minutes.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**3.3 POLICY ON NUMBER OF PETS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1882

Member Pam Davis presented on the number of dogs recommended to be kept on a residential property, the recommended number being 2 dogs per Council's website and questioned if that number was enforceable.

Manager Compliance clarified that the Local Government Act and EP&A Act (SEPP) cover poultry, sheep, pigs and cattle, but do not include companion animals. The Local Government Act covers those animals to address health and amenity issues, and the provisions have been in there for a long time, predating current Public Health legislation. The recommended number of dogs at a residence is a recommendation only and not enforced.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member R Rowse**

That the presentation from Member P Davis and advice from the Manager Compliance be acknowledged and entered into the Minutes

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**4 GENERAL REPORTS**

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**4.1 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS - DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY, INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1872

Member Neil Jones outlined his proposal to conduct an inventory and assessment of off-leash areas, with the aim of informing a recommendation to Council for the development of a policy governing their installation, maintenance, and enhancement.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member D Haase**

That the Companion Animals Community Committee consider the proposed action and resolve to undertake the inventory and assessment of existing off-leash areas as part of their Action Plan with the view of supporting a future recommendation for the development of an off-leash areas policy.

**4.2 REVIEW OF POUND FEES & CHARGES**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1875

Member Neil Jones provided the background and rationale for the proposal to review the current fees and charges with particular focus on surrender and adoption fees.

- He raised the question of whether surrender fees should be lowered to encourage people to surrender their animals rather than abandoning them elsewhere.
- Neil expressed support for reducing the fees and acknowledged the currently exhibited \$0 surrender fee for dogs that pose a risk to community safety.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member P Davis**

That Council staff conduct an impact assessment based on lowering the surrender and adoption fees and report back to the Committee.

**4.3 POUND STAFFING VOLUNTEERS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1878

Member Rosie Rowse spoke about the network of pledging and transport groups that assist in moving animals from pounds to rescue organisations. The Manager Compliance acknowledged that Council does utilise these services to facilitate animal transfers to rescue groups.

The Manager of Compliance outlined the current staffing situation at the pound and the associated risks of using volunteers, as detailed in the agenda. He also noted that a comparison of Council's current adoption and rehoming efforts with those of other pounds in the region will be provided in the Action Plan item.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member R Rowse/Member P Davis**

That the Committee acknowledge the information provided by staff in consideration of the feasibility of engaging volunteers to assist with the pound's rehoming work.

**4.4 INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS REPORT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1883

**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member P Davis**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee acknowledges the report on the Inquiry into Management of Cat Populations from the Parliament of New South Wales.

**4.5 COMPANION ANIMAL STATISTICS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1886

Member Danielle Haase requested staff include how animals came into the pound in future routine statistics. I.e. via surrender, stray dropped in by community member, stray by rangers, or seizure. Manager Compliance acknowledged this can be included in future statistics.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member P Davis**

1. That the Companion Animals Community Committee notes the report on Customer Request Statistics, including the corrected data, and figures from the Orange City Pound.
2. That the Companion Animal Statistics now include how the animals came into the Pound.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**4.6 ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1884

Action Item: Rehoming/Adoption Practices – Point 3 (Now closed)

## Summary of findings

- All pounds contacted take surrenders only when they have the capacity and require a fee a fee to do so.
- Pounds refer people to the RSPCA or AWL for welfare matters.
- All pounds contacted rehome animals via rehoming/rescue organisations and direct adoption.
- The animal management plans located and reviewed (publicly available on Council websites) were from Bathurst and Cowra. They both indicate:
  - \* Their focus is on managing stray animals and ranger enforcement activities.
  - \* Much of the content is restating legislative requirements in plain language.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member R Rowse**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee consider and discuss items to be included on the Action Plan.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.00PM.**



## **COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

# **AGENDA**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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, 4 September 2025** commencing at **12:30 PM**.

Barry Omundson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

For apologies, please contact Lisa Frost on 6393 8992.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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## **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.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****MEMBERS**

Cr David Mallard (Chairperson), Pam Davis, Neil Jones, Susan Sanders, Danielle Haase, Anne Reith, Rosie Rowse, Nadine Sweeney, Director Development Services, Manager Compliance, 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.

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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 Companion Animals Community Committee at this meeting.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**2    PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 June 2025 (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 5 June 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1    Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 June 2025

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**ORANGE CITY COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE****COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

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

ON 5 JUNE 2025

COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM

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**1    INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

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Cr David Mallard (Chairperson), Cr Marea Ruddy, Pam Davis, Neil Jones, Susan Sanders, Danielle Haase, Anne Reith, Rosie Rowse, Acting Manager Compliance, Pound Supervisor, Pound Administration Officer.

Observers: Katie Rogers (AWL Volunteer), Jenna Martin (AWL Inspector)

**1.1    Apologies and Leave of Absence**

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**RESOLVED****Member A Reith/Member D Haase**

1. That apologies be accepted from the Director Development Services and Nadine Sweeney for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 5 June 2025.
2. That a correction to the previous Minutes dated 10 April 2025 be accepted, it was noted in the Minutes that Pam Davis was in attendance. Pam Davis was not in attendance and sent her apologies.

**1.2    Acknowledgement of Country**

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The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

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

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Nil.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**MINUTES OF COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE****5 JUNE 2025****2    PREVIOUS MINUTES****RESOLVED****Member D Haase/Member A Reith**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 10 April 2025 (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 10 April 2025.

**3    PRESENTATIONS****3.1    COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO REVIEW OF THE COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998.**

TRIM REFERENCE:    2025/978

The Acting Manager Compliance had emailed the Committee the Council Submission of Review of the Companion Animal Act 1998 before the meeting. There was positive feedback from all the Committee, very well written and very happy with the summary and recommendations. Danielle Haase advised that over 3,600 submissions has been received.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member R Rowse**

That the Committee acknowledge the Submission and thank the writer, former Manager Compliance.

**3.2    COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF POLICY FOR OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS**

TRIM REFERENCE:    2025/979

Neil Jones has received a lot of feedback from the community regarding the dog parks. Neil suggested that the Committee put together a submission for Council to consider for inclusions into new sub-divisions that they have Off-Leash Dog Parks. Neil queried whether Council even have a policy for Off-Leash Dog Parks, as each dog park is different and who is responsible in relation to establishing/funding/maintenance of the dog parks. Neil has asked for clarification. Chairperson Cr Mallard advised the Committee that there was a consultation survey for the Open Space and Recreation Strategy open now and encouraged them to complete it.

The Acting Manager Compliance advised that he has a meeting with the Manager City Presentation this afternoon and will clarify the roles of each section regarding dog parks and advise the Committee before the next meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member R Rowse**

1. That the Committee acknowledge that Acting Manager Compliance will follow up whose roles/responsibilities for Off-Leash Dog Parks.
2. That the Committee complete the Open Space and Recreational Strategy survey.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**


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**MINUTES OF COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**
**5 JUNE 2025**
**3.3 COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - CWA STATE CONFERENCE REVIEW**
**TRIM REFERENCE:**      2025/980

Danielle Haase attended the Country Women's Association State Conference in Wagga Wagga in May. The CWA had a very strong view on cats, with their preference being for containment and desexing. The 25/26 CWA State Executive approved the key policy – supporting 24 submissions in the Companion Animals Review.

**RECOMMENDATION**
**Member S Sanders/Member A Reith**

That the Committee acknowledge and congratulate Danielle Haase for attending and assisting in getting the support to pass the submissions for the Companion Animals Review.

**3.4 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE 6 MAY 2025**
**TRIM REFERENCE:**      2025/981

Chairperson Cr Mallard explained that this presentation will be in all meetings moving forward to update the Committee on Council meeting outcomes.

The changes to the Charter were adopted unanimously.

Chairperson Cr Mallard spoke at the Council meeting about there being only one Councillor on the Committee. Cr Marea Ruddy generously offered her time to join the Committee. She was warmly welcomed into the Committee by everyone.

With the former Manager Compliance departure, the letters discussed at the last meeting requesting other organisations to join the Committee, Department of Primary Industries and RSPCA had not been completed. The Acting Manager Compliance will draft a letter for Chairperson Cr Mallard to these organisations asking for some representation on the Committee.

Chairperson Cr Mallard advised the Committee that the RSPCA will be closing from 12 June 2025. The RSPCA will be meeting with Council on 20 June 2025 to discuss the closure and how the RSPCA will be helping the community now they have closed.

Danielle Haase asked why the Council Pound is not run along the same lines as Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre (BARC), as they work as both a Pound and Rehoming Organisation. Now that the RSPCA had closed, there would be no place for adopting stray/surrendered animals. There was discussion of the amount of time it takes for adoption versus sending them to a rehoming organisation. The Acting Manager Compliance will contact neighbouring Councils about their pound facility scope and services offered (stray/seized only or welfare matters as well).

**RECOMMENDATION**
**Member N Jones/Member D Haase**

1. That the Acting Manager Compliance draft a letter to the Department of Primary Industries and RSPCA asking for representation on the Committee.
2. That the Acting Manager Compliance contact neighbouring Councils about their pound facility scope and services offered (stray/seized only or welfare matters as well).

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**MINUTES OF COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE****5 JUNE 2025****4    GENERAL REPORTS****4.1    COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - CUSTOMER REQUEST STATISTICS**

TRIM REFERENCE:    2025/977

**RECOMMENDATION****Member S Sanders/Member R Rowse**

That the Companion Animals Community Committee notes the report on Customer Request Statistics and figures from the Orange City Pound.

**4.2    COMPANION ANIMAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE:    2025/1008

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member R Rowse**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan be updated with discussion and recommendations from this meeting.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Animal Welfare League will be opening a shop front in Lords Place, Orange. They will not be accepting animals at the site.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.05PM.**

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**3    PRESENTATIONS****3.1    Chairperson Presentation - Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee 5 August 2025**

The Chairperson, Cr Mallard will provide an update to the Committee on the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee of 5 August 2025 when the last Community Committee Minutes were presented to Council for adoption.

**3.2    RSPCA Outreach Desexing Program**

Committee Member, Rosie Rowse, to present information on the RSPCA Outreach Desexing Program and its progress within the Community.

**3.3    Policy on Number of Pets on Residential Property**

Committee Member, Pam Davis, would like to present information on Council policy regarding the number of pets permitted at a residential property.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**


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## **4    GENERAL REPORTS**

### **4.1    Off-Leash Dog Parks - Development of Policy, Inventory and Assessment**

RECORD NUMBER:    2025/1872

AUTHOR:    Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It is proposed that the committee undertake an inventory of existing off-leash areas and assessment of those areas against applicable standards, including:

*Signage* – evaluation of visibility and clarity,

*Current Condition* – Review of park cleanliness, safety and overall maintenance,

*Infrastructure* – Assessment of amenities including fencing, seating, water stations, waste disposal facilities, and shade.

This assessment would support a future recommendation to Council to develop a policy governing the planning, management, and enhancement of off-leash areas in the city.

#### **LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents’ wellbeing both physical, social and psychological”.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Community Committee consider the proposed action and resolve to undertake the inventory and assessment of existing off-leash areas as part of their Action Plan with the view of supporting a future recommendation for the development an off-leash areas policy.**

#### **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.2    Review of Pound Fees & Charges**

RECORD NUMBER:    2025/1875

AUTHOR:                Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

It is proposed that a review of the current Pound Fees and Charges for adequacy and alignment with community expectations be undertaken by the committee to inform Council for their upcoming budgetary process.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents’ wellbeing both physical, social and psychological”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Community Committee review the current fee structure for the Pound for adequacy and alignment with community expectations.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Table 1 below is a comparison of pound fees from across the region. Statutory fees have not been included as those fees are set by State legislation, not Council.

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**
**4.2 Review of Pound Fees & Charges**
*Table 1: Comparison of regional pound fees.*

FEES	Orange	Blayney	Dubbo	Cowra	Bathurst	Lithgow
First Impound	\$78	\$75	\$49	\$19	\$68	\$90
Subsequent Impound	\$124	\$149	\$132	\$36	\$85	\$112
Daily care rate	\$36	\$22	\$42	\$15	\$31	\$34
Surrender	\$200	\$255	\$72 for rehoming \$210 for euthanasia	\$95 dog \$62 cat	\$80 \$40 pensioner	\$86
Microchip	\$30	\$37	\$46	\$55	\$25 staff \$54.50 vet	\$20
Adopt a Dog	\$410 < 7 years \$210 > 7 years	\$171 < 6 months \$97 > 6 months	\$369 < 5 years, already desexed \$569 < 5 years, needs desexing \$269 > 5 years, already desexed \$425 > 5 years, needs desexing	\$450	\$122 un-desex \$367.50 including desexing <i>Note that rego not included.</i>	\$335 < 12 months \$295 > 12 months \$245 > 5 years
Adopt a Cat	\$190 male \$220 female	\$93	\$369 < 5 years \$215 > 5 years	\$250	\$205 including desexing	\$225 < 12 months \$210 > 12 months \$180 > 5 years

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**


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**4.3 Pound Staffing Volunteers**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1878

AUTHOR: Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is provided for the Committee to consider the feasibility and potential challenges of engaging volunteers to assist with pound adoptions in both onsite and online capacities.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents’ wellbeing both physical, social and psychological”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council’s Volunteers Policy & Procedure (operational policy) states volunteers are not suitable for working in areas deemed to be high risk.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Committee review the information provided by staff in consideration of the feasibility of engaging volunteers to assist with the pound’s rehoming work.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Volunteers working onsite create additional supervision demand on the Pound Supervisor.
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	The pound deals with matters that some may find distressing or confronting. Volunteers that disagree with Council’s processes (despite being informed by relevant standards and legislated requirements) may discuss their experiences in the broader community, which may portray Council in a negative light. Volunteers posting in social media on behalf of Council may send out messaging that is unclear or inconsistent with Council policies without editing and sign-off by Council’s Communications Team.
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Onsite volunteers face a physical injury risk from animals in addition to typical workspace hazards (slips, trips, etc.). They also face a risk to psychological safety from unintentional exposure to aggressive animal behaviour, challenging customer behaviour, or routine conversations and processes that volunteers may find distressing.
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.3    Pound Staffing Volunteers**

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION****Work Health & Safety**

- Volunteers onsite create additional supervision demand on the Pound Supervisor.
- The pound is a high-risk area with regard to the safety of volunteers:
  - Physical injury risk from animals in addition to typical workspace hazards (noise, slips, trips, etc.).
  - Risk to psychological safety from unintentional exposure to aggressive animal behaviour, challenging customer behaviour, or conversations and processes volunteers may find distressing.

**Communications**

- Council has internal resources in place that can be engaged to assist in this area.
- Council has a dedicated Communications Team that can work directly with pound staff to develop a Communications/Content plan that includes social media, Council's website, and e-newsletters. This would be aligned with Council's existing communications and engagement strategy and policies governing the use of social media.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.4 Inquiry into Management of Cat Populations Report**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1883

AUTHOR: Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The inquiry into the Management of cat populations in New South Wales commenced on 11 October 2024 and the report was tabled in Parliament on 18 August 2025. The findings and recommendations arising from the inquiry are provided for the committee's information.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents' wellbeing both physical, social and psychological".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee notes the report on the Inquiry into Management of Cat Populations from the Parliament of New South Wales

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The inquiry into the Management of cat populations in New South Wales report was tabled in Parliament on 18 August 2025. A link to the Report is below for information of the Committee.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3011#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.4    Inquiry into Management of Cat Populations Report**

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The findings and recommendations arising from the inquiry are attached for the committee's information.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1      Inquiry into Management of cat populations - Findings and Recommendations,  
D25/100897

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**Attachment 1    Inquiry into Management of cat populations - Findings and Recommendations**

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ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

## Findings

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Finding 1</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| There is an urgent need to implement cat management strategies in New South Wales to address the overpopulation of cats in New South Wales, both in urban environments and in the wild.  |           |
| <b>Finding 2</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| Key threats to wildlife in New South Wales include not only introduced species, but also habitat destruction and fragmentation, and a holistic approach to native animals is required.   |           |
| <b>Finding 3</b>   | <b>52</b> |
| Desexing programs were broadly supported by the large majority of inquiry participants, and have been proven to be an effective cat management strategy.   |           |
| <b>Finding 4</b>   | <b>54</b> |
| That not-for-profit cat rescues and volunteers have played a critical and leading role in the desexing and rehoming of cats in New South Wales.  |           |
| <b>Finding 5</b>   | <b>84</b> |
| Educational and behaviour change programs which encourage and support people to voluntarily keep cats indoors were supported by a majority of inquiry participants, and there is some early positive evidence to support the effectiveness of such programs. |           |
| <b>Finding 6</b>   | <b>85</b> |
| There is insufficient evidence that mandatory cat containment laws or cat curfews at a state or local government level are effective in reducing the number of free-roaming cats and therefore reducing impacts on wildlife.                                 |           |
| <b>Finding 7</b>   | <b>85</b> |
| Mandatory cat containment laws are likely to create equity issues and have a disproportionate impact on people from lower socio-economic backgrounds and First Nations communities.  |           |
| <b>Finding 8</b>   | <b>86</b> |
| The killing of healthy cats has a severe impact on the mental health and wellbeing of pound, shelter, veterinary and rescue staff and volunteers.  |           |
| <b>Finding 9</b>   | <b>86</b> |
| New South Wales may not be ready to adopt mandatory cat containment laws, whether these laws are statewide or at a local government level.   |           |
| <b>Finding 10</b>  | <b>87</b> |
| NSW Government and councils should manage cats in a way that supports the health and wellbeing of people, animals, and the environment.  |           |

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**Attachment 1    Inquiry into Management of cat populations - Findings and Recommendations**

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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Management of cat populations in New South Wales

## Recommendations

- Recommendation 1** 52  
That the Government ensure cat management programs are underpinned by sound, peer-reviewed scientific evidence, with clear objectives and measurable metrics established to evaluate their effectiveness.
- Recommendation 2** 53  
That the Government provide grants to councils and rescue and rehoming organisations to carry out free and subsidised desexing programs throughout the state, including desexing of 'owned' cats for those on lower incomes, and large-scale, targeted community cat desexing programs.
- Recommendation 3** 53  
That the Government expand the capacity for high-volume desexing in New South Wales through animal welfare agencies, veterinary schools, and private veterinary practices.
- Recommendation 4** 53  
To assist rural and regional councils with desexing programs, the NSW Government should investigate ways to provide additional support including but not limited to encouraging metropolitan veterinarians and mobile desexing programs to regularly visit rural and regional areas, providing this does not have a negative impact on local service providers.
- Recommendation 5** 53  
That the Government, as part of its review of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, consider legislative, regulatory and policy changes necessary to support the effectiveness and operation of community cat desexing programs.
- Recommendation 6** 54  
That the Government provide funding to cat rescue and rehoming organisations to support desexing, care and rehoming costs.
- Recommendation 7** 54  
That, as part of the upgrade of the NSW Pet Registry and Companion Animal Register, the Government prioritise consultation with rehoming organisations, with a view to ensuring greater access for these organisations.
- Recommendation 8** 55  
That the Government explore legislative options to regulate the breeding of cats, including consideration of outlawing kitten farming and the sale of cats from breeders in pet shops.
- Recommendation 9** 55  
That the Government invest in research and trials for humane means of fertility control, such as immune-contraceptives and gene drive technology.
- Recommendation 10** 87  
That the Government should explore options to work with councils and rehoming organisations to fund educational, behaviour-change programs and other support programs (such as the provision of cat enclosures) to encourage people to keep cats indoors or contained.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.5 Companion Animal Statistics**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/1886

AUTHOR: Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Customer Request Statistics, including reported dog attacks, barking/noisy dog complaints, and stray dogs for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, are provided for the committee's information. Separate figures arising from the operations of the Orange City Pound for the same period are also provided.

During a review of previously provided Customer Request Statistics, errors in the data were identified. The errors have been corrected, and accurate data is now reflected in the attached document.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents' wellbeing both physical, social and psychological".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Community Committee notes the report on Customer Request Statistics, including the corrected data, and figures from the Orange City Pound.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

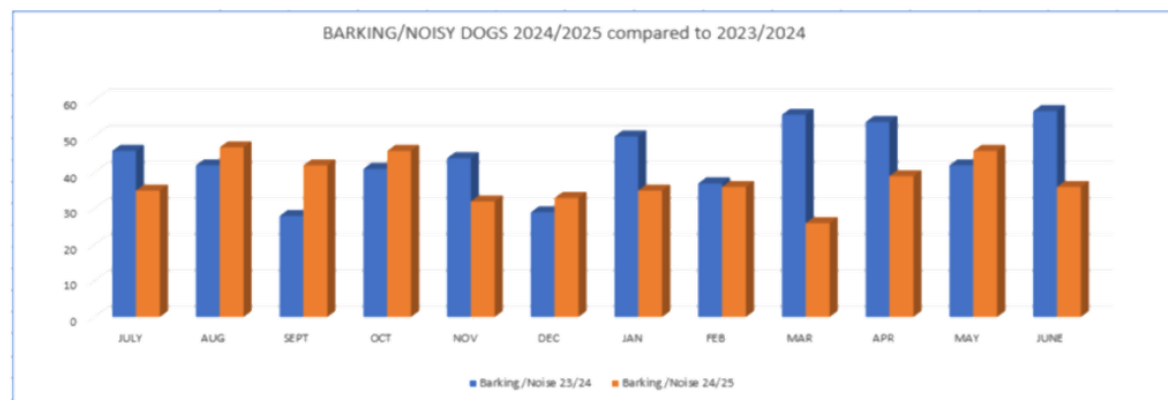
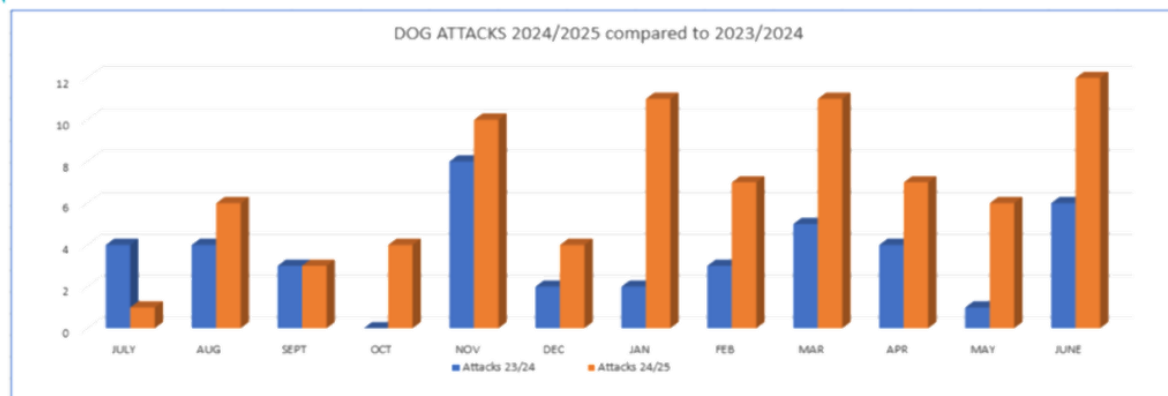
The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Companion Animal Statistics - CRM, Ranger & Pound Activity, D25/101070

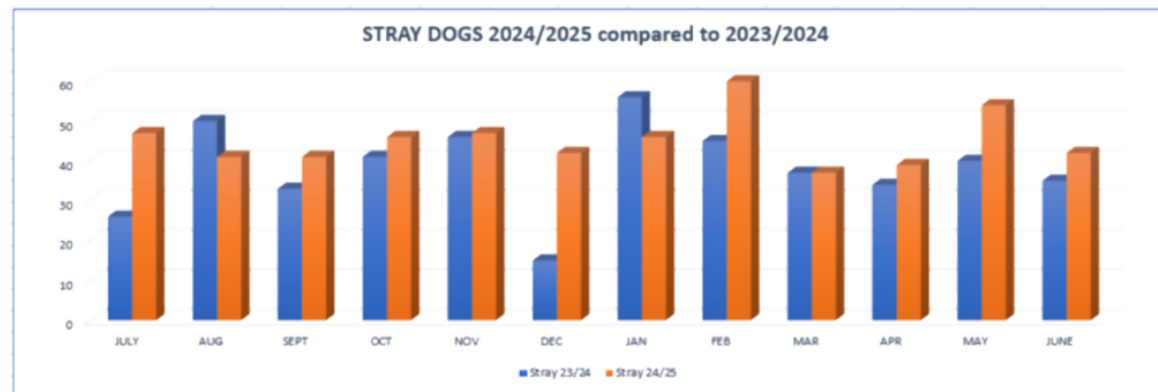
Customer Request Statistics



**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

**Attachment 1    Companion Animal Statistics - CRM, Ranger & Pound Activity**

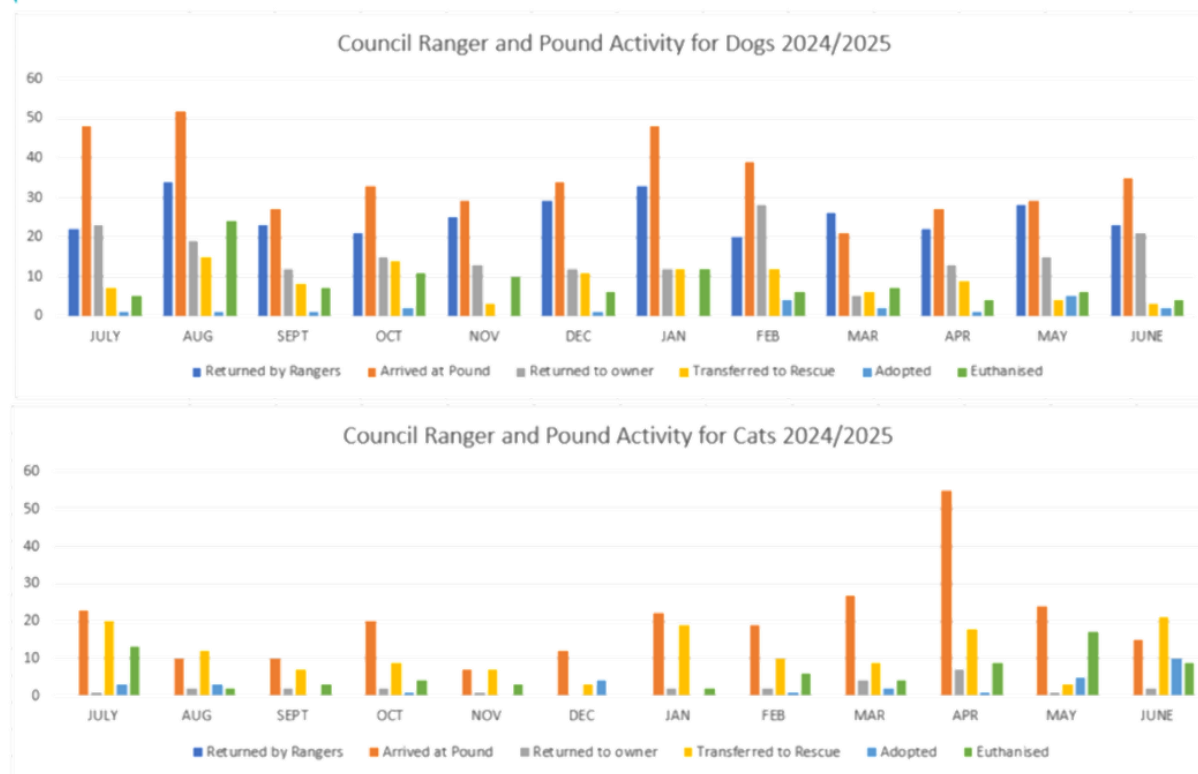
Customer Request Statistics



**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Statistics - CRM, Ranger & Pound Activity**

**Council Ranger & Pound Statistics**



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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 4 September 2025**

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**4.6    Action Plan**

RECORD NUMBER:    2025/1884

AUTHOR:    Lisa Frost, Pound Administration Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council has noted the important role that Community Committees play in providing feedback and input into Council's operations. Committees can also offer ideas and suggestions to be considered as part of the Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, and related annual budget.

As a means of recording ideas, suggestions and activities made and undertaken by members, each Committee will review and maintain an Action Plan.

The Action Plans Review and Update will be standard at each meeting.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "3.3 Develop and promote initiatives that value and protects domestic animals and the role they play in residents' wellbeing both physical, social and psychological".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Items on the Action Plan will not necessarily be put into Council's program of works or budget.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Action Plan will be used by the Committee and staff to provide suggestions for Council's consideration and track specific tasks, projects or requests of the Committee.

Items may be short-term or long-term goals or activities that can be worked over time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animal Community Committee consider and discuss items to be included on the Action Plan.**

**FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council's key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

<b>Service/Project Delivery</b>	Nil
<b>Financial</b>	Nil
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1    Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2025, D25/58859

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**
**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2025**
**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**
**COMPANION ANIMAL**

D25/58859

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Pilot Program – Dog Desexing			Danielle Haase		TBA		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking to Snr Policy Advisor LGA – Companion Animal Act re; funding</li> <li>RSPCA – would they help with funding</li> <li>Council funding – not confirmed</li> <li>Vets have been positive</li> </ol>	
Dog Park Naming			CACC		TBA		Neil Jones has been speaking with people and thinks that the parks should be named in the area/street they are in as it is easier to identify them.	
Rehoming/ Adoption Practices		Review of other LGA's					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full review of current policy and be presented to Council for adoption.</li> <li>RSPCA closing – clarification of how they are going to support the community moving forward.</li> <li>Council to contact neighbouring Councils about their pound facility scope and services offered.</li> </ol>	

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 2025**

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**Attachment 1    Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2025**

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION ON COMPLETING AND UPDATING THE ACTION PLAN**

The Community Committee Action Plan outlines what the committee will contribute during the Council term. It should be **updated at least after each meeting**, and otherwise as required.

This template is provided to assist in developing the action plan, and to provide consistency across all community committees.

**Action/Project:** The general activity or project that the committee is providing advice and information on for Council, or is going to undertake themselves.

**Community Strategic Plan Reference:** The Community Strategic Plan is Council's chief planning document. It outlines the aspirations and needs of the Orange community and is a 10-year plan to guide Council and community activity. Linking activities to the goals outlined in this plan helps keep everyone working toward the same vision.

**Tasks:** These are the individual tasks that need to be undertaken to complete the action or project successfully. There may only be one task, or there may be several tasks included in a project.

**Responsibility of:** Is this an action or project that Council and its staff are responsible for, or is this something the community committee is going to undertake?

**Cost Implications:** Are there any costs involved with the project? If any recommendations are being made that impact the already approved Council budget, this needs to go to a full general Council meeting for discussion and resolution.

**Start and End Dates:** Some activities will be short term activities, some will be for a much longer period, perhaps even across the entire Council term. Providing start and end dates gives the committee (and Council) a timeline and targets to work towards. Dates can always be adjusted as needed.

**Comments/Progress:** Any time there is movement or progress regarding an action or project, it is recorded to keep track of where it is up to and what needs to happen next.

**Updated:** Record the date of when the last changes to an activity or project were made. This will help identify any projects or initiatives that may have stalled and need action to be moved along.