



# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **AGENDA**

**3 MARCH 2026**

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, 3 March 2026**.

Scott Maunder  
**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.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**


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## **2 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **2.1 Minutes of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee 18 December 2025**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/26

AUTHOR: Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee met on 18 December 2025 and the recommendation from that meeting 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 “1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

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

Nil

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee at its meeting held on 18 December 2025.**
- 2 That the minutes of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee from its meeting held on 18 December 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:

<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 Minutes and Agenda of the meeting are attached for the information of Council.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025, [2025/2724](#)↓
- 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025, [2025/2689](#)↓

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

HELD IN COUNCILLOR'S WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 18 DECEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 4.30PM

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr Melanie McDonell (Chairperson), Cr David Mallard, Sharyn Pussell, Andrew Kennedy, Cyril Smith, Robyn Whiteley, Belana Oliver, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager City Presentation, City Presentation Support Officer.

**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLVED****Member A Kennedy/Member R Whiteley**

That the apologies be accepted from Neil Jones, Brendan Stuart, Reg Kidd and Vanessa Westcott for the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee meeting on 18 December 2025.

**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****Member A Kennedy/Member R Whiteley**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 September 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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

18 DECEMBER 2025

**3 PRESENTATIONS****3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE - 4 NOVEMBER 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2441

- The Chairperson discussed with the Committee a recent decision made by Council to remove a large Eucalyptus tree as part of DA 9 Hilldale Crescent.
- The Committee expressed their concern with the Council decision to permit a protected and significant remnant Eucalyptus tree (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*) to be removed due to the decision being contrary to the principals and objectives of the adopted Greening Orange - Our Urban Forest Strategy.
- The committee are concerned that this decision sets a precedent regarding tree removal on new housing sites.
- The Committee discussed if in the future Council resolves to remove a healthy tree, that the introduction of additional conditions of approval be considered, such as:
  - I. Each tree for removal is to be replaced with a minimum of 3 trees of the same or similar species.
  - II. A tree bond is to be paid by the applicant to Council.
  - III. Prior to the removal of the tree(s) which were recommended by Staff for retention, the tree(s) will be checked for wildlife by an approved ecological consultant/wildlife rescue carer and appropriate action taken with regard to any wildlife found.
  - IV. The tree canopy shall be dismantled using soft fall techniques to create a habitat stag(s), then the trunk(s) and retained limbs shall be lowered to the ground using soft fall techniques or craning to ensure that it remains complete.
  - V. The habitat stag(s) shall then be relocated and permanently placed at an appropriate location, either elsewhere on the site or at an alternative site to be determined by Council staff

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Kennedy/Member R Whiteley**

That the verbal report by the Chairperson on matters presented to Council be noted, including the further discussions held on the removal of healthy trees by Council resolution in the future.

**4 GENERAL REPORTS****4.1 COMMITTEE MEMBER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2467

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Kennedy/Member C Smith**

That Belana Oliver be accepted as a member of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**18 DECEMBER 2025**

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**4.2 LUCKNOW TREE PLANTING**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2586

**RECOMMENDATION****Cr M McDonell/Member A Kennedy**

That the discussion on Lucknow tree planting be noted and that the Committee support increasing the tree cover and beautification of the village.

**4.3 GREENING ORANGE - OUR URBAN FOREST STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2587

**RECOMMENDATION****Cr M McDonell/Member B Oliver**

That a workshop be held on Thursday, 19 February 2026 to discuss the Greening Orange – Our Urban Forest Strategy, and the proposed report by Committee Member Andrew Kennedy.

**4.4 PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2558

The committee agreed to have the action plan report be the first item on future agendas.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Kennedy/Cr M McDonell**

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be updated as required.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.20PM.**



## **PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

# **AGENDA**

**18 DECEMBER 2025**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLOR'S WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Thursday, 18 December 2025** commencing at **4.30PM**.

Barry Omundson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

For apologies, please contact Nigel Hobden on 6393 8241.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**1 INTRODUCTION****MEMBERS**

Cr Melanie McDonell (Chairperson), Cr David Mallard, Brendan Stuart, Reg Kidd, Neil Jones, Sharyn Pussell, Andrew Kennedy, Cyril Smith, Vanessa Westcott, Robyn Whiteley, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager City Presentation, Water Treatment Manager, Horticultural Services Supervisor, City Presentation Support Officer.

**1.1 Apologies****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.

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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee at this meeting.

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**2    PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 September 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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1    Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 September 2025

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 4.30PM

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr David Mallard (Acting Chairperson), Neil Jones, Sharyn Pussell, Andrew Kennedy, Cyril Smith, Vanessa Westcott, Robyn Whiteley, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager City Presentation, Manager Engineering Services, City Presentation Support Officer

Observers: Belana Oliver and William Love

**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLVED****Member A Kennedy/Member R Whiteley**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Melanie McDonell (Chairperson) and Brendan Stuart for the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee meeting on 18 September 2025.

**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****Member R Whiteley/Member A Kennedy**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 11 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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 11 June 2025.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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18 SEPTEMBER 2025

**3 PRESENTATIONS****3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE - 1 JULY 2025**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1935

Item 3.1.2 from the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting of 1 July 2025 has been deferred for 3 months for the Chief Executive Officer to review Council's finances.

**RECOMMENDATION** **Member A Kennedy/Member C Smith**

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Members acknowledge the verbal report by the Acting Chairperson, Cr David Mallard on the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee meeting of 1 July 2025.

**4 GENERAL REPORTS****4.1 ULTIMATE FLOOD STUDY - MOULDER PARK**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1938

**RECOMMENDATION** **Member C Smith/Member V Westcott**

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Members acknowledge the briefing from Council's Manager Engineering Services.

**4.2 POLICY FOR NAMING OF PARKS AND RESERVES**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1967

**RECOMMENDATION** **Member N Jones/Member A Kennedy**

That Council develop a policy for the naming of parks and reserves.

**4.3 PARKLANDS SUBDIVISION STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1970

**RECOMMENDATION** **Member C Smith/Member R Whiteley**

That Council consider adding green values for improved biodiversity for the proposed W5 and W8 stormwater detention basins.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES****18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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**4.4 PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/1971

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Kennedy/Member R Whiteley**

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.05PM.**

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**3    PRESENTATIONS****3.1    Chairperson Presentation - Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee - 4 November  
2025**

The Chairperson, Cr Melanie McDonell will provide an update to the Committee on the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee of 4 November 2025 when the last Community Committee minutes were presented to Council for adoption.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**


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**4 GENERAL REPORTS**
**4.1 Committee Member Expression of Interest**

RECORD NUMBER: 2025/2467

AUTHOR: Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A New Expression of Interest for Committee Membership is presented to the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee for discussion and determination.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee consider the Expression of Interest from Belana Oliver.**

**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>	New member involvement may influence committee priorities or decision-making dynamics.
<b>Financial</b>	There are no direct financial implications.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Perceptions of fairness and transparency in the selection process may affect community trust.
<b>Environment</b>	There are no direct environmental risks identified.
<b>Compliance</b>	The recommendation must align with the committee’s terms of reference and governance protocols.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	New members must be appropriately inducted to ensure safe and respectful participation.
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Access to committee systems and documents must be managed securely for new members.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

An expression of interest form is attached for information of the Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Expression of Interest - Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee - Belana Oliver, D25/139112

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025****Attachment 1 Expression of Interest - Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee - Belana Oliver**

# Community Committee



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please use this form to register your interest in the Orange City Council Community Committee Program.  
Expression of Interest close 5pm, Friday 17 January 2025.

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

Applicant's Name

Postal Address

Phone Number  Mobile

Email Address

**APPLICANT DETAILS**

Committee Name

Interest in Committee

1. Provide valuable insights to help guide Council's policies and programs
2. Am passionate about sustainability and driving positive change
3. Helping in any way I can

Relevant Skills and Experience

I have a bachelor's degree in environmental management

I did an internship in a glass recycling facility having later the possibility to become full time employee as Junior Environmental Manager

I participated in two NGO as a volunteer where I delivered talks about the importance of flowed lands, and natural area, as well giving environmental audit for local business.

SIGNED  DATE

Please return completed form to:

Customer Service Desk	Governance Team	council@orange.nsw.gov.au
135 - 137 Byng Sreet	PO Box 35	
Orange NSW 2800	Orange NSW 2800	

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM - NOVEMBER 2024PAGE 1 OF 1

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 2025**


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**4.2 Lucknow Tree Planting**
**RECORD NUMBER:** 2025/2586

**AUTHOR:** Melanie McDonell, Cr

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee Chairperson, Councillor Mel McDonell has requested that the Committee have input into tree planting locations in Lucknow.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee investigate the provided map of Lucknow and make suggestions for tree planting.**

**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>	Lucknow's heritage and previous work undertaken with the Lucknow Scoping Study (March 2015) should be of significant consideration. Input from Council's Heritage Adviser should be requested at the design stage.
<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 Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**


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**4.3 Greening Orange - Our Urban Forest Strategy Implementation**
**RECORD NUMBER:** 2025/2587

**AUTHOR:** Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Committee Member Andrew Kennedy wishes to present a proposed report on implementing the “Greening Orange, Our Urban Forest Strategy” by incorporating it into the Committee’s current action plan. Attached for the information of the Committee is the report.

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee discuss and acknowledge the report presented by Committee Member Andrew Kennedy.**

**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 following information has been put forward by Committee Member Andrew Kennedy to include in discussions:

**OCC PARKS TREES and WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (PTW)**
**REPORT FOR MEETING THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2025 – Andrew Kennedy**

Using the PTW work plan to assist implementation of the OCC “Greening Orange, Our Urban Forest Strategy”.

**ISSUE:**

- “Greening Orange, our Urban Forest Strategy” (UFS) was adopted by OCC in 2024.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**4.3 Greening Orange - Our Urban Forest Strategy Implementation**

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- Considerable OCC financial and human resources (including community) were committed to the preparation of this strategy.
- The PTW workplan has the capacity to implement relevant UFS Priority Actions.

**BACKGROUND:**

- The UFS was developed by OCC employed consultants using community workshops (including PTW), formal submissions and OCC oversight at cost of \$50,000?
- Endorsed by OCC in month? 2024? the UFS highlights the necessity for a greener Orange and includes a comprehensive list of priority actions applicable to OCC but relevant to community input.

**DISCUSSION:**

- It is unclear how OCC is implementing the UFS; ie responsibility, strategy status, \$, time frames, monitoring?
- PTW has a work plan both relevant to assisting implementation and capable of being fine tuned for better alignment to priority actions. See attached table which attempts alignment of the relevant priority actions in the UFS to the PTW work plan
- PTW, as a community-based committee can assist in actions that promote community engagement, information and education.
- PTW can assist in bottom-up implementation of the UFS; ie *"Growing a greener Orange one back yard at a time"*

**RECOMMENDATION**

- PTW seeks advice on how OCC is implementing the UFS.
- PTW reports to OCC on how its work plan is contributing to implementation of the UFS.
- PTW refreshes its workplan in light of this analysis.
- PTW looks at how it can mobilise/partner on community engagement.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 A Kennedy PTWCC and UFS, IC25/27047

## GREENING ORANGE, OUR URBAN FOREST

### PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS COMMUNITY ACTION LIST

Urban Forest Strategy					
ACTION OR PROJECT	C.S.P Reference		RESPONSIBILITY OF	URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (HIGH PRIORITIES)	FURTHER ACTION & STATUS
Moulder Park Master Plan	1.1 .		Committee	(Preserve; 1.5) Incorporate biodiversity vegetation and amenity tree in all applicable reserves including the identification of locations for creation of legacy tree canopy (can be slower growing trees and focus on biodiversity benefits) as well as mini forests P&P;1.14) Protect existing endemic and native vegetation occurring within our riparian zones and enhance these zones with appropriate revegetation for biodiversity benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does Master Plan review achieve these priorities?</li> <li>• Develop guidelines for identification of "legacy trees and canopy".</li> <li>• Checklist for Moulder Park "walk through";ie, what are we looking for/at?</li> <li>• Any legacy trees/canopy for inclusion in Master Plan?</li> <li>• Management/ enhancement needs of reconstructed riparian zones?</li> </ul>
Plan of Management review.	1.1.			(Preserve;1.3) Commence a program of proactive plant health care (including irrigation in dry conditions) for significant and "high value" township trees to enhance health and longevity Include priority shade tree plantings to park infrastructure and furniture in future local park design... (Live;1.4) Incorporate biodiversity vegetation and amenity tree in all applicable reserves including the identification of locations for creation of legacy tree canopy (can be slower growing trees and focus on biodiversity benefits) as well as mini forests (Preserve; 1.5) Review current list of species used for tree planting in OCC and vet for adaptation potential and inclusion of additional species for future proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross check the adoption of these actions in "city and rural reserves" especially in the context of Nth Orange and other new residential areas.</li> <li>• What is the current species list; public and private land? Is it fit for purpose and can it achieve these goals?</li> <li>• How does the "red priority areas" from the Enviro factor report inform location of new reserves and potential corridor connections?</li> </ul>

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**
**Attachment 1 A Kennedy PTWCC and UFS**

D25/

Urban Forest Strategy					
ACTION OR PROJECT	C.S.P Reference		RESPONSIBILITY OF	URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (HIGH PRIORITIES)	FURTHER ACTION & STATUS
				(Prosper;1.12) Protect existing endemic and native vegetation occurring within our riparian zones and enhance these zones with appropriate revegetation for biodiversity benefits (P&P;1.14)	
Sporting Precinct Landscape Master Plan	2.1.			(Prosper 1.12) Review current list of species used for tree planting in OCC and vet for adaptation potential and inclusion of additional species for future proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek briefing on revegetation plans</li> <li>• How does the revegetation plan integrate with surrounding areas?</li> </ul>
Pocket Parks	1.1.		Committee	(Collaborate 1.1) Develop an "adopt a street" tree program for the LGA (Preserve 1.5 1) Incorporate biodiversity vegetation and amenity tree plantings in all applicable reserves including the identification of locations for the creation of legacy tree canopy (can be slower growing trees and focus of biodiversity benefits) as well as mini forests (Proper) 1.12 Review current list of species used for tree planting in OCC and vet for adaptation and inclusion of additional species for future proofing. (Preserve) 1.25 Develop a tree preservation campaign, promoting the importance of trees and the need for preservation.... etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement program.</li> <li>• Advice on how "my backyard can help"?</li> <li>• Checklist for "pocket park" inspections.</li> <li>• Is there a "precinct benefit"? ie combined backyard to street to pocket park?</li> </ul>
Urban Forest Strategy and Street Tree Master Plan	1.1. .			(Preserve)1.8 Facilitate connection between residents and volunteer/community (and OCC) that plant and care for plants and trees in the region via publishing information on Council's website. (Preserve) 1.24 Investigate a free trees program to encourage tree planting on private land. (Preserve) 1.20 Prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and connect interested parties including; Landcare, Friends of the Orange Botanic Garden, Gardening Clubs etc</li> <li>• Prepare guidelines; verges, backyards, rural land etc</li> <li>• PTW to continue routine assessment of progress in implementing UFS with</li> </ul>

2

D25/

Urban Forest Strategy					
ACTION OR PROJECT	C.S.P Reference		RESPONSIBILITY OF	URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (HIGH PRIORITIES)	FURTHER ACTION & STATUS
					progress reports to OCC on results, gaps, revisions etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the "Street Tree Master Plan" comply with the objectives of the UFS</li> <li>Collaborate with ESCC Biodiversity Project Team who are assisting OCC in the development of the Biodiversity Management Plan</li> </ul>
Enviro factor	1.1 .		Committee	(Collaborate)1.10 Reinforce internal partnerships to encourage retention of existing trees and supply of new trees.....etc (Preserve) 1.13 Identify high profile sites for key signature plantings in regional landmark locations.....etc (Preserve and prosper) 1.14 Protect existing endemic and native vegetation occurring within our riparian zones and enhance these zones with appropriate revegetation for biodiversity benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority briefing on remnant "hot spots" for protection and inclusion in corridors.</li> <li>Advice on how this information is/has been incorporated into OCC's LEP.</li> <li>Breakdown on "hot spots" by public vs private land, alignment with riparian zone and future reserves?</li> </ul>
Arboretums – Tablelands Eco system Park.		Concept Plan		(Preserve) 1.5 Incorporate biodiversity vegetation and amenity tree in all applicable reserves including the identification of locations for creation of legacy tree canopy (can be slower growing trees and focus on biodiversity benefits) as well as mini forests (Proper) 1.6 Stay abreast of new research and innovation in tree planting and tree care.....etc (Preserve) 1.13 Identify high profile sites for key signature plantings in regional landmark locations.....etc (Preserve and prosper) 1.14 Protect existing endemic and native vegetation occurring within our riparian zones and enhance these zones with appropriate revegetation for biodiversity benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check existing master plan to make sure these priorities are recognised</li> </ul>

3

## Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees &amp; Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025

## Attachment 1 A Kennedy PTWCC and UFS

D25/

Urban Forest Strategy					
ACTION OR PROJECT	C.S.P Reference		RESPONSIBILITY OF	URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (HIGH PRIORITIES)	FURTHER ACTION & STATUS
Roadside Vegetation protection	1.1.		Committee	(Collaborate 1.1) Develop an "adopt a street" tree program for the LGA (Prosper) 1.2 upgrade systems for capturing, storing and retrieving tree data and managing assets. (Preserve) 1.21 prepare a spatial visualisation of our significant tree register. Expand the register to include nomination of "high value" township trees as well as culturally significant trees by definition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "Enviro factor" Action</li> <li>• Community engagement program especially for rural land holders. Find out what Landcare is doing?</li> <li>• Assist OCC in developing guidelines for the capture and nomination process</li> </ul>
Re-wilding / Grassy Meadows	1.1.		Committee	Preserve; 1.5) Incorporate biodiversity vegetation and amenity tree in all applicable reserves including the identification of locations for creation of legacy tree canopy (can be slower growing trees and focus on biodiversity benefits) as well as mini forests (Proper) 1.6 Stay abreast of new research and innovation in tree planting and tree care.....etc Preserve and prosper) 1.14 Protect existing endemic and native vegetation occurring within our riparian zones and enhance these zones with appropriate revegetation for biodiversity benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See "Enviro factor" Action</li> </ul>
					•
WATERWAYS ?					

4

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**


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**4.4 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan**
**RECORD NUMBER:** 2025/2558

**AUTHOR:** Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

**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 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 develop and review on an ongoing basis an Action Plan.

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

**LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and priorities determined.**

**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>	Changes to the Action Plan may affect timelines or delivery of existing community initiatives.
<b>Financial</b>	New or updated actions may require additional funding or reallocation of existing resources.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Community expectations may be impacted if priorities shift or previously endorsed actions are removed.
<b>Environment</b>	Revised actions should consider environmental impacts and alignment with sustainability goals.
<b>Compliance</b>	Updates must align with Council policies, committee terms of reference and relevant legislation.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	New or revised actions may introduce workload or safety considerations for volunteers and staff.
<b>Information Technology/Cyber Security</b>	Digital updates to the Action Plan must ensure secure access and accurate version control.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community  
Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**4.4 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan**

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

An update to the Committee's Action Plan will be a standard item on every agenda for discussion and review.

The Committee Clerk will ensure the Action Plan identifies possible budget and resourcing implications, and also how an item links to Council's Delivery/Operational Plan, or could be proposed for future Delivery/Operational Plans.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan - 2025, D25/39087

**COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**
**PARKS, TREES & WATERWAYS**

D25/39087

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
<b>PARKS</b>								
Moulder Park Master Plan	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Committee				Workshop to review Master Plan.  Briefing from Design Engineer on the Ultimate Flood Study in relation to Moulder Park at the next PTWCC meeting.  Walk through Moulder Park along BSC late September.	
Plan Of Management review.	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Manager City Presentation		January 2021	August 2025	Draft Plans approved by Minister to be placed on public exhibition. Report to Council 15 April to approve placement of Plans on public exhibition.  Plans titles are: Cook Park Orange Botanic Gardens Robertson Park Orange City Reserves Orange Rural Reserves.	
Sporting Precinct Landscape Master Plan	2.1. Deliver sport and recreation facilities to service the community into the future.		Manager City Presentation				Concept design distributed July 2022. Engage consultant for landscaping towards final part.	

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**
**Attachment 1 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan - 2025**

D25/39087

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Pocket Parks	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Committee				Opportunities to be identified by committee for tree planting.  December inspection of a couple of reserves	
<b>TREES</b>								
Urban Forest Strategy and Street Tree Master Plan	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Director Community Recreation and Cultural Services Committee				Strategy Approved by Council. Review and prioritise UFS actions.  Establish a working party to progress ideas presented by Andrew Kennedy and report back to the Committee. Neil, Robyn, Vanessa, Cyril and Andrew have volunteered.	
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>								
Enviro factor	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Committee				Presentation December 2025 or March 2026	
Arboretums – Tablelands Eco system Park.		Concept Plan	Manager City Presentation		Sept 21		Concept design distributed July 2022. Recommendation gone to Council to investigate ways to reduce impact of cattle on remnant vegetation including exclusion fencing and lease termination.	

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**
**Attachment 1 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan - 2025**


D25/39087

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
							Lease expired at the end of last year and has since been re-offered for agistment with fencing requirements. Nigel to speak to lessee regarding fence being erected and to email the Committee with an update.	
Roadside Vegetation protection	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Committee				Protection of roadside vegetation from advertising signs (re political).	
Re-wilding / Grassy Meadows	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Committee				Committee to determine area of open space for creation of grassy meadow or re-wilding. No mow zones to encourage pollinators and biodiversity.	
<b>WATERWAYS</b>								

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees & Waterways Community Committee held on 18 December 2025**

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**Attachment 1 Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan - 2025**

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D25/39087

**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.

**2.2 Minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee - 5 February 2026**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/243

AUTHOR: Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026 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 Animal Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 February 2026.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 from the minutes of the Companion Animal Community Committee meeting of 5 February 2026.
  - 3.1 *That Council should exhibit the Strategic Policy of Feral & Infant Animal Management after the following amendments have been made:*
    - *Section 3: Add objectives regarding financial and facility capacity*
    - *Section 6: Fix the “cate” typographical error and change “wild behaviour” to “dangerous behaviour” in the Feral Companion Animal definition*
    - *Section 9.3: Correct the cross-reference from Section 9 to Section 8*
    - *Section 10.1: Change the full stop after “policy” to a comma for continuity.*
  - 3.2 *That Council resolves to:*
    - *Adopt “Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area” as the official terminology for all materials*
    - *Update website and brochure maps for accuracy relating to the Off-leash Dog Exercise Areas*
    - *Develop a policy that establishes the standards off-leash dog exercise areas in Orange are required to meet. These standards should include naming, signage, fencing, safe access (gates and parking), shade, seating, ‘poo bag’ dispensers, waste bins, watering facilities, and the routine maintenance of vegetation in these areas*
    - *Adopt a policy that requires provision of off-leash dog exercise areas in all major subdivisions.*
  - 3.3 *That Council:*
    - *Acknowledge the DRAFT: Community Dog Desexing Pilot from committee member, Danielle Haase and investigate how Council can support this program*
    - *Allocate the full 2025/2026 Committee budget to a staff-led dog and cat desexing program with no per-household animal limits*
    - *Roll over any unspent funds to the following financial year to ensure program longevity*
    - *Establish eligibility criteria for the desexing program be funded requiring participants to be residents of Orange LGA and holders of a valid pension/concession card.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Companion Animal Community Committee from its meeting held on 5 February 2026 be adopted.

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**2.2 Minutes of the Companion Animals Community Committee - 5 February 2026**

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

The Updated Policy is part of the Council Meeting Paper for placement on exhibition should the recommendations of this paper be carried.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026, 2026/206 [↓](#)
- 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026, 2026/137 [↓](#)

**MINUTES OF THE COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

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

ON 5 FEBRUARY 2026

COMMENCING AT 12:30 PM

**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr David Mallard (Chairperson), Pam Davis, Neil Jones, Susan Sanders, Danielle Haase, Anne Reith, Rosie Rowse, Peter Fleming, Manager Compliance, Administration Officer Compliance

**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLVED****Member D Haase/Member R Rowse**

That the apologies be accepted from the Director of Development Services for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 5 February 2026.

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 10 December 2025 (copies of which were circulated to all members) are confirmed to be a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025.

**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026****3 GENERAL REPORTS****3.1 STRATEGIC POLICY - ST59 - FERAL & INFANT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/76

That the Companion Animals Community Committee review the draft policy and provide feedback in the form of a recommendation for Council's consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member R Rowse/Member P Fleming**

That the Council should exhibit this policy after the following amendments have been made:

- Within Section 3 (Objectives), incorporate specific objectives addressing the financial and facility capacity implications of the policy.
- Amend the first sentence of the definition of Feral Companion Animal in Section 6 to read: "A dog or cat that is..." Correcting the 'cate' typing error.
- Change the definition of Feral Companion Animal to use the term 'dangerous behaviour' rather than 'wild behaviour', for clarity.
- Update Section 9.3 (second bullet point) to ensure the final sentence correctly references Section 8 of the policy. It incorrectly references Section 9.
- Amend Section 10.1 to replace the full stop following the word "policy" with a comma to ensure proper sentence continuity.

**3.2 OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREAS - AUDIT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/82

That the Companion Animal Community Committee review Committee Member, Neil Jones' Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas Audit and formally adopt the proposed recommendations.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member N Jones/Member A Reith**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee recommend Council resolves to:

- Adopt "Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area" as the appropriate terminology used to describe those areas in promotional material and policy documents.
- Review, and update as required, the naming and mapping of off-leash dog exercise areas on Council's website and brochures to ensure they accurately reflect the areas' locations.
- Develop a policy that establishes the standards off-leash dog exercise areas in Orange are required to meet. These standards should include naming, signage, fencing, safe access (gates and parking), shade, seating, 'poo bag' dispensers, waste bins, watering facilities, and the routine maintenance of vegetation in these areas.
- Adopt a policy that requires provision of off-leash dog exercise areas in all major residential subdivisions.

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3.3 DESEXING PROGRAM - COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/84

The Companion Animals Community Committee noted Member Danielle Haase is currently awaiting a formal update from Council regarding potential support and assistance for the desexing program.

Members also emphasized the importance of financial transparency, agreeing that the Committee's allocated budget should remain a standing item for discussion at every meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member P Fleming/Member R Rowse**

The Companion Animal Community Committee recommends Council:

- Acknowledge the DRAFT: Community Dog Desexing Pilot from committee member, Danielle Haase, and investigate how Council can support this program.
- Utilise the entirety of the Committee's budget allocation for the 2025/26 financial year to run a desexing program for dogs and cats, facilitated by Council staff, with no limit on the number of animals per household.
- Ensure any unspent funds from this allocation be rolled over into the following financial year to ensure the continued delivery of the program.
- Establish eligibility criteria for the desexing program to be funded, requiring participants to be residents of Orange LGA and holders of a valid pension/concession card.

**3.4 COMPANION ANIMAL STATISTICS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/93

The Committee raised concerns regarding the high volume of recorded "Dog Attack" statistics. The Manager of Compliance clarified that these figures encompass a broad spectrum of reports. Under current reporting protocols, a "dog attack" may be recorded for incidents ranging from biting and severe injury to a person, to a dog harassing or chasing someone or another animal. All such complaints are captured within this data set, which can contribute to the higher totals.

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

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

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**Attachment 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3.5 ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2026/94

The Committee sought an update regarding the timeline for the opening and availability of the drop-off dog cages at the Council Pound. The Manager of Compliance advised that the proposal to reopen these facilities is currently under active review. The Committee will be provided with a formal update once a definitive timeline or further information becomes available.

**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 1:56PM**



## **COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

# **AGENDA**

**5 FEBRUARY 2026**

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, 5 February 2026** commencing at **12:30 PM**.

Scott Maunder  
**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 5 February 2026**

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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.

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.

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
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1.2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.3	Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>PREVIOUS MINUTES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 10 December 2025 .....	5
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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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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, Peter Fleming, Director Development Services, Manager Compliance, Pound Officer, Companion Animal Registrar, Pound Administration Officer

**1.1 Apologies****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.

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 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 5 February 2026**

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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 10 December 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 10 December 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1    Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 10 December 2025

**MINUTES OF THE COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

HELD IN PEOPLE &amp; CULTURE MEETING ROOM, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 10 DECEMBER 2025

COMMENCING AT 1:00 PM

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**1 INTRODUCTION****ATTENDANCE**

Cr David Mallard (Chairperson), Pam Davis, Neil Jones, Susan Sanders, Danielle Haase, Anne Reith, Rosie Rowse, Peter Fleming, Pound Administration Officer, Administration Officer – Compliance.

**1.1 APOLOGIES****RESOLVED****Member P Davis/Member R Rowse**

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Marea Ruddy and Manager Compliance for the Companion Animals Community Committee meeting on 10 December 2025.

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 4 September 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 4 September 2025.

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026****3 PRESENTATIONS****3.1 CHAIRPERSON PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2539

Minutes of the previous meeting went to the Environment Sustainability Policy Committee and adopted without any issues.

Cr Peterson – QON from previous Council Meeting: 2.1 *I see the previous minutes and the action items mention desexing and RSPCA outreach. I note the recent annual report mentioned Council subsidised desexing programs, but did not mention the money we give to Blossoms a charity that also does cat desexing. My question is, given there are multiple services offering subsidised desexing as well as private providers, is there utility in collating them all on an accessible list that we can publicise through social media etc to make accessing the services easier. Additionally, it could allow for comparisons between the services in terms of cost and efficiency, in case there happens to be an outlier service that could share how they do things better. I'm happy for the companion animal committee to take the suggestion and do with it as you will.*

There is no accessible list for desexing programs, as they are organised by various organisations and done intermittently.

Cr Duffy queried parking at the Lombardy Way Off-Leash Dog Park, people are parking on the main road, which is a safety concern. Member Neil Jones noted this was to be discussed in his Off-Leash Dog Park audit.

The proposed amendment to change the surrender fee to \$0 for at risk dogs to community safety went to public comment. No comments were received and was adopted on 4 November 2025 meeting.

The Bill for the Control of Cats was introduced to Parliament. Council will write to Government in support of this new Bill.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Reith/Member P Davis**

That the Committee acknowledge the presentation from the Chair.

**3.2 PILOT PROGRAM - DOG DESEXING PROGRAM**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2521

The pilot program has not made any further progress. Member Danielle Haase is waiting on Council to provide her with an update on how they are able to assist with the program.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member R Rowse/Member A Reith**

That the Committee acknowledge the presentation.

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026****3.3 OFF-LEASH DOG AREA AUDIT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2554

Member Neil Jones presented his Audit of Off-Leash Dog areas in Orange which was distributed to all Committee members at the meeting.

A revised version will be presented at the next meeting with formal recommendations for the Committee's consideration for the Audit to go to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member R Rowse/Member A Reith**

That the presentation from Member N Jones be acknowledged and entered into the Minutes.

**3.4 PUBLISHED PAPER: MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AND ANIMAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF FREE-ROAMING DOGS IN AUSTRALIA**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2536

Member P Fleming presented the Public paper: Management of Public and Animal Health Impacts of Free-Roaming Dogs in Australia. The paper was emailed to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

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

That the presentation from Member P Fleming be acknowledged and entered into the Minutes.

**3.5 DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY - FERAL AND INFANT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2537

Manager Compliance was unable to attend the meeting, however, did ask that if the Committee has any questions to email him. Member D Haase queried the rush to get it through Council as the Committee had not had a chance to discuss.

**RECOMMENDATION****Member D Haase/Member A Reith**

That the Committee recommends Council delays voting on the exhibition of the draft policy until after the next Committee Meeting, to allow the Committee more time to review and discuss.

**4 GENERAL REPORTS****4.1 DESEXING PROGRAM - COMPANION ANIMALS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE BUDGET**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2561

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

That the Companion Animals Community Committee move to table this Agenda item and discuss at the next meeting.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**4.2 COMPANION ANIMAL STATISTICS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2523

The Committee queried the high rate in dog attacks for 2025-2026. The Committee asked for an in-house review on the closure of the drop off cages at the Pound, how and when they can be re-opened, and if not re-opened – why?

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

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

**4.3 ACTION PLAN**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2025/2540

**RECOMMENDATION****Member A Reith/Member N Jones**

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

Next year's meeting dates were scheduled as follow:

Thursday, 5 February 2026 at 12.30pm

Thursday, 7 May 2026 at 12.30pm

Thursday, 6 August 2026 at 12.30pm

Thursday, 5 November 2026 at 12.30pm

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.58PM.**

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3 GENERAL REPORTS****3.1 Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/76

AUTHOR: Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A strategic policy for the management of feral and infant animals in Council's care has been drafted. The purpose of this policy is to establish a mechanism by which to effectively manage feral animals that pose a high risk to staff and community safety and animals requiring constant and intensive care for their survival.

The definitions proposed for use in this policy are:

*Feral Companion Animal* – a dog or cat that is unidentified, is confirmed or suspected to have been living in undomesticated circumstances and demonstrates wild behaviour that would make handling the animal a risk to staff and rehoming it a risk to the community.

*Infant Companion Animal* – a dog or cat that is very young, is unable to feed or fend for itself, and has come into Council's care without its mother, requiring intensive care.

*Unidentified* – meaning the animal has not been microchipped per the requirements of the Act, and is not wearing an identification tag collar featuring the contact details of its owner.

It is proposed that the committee review this draft policy and provide feedback in the form of a recommendation for Council's consideration.

**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 protect domestic animals and the role they play in residents' wellbeing both physical, social and psychological".

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This policy would reduce the financial impact of feral and infant companion animals. The policy allows those animals to be humanely euthanised or, in the case of infant animals, released into the care of rescue or welfare organisations who are able to provide the level of care the animals require without having to hold the animals for the same minimum impound periods that apply to stray pets (7-14 days depending on identification of an owner).

Requiring Council staff to keep infant animals impounded when they require round-the-clock care would result in Council staff working excessive overtime hours. This increases wages costs as well as presents a fatigue management risk.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council's Strategic Policies are reviewed and amended to ensure ongoing compliance with legislation and industry best practice.

Policies of Council are of two types – Strategic Policies are determined by Council, and relate to Councillors, required by Legislation or Regulation and/or have an impact on the Orange community. The Local Government Act 1993 requires the public exhibition of Policies (if new or include significant changes) and adoption by Council. Operational Policies are determined and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and relate to staff and the operations of the organisation.

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**3.1 Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management**

The policy has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998 and associated Regulation, as well as the NSW Office of Local Government's 'Guideline on the exercise of functions under the Companion Animals Act'.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Community Committee review the draft policy and provide feedback in the form of a recommendation for Council's consideration.**

**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>	Holding feral animals for a 7-day impound period takes up enclosure space and staff time that could be used for the management of stray animals, lost pets, and seized animals, which is Council's core role in companion animal management.
<b>Financial</b>	This policy would reduce the financial impact of feral and infant companion animals. The policy allows those animals to be humanely euthanised or, in the case of infant animals, released into the care of rescue or welfare organisations who are able to provide the level of care the animals require without having to hold the animals for the same minimum impound periods that apply to stray pets (7-14 days depending on identification of an owner).
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	There is a risk that the community sees this policy as solely a way for Council to euthanise animals more efficiently and may disapprove of the approach. However, there is also a reputational risk associated with Council being less effective in the management of stray/lost and seized animals because our space to accommodate them and staff to care for them are occupied by feral and infant animals.
<b>Environment</b>	Removing feral animals from the environment will help prevent further breeding in the wild and help to protect native species.
<b>Compliance</b>	This policy complies with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and the NSW Office of Local Government's 'Guideline on the exercise of functions under the Companion Animals Act'.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	The provision of the intensive care required by infant animals presents a fatigue management risk to staff, who would be performing excessive overtime hours to provide that 24/7 care without increasing the number of staff and developing a system to properly manage the team's fatigue when providing infant care. Feral animals present a risk to the physical safety of staff required to care for them. Council's pound has a very limited number of enclosures equipped to more safely handle aggressive or otherwise dangerous dogs and cats (2 dog cages, 3 cat cages), and those enclosures are required for the safe impounding of any animals with dangerous behaviour, including dogs seized after attacks.
<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 5 February 2026**

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**3.1 Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management**

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1     DRAFT - Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management (December 2025) pdf,  
D25/141260

**Attachment 2** Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026

**Attachment 1** DRAFT - Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management (December 2025) pdf



# Strategic Policy – ST59

## Feral & Infant Animal Management

FOR EXHIBITION



**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**Attachment 1 DRAFT - Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management (December 2025) pdf**

## STRATEGIC POLICY – ST59

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline Council's approach to the management of Feral and Infant companion animals.

### 2 APPLICABILITY

2.1 This policy applies to feral and infant companion animals that come into the care of Council by seizure or surrender under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (The Act).

2.2 This policy applies to all Council Staff involved in the care, management and decision-making related to companion animals, including seizure and surrender.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

3.1 To establish a mechanism by which to manage feral companion animals that pose a high risk to staff and the community; and infant animals that cannot survive without constant and intensive care.

### 4 LEGISLATION

4.1 This policy is in accordance with the requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998.

### 5 RESPONSIBILITIES

Title	Responsibilities
<b>Manager, Compliance, Senior Ranger, Pound Supervisor</b>	Make determinations regarding the feral or infant status of companion animals in Council's care and take, or authorise the taking of, action to manage those animals in accordance with this policy and legislation.

### 6 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
<b>Feral Companion Animal</b>	A dog or cat that is unidentified, is confirmed or suspected to have been living in undomesticated circumstances and demonstrates wild behaviour that would make handling the

Term	Definition
	animal a risk to staff and rehoming it a risk to the community.
<b>Infant Companion Animal</b>	A dog or cat that is very young and is unable to feed or fend for itself and has come into Council's care without its mother, requiring intensive care.
<b>Unidentified</b>	Meaning the animal has not been microchipped per the requirements of the Act and is not wearing an identification tag/collar featuring the contact details of its owner.

### 7 DETERMINATION

7.1 Council's Pound Supervisor, Senior Ranger or Manager Compliance may determine an animal to be **feral** if:

- Council staff are unable to locate a microchip or identification tag/collar on the animal, and
- Council staff suspect, or can confirm, the animal has been living in undomesticated circumstances, and
- The animal displays wild behaviour that would pose a risk to the safety of the staff responsible for its care and handling or to the community should it be rehomed.

7.2 Council's Pound Supervisor, Senior Ranger or manager Compliance may determine an animal to be an **infant** if:

- The animal appears to Council staff to be very young, and
- Through observation, the animal demonstrates an inability to feed or fend for itself.

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**Attachment 1 DRAFT - Strategic Policy - ST59 - Feral & Infant Animal Management (December 2025) pdf**


## STRATEGIC POLICY – ST59

### 8 MANAGEMENT OF FERAL AND INFANT ANIMALS

8.1 Per Section 64(2) of the Act, companion animals determined to be feral or infant in accordance with this policy may be humanely euthanised by a veterinarian prior to the end of the holding periods prescribed by Section 64 of the Act.

8.2 Infant animals may only be euthanised under Section 8.1 of this policy following investigation of alternatives to euthanasia as outlined in Section 9.3 of this policy.

### 9 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO EUTHANASIA

9.1 Per section 64(5) of the Act, Council must consider whether alternatives to euthanasia exist prior to taking such action under this policy.

9.2 Feral companion animals are unsuitable for alternative care arrangements because:

- The wild behaviour of feral animals poses a safety risk to the staff caring for them, whether they are Council staff or belonging to a rescue or rehoming organisation.
- Their wild behaviour makes them unsafe to rehome in the community.
- Euthanising feral companion animals helps to reduce feral population in the

region – decreasing the likelihood of such animals ending up in Council’s care in the future and helping to protect native wildlife.

9.3 Infant animals require round-the-clock care that Council staff cannot provide, but may be provided by reputable rescue or welfare organisations, should they be released into their care:

- Council staff should contact these organisations as soon as possible once an animal is determined to be an infant under this policy with the intention of releasing the animal into their care.
- Should these organisations be uncontactable, unable or unwilling to care for the infant animal, action may be taken under section 9 of this policy.

### 10 RECORDKEEPING

10.1 All determinations made in accordance with the policy. Including the reasons supporting those determinations, shall be recorded in Councils electronic Records Management System.

### 11 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- OP023 - Operational Policy - Records & Information Management
- Companion Animal Act 1998

*All policies can be reviewed or revoked by Council, at any time.*

#### ST59 - Strategic Policy - Feral & Infant Animal Management

• New policy

Review Due: November 2028	Version V1_25	Last Revision: December 2025
Approved By:	Minute Number:	Approval Date:

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**


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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**
**RECORD NUMBER:** 2026/82

**AUTHOR:** Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An audit conducted by Committee member, Neil Jones, in late 2025 of existing off-leash dog exercise areas found significant variations in quality, safety and infrastructure. While some areas like Young Street represent best practice, with separate sections for differing dog sizes and double gate entries, many sites were found to have poor signage, inadequate watering facilities, and unsafe parking.

The audit report recommends a review into the adequacy of naming and mapping of these areas on existing Council brochures and the Council website, as well as the development of a policy that establishes the standards by which such areas are to be installed and maintained.

**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**

There are no direct financial implications associated with developing a policy on the standards of installation and maintenance of off-leash dog exercise areas, however, should the standards set by such a policy require extensive upgrading of existing off-leash areas, there will be cost associated with those upgrade works.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

A new strategic policy setting the standards of signage, maintenance, naming, parking, and provided infrastructure is likely to cross into the scope of existing asset management policies and strategies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Companion Animal Community Committee recommend Council resolves to take the following actions:

- Adopt “Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area” as the appropriate terminology used to describe those areas in promotional material and policy documents.
- Review, and update as required, the naming and mapping of off-leash dog exercise areas on Council’s website and brochures to ensure they accurately reflect the areas’ locations.
- Develop a policy that establishes the standards off-leash dog exercise areas in Orange are required to meet. These standards should include signage, fencing, safe access (gates and parking), shade, seating, ‘poo bag’ dispensers, waste bins, watering facilities, and the routine maintenance of vegetation in these areas.

**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>	Impacts to service delivery will depend on the standards set by any such policy, should the recommendation be adopted.
<b>Financial</b>	Costs associated will depend on the standards set by any such

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

	policy, should the recommendation be adopted.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Not establishing standards for off-leash dog exercise areas may result in inconsistent provision of infrastructure and maintenance at these locations. Inadequately provisioned or maintained areas may reflect poorly on Council in the eyes of dog owners.
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The audit documented inaccuracies in current Council brochures and digital maps, which may hinder the community's ability to locate and utilize these facilities effectively. Furthermore, observations indicate that the overall appearance and standard of maintenance vary between sites. These inconsistencies may impact user rates as dog owners' preference areas with better infrastructure and appearance.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas, Audit. - Report from Neil Jones - Updated January 2026

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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**Report to the Companion Animal Community Committee on  
Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas. Updated January 2026.****INTRODUCTION.**

Orange City Council's Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas are described in a folded colour brochure under that heading, and show the location of twelve of the thirteen Areas, and a brief outline of dog owners' responsibilities at off-leash areas.

Council's website also has a section on "Leash Free Areas" by navigating Live/Services/Pets and Animals/Leash Free Areas, which identifies the name of each leash free area around Orange, provides an interactive map showing their location, provides a download button to a copy of Council's colour brochure, "Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas", and guidelines on taking your dog to a leash-free area.

The information provided as described above, uses the terms "Leash free area" and "Off-leash area" interchangeably, when the correct reference should be an emphasis only on "Off-leash". The inference being that dog owners must always have their dog's leash with them at all times, and the areas are not free of leashes. A somewhat subtle but nevertheless important distinction.

The current location maps and naming information do not accurately identify the Forbes Rd Reserve, and the interactive map incorrectly locates it at 2 Clontarf Close, nor is the Clifton Grove Mud Hut identified in the Dog Exercise Area colour brochure.

**AUDIT OF OFF-LEASH AREAS.**

On Thursday 20 November, twelve of Orange's thirteen recognised Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas were inspected to assess their location, size, accessibility and infrastructures, and to identify specific strengths and weaknesses of individual parks and areas. The Clifton Grove Mud Hut, on Homestead Close was inspected on Wednesday 10 December.

Assessment focussed on location, name, and directional and identification signage, access and safe car parking, instructional and warning signs, whether fenced or unfenced, single or double entrance gates, degree of slope, ground conditions and drainage, shade trees, seating, poo bag dispensers and waste bins, and overall appearance of the area.

The Off-leash Areas are numbered below according to the numbering used in Council's Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas coloured brochure. Total area figures are estimates of the size of the whole Council park in which the Off-leash area is located, not necessarily the actual designated off-leash section.

**1. Paul Park.**

While Paul Park is quite a large open park adjoining the Robin Hood Hotel, the designated off-leash area is an **unfenced** section on the northern side of the creek with multiple access points with mostly indistinct signage and instructions. There are no maps that clearly indicate the off-leash areas of Paul Park. Only one old sign at the walkway from Havachat Place has instructions.

While there is plenty of shade, there is no seating and no water, other than in the creek. There are two waste bins at either end of the area, but only one poo bag dispenser which is at the Burrendong Way entrance. The area is flat and well grassed.

There is safe parking in the Robin Hood Hotel carpark off Albert St, and in Wahratta Way.

Total area: 7,200 sq.metres.

**2. Brendon Sturgeon Oval.**

This **unfenced** off-leash area is in a stormwater detention basin on the southern side of the much larger sporting oval.

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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□ There is only one sign post with indistinct instructions, and a poo bag dispenser, and adjoining waste bin. There is no watering facility. There is limited shade on the southern boundary, and no seating. There is no sign indicating the name of the area. □

□ Main access is off Heatherbrae Parade, and there is safe off-street parking in the sportsground carpark. □

□ Total area: 12,900 sq.metres.□

**3. Ridley Oval. □**

This is a very large open space area in Glenroi, with a very small section recently **fully fenced** as an Off-leash area, with access and parking off Warrendine St. □

□ The northern and southern entrances have a single gate with new Council sign with instructions attached. There is one poo bag dispenser and a waste bin at the northern end. There are two seats, and 4 new deciduous trees, one of which has died, and no mulch around the trees. The fenced off area is flat but poorly grassed. There is no watering facility. □

□ Total area: 33,000 sq.metres.□

**4. Pilcher Park. □**

The Off-leash area is **unfenced** and relatively long and narrow, extending from Gardiner Rd to Moulder Park behind Endeavour Oval, and is part of a larger park which includes Blackmans Swamp Creek and a detention basin. Multiple access points from Gardiner Rd, Kable Place, Woodward St and Moulder Park. Safe parking is in Pilcher Park off Woodward St adjoining Endeavour Oval, and in Kable Place. □

□ Instructional Signage and vertical identification signs are either in poor condition, or unreadable or confusing. Poo bag dispensers and waste bins are provided at Woodward St, Gardiner Rd and Moulder Park entrances. The area is flat, well shaded and with several bench seats. The pathway is also popular with cyclists and joggers accessing Moulder Park, creating conflicts between users. □

□ Total area: 16,000 sq.metres.□

**5. Wirraburra Walk. □**

This is a very popular **unfenced** Off-leash area, which extends from Coronation Drive to Forbes Rd with Duntryleague Golf Course on its eastern boundary, the backyards of houses on its western side, some unfenced, and with multiple access points from the adjoining Westlea residential suburb via Alkira Way, Yarawini Drive, and Aminya Place. □

□ While narrow and undulating, it consists of a wide concrete shared pathway used also by walkers, joggers and cyclists, well grassed on either side of the pathway, with good shade and several seats. □

□ Signage is very poor at all access points with no indication that the main pathway is shared with cyclists. □

□ Poo bag dispensers and waste bins provided at main access points off Coronation Drive and Forbes Rd. There is one dog watering fountain and bubbler. □

□ Parking is dangerous on both Coronation Drive and Forbes Rd. The Area is best suited to users arriving by foot or parking in side streets. □

□ Total area: 16,000 sq. metres.□

**6. Bloomfield Park. □**

The **unfenced** Off-leash Area consists of the two former sports ovals, which is not clearly indicated on the Council brochure. □

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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□  
It is a very large open space, totally unfenced and very popular, with shade and seating at the eastern end, but with poor signage. □

□  
There are multiple access points off Bargwanna Rd, Bloomfield Rd and the shared pathway which extends from Bargwanna Rd to Huntley Rd. □

□  
There is a sealed shared pathway adjoining the Off-leash ovals used by cyclists, walkers and joggers, and dogs are often off-leash along the pathway causing conflict between users. □

□  
Access and parking is relatively safe in Bargwanna Rd but not the case along Bloomfield Rd. □

□  
Total area: 17,000 sq.metres. □

**7. Anzac Park.** □

The off-leash section of the very large and multi-use Anzac Park, is **fully fenced** and is identified by quite distinctive signs in both Winter St and March St... "Anzac Park, Dog Exercise Area", but no signage indicating it is an Off-leash area, although the intent is clear with secure fencing around the whole area. Nor is there an instructional sign. □

□  
The Area is undulating and sloping up to Winter St. It has a single gate entry off March St, a waste bin inside the gate, and a poo bag dispenser outside the Area. There is a small clump of shade trees away from the entry gate and 4 other smaller trees. There is no watering facility and no seating. □

□  
There is off-street parking access from March St, but due to nearby Dudley Private Hospital, parking Monday to Friday is limited during office hours. At other times, parking on March St can be dangerous due to traffic. The Area was previously much larger, but size was reduced to build a skate park. The land is currently zoned Private Recreation. □

□  
Total area: 3,000 sq.metres. □

**8. Machin Park.** □

This is a very good small **fully fenced** dedicated Off-leash Area on Gardiner Rd, with houses adjoining the Park on three sides. □

□  
It has a single gate entrance, with good instructional signage on the gate, with a poo bag dispenser, waste bin and watering facility just outside the park near the gate. Good shade trees and a seat. Very well grassed but with some low spots that become waterlogged after rain. □

□  
There is good off-street parking along the Gardiner Rd fence line, on the very wide nature strip. On-street parking can be dangerous during busy traffic times. □

□  
Total area: 3,400 sq.metres. □

**9. A. Riawena Oval.** The Oval is a major cricket ground, **fully fenced** and well grassed and maintained. Off-leash dogs are **not** permitted on the oval during the cricket season (September to March inclusive) as instructed on a new clearly written sign. It is very popular as an off-leash area during the other months, due to its flat and smooth soft grass surface. Of course, there is no seating nor any shade trees on the oval. □

□  
There is a poo bag dispenser and waste bin located outside the oval, about 50 metres away from the single entrance gate. □

□  
There is very good off-street parking adjacent to the Clubhouse off Sieben Drive. □

□  
Total area: 30,000 sq.metres □

**9. B. Forbes Rd Reserve.** The Colour Brochure map indicating **area 9** refers to both the

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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Forbes Rd Reserve and Riawena Oval. □

□

The Forbes Rd Reserve is a very popular off-leash area, and is part of the easement for what was to be the Southern Feeder Rd, and is a narrow strip of land stretching south from Forbes Rd towards Cargo Rd. The land is currently zoned Low Density Residential. □

□

While the map shows the full extent of land as an unfenced off-leash area, a relatively small section adjoining Forbes Rd has recently been **fully fenced** and is promoted as “the Off-leash Dog Exercise Area”. □

□

It has main access off Forbes Rd through a double entrance gate, and immediately inside this entrance is a poo bag dispenser, waste bin and watering facility. The Area can also be accessed through a single gate at the southern end, and from a short sign posted walkway from Lombardy Way, through a single gate. All access points are well sign posted with instructional signs. □

□

The Area slopes upwards to the south away from Forbes Rd, and the entrance area becomes very wet and boggy after heavy rain. Some alleviation with wood chip mulch and gravel has helped address, but not solved, the problem. The Area is well grassed with pasture grasses, particularly paspalum and white clover, which however cause some problems when the area is not mown. There is a small clump of Casuarina trees in the wet areas near the entrance, but otherwise, shade is only provided by two other young Eucalyptus trees. Three advanced deciduous trees and one evergreen tree were recently planted, but are in need of mulching. □

□

The Area is very popular with local residents accessing by foot, but many visitors arrive by car and park on the quite uneven verge of Forbes Rd (The Escort Way), a very busy major highway, making parking dangerous at peak traffic times. Alternative safe on-street parking is available in Lombardy Way. □

□

Total area: 14,000 sq.metres □

**10. Orange Showground. □**

The Off-leash area at the Showground, is in fact the large **fully fenced** rectangular Showground “Ring”. Although upon entering the Showground through the main entrance off Leeds Parade, there are no directional signs as to where the Off-leash Area is located. □

□

There are two main entrance gates to the fenced area on the western side, neither of which are clearly sign posted, with very faded instructions. There is one poo bag dispenser and one waste bin. There are other access points on the southern and eastern boundaries, but not sign posted. There is access from the adjoining Council Caravan Park. There is no shade, no seating and no watering facility. But plenty of safe parking. □

□

Total area: 18,000 sq.metres □

**11. Young Street. □**

This Off-leash park is **the best example in Orange** of what a purpose built quality off-leash dog exercise area should look like. It is **fully fenced** and divided into two fenced sections; a smaller area for small dogs, and a larger area for large dogs. It is well located in the expanding North Orange residential area between Young St and Webb St. There are no identifying signs on either street frontages. And signs identifying the small and large dog sections are missing. □

□

There are three access points; on Young St., on Webb St, and on the western side adjoining the drainage reserve, each with a double entrance gate and with new instructional signs on each gate. □

□

There are poo bag dispensers, waste bins and dog watering facilities with bubblers, although two of the watering facilities need repairs. There is good shade from existing large eucalyptus trees, and also a few new tree plantings. Seating is provided in the elevated northern section of the large dog area, and under the canopy of large eucalyptus trees, and near the small dog area. The Area is reasonably well grassed. □

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**3.2 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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□  
While foot access is very good, car parking on Young St is not as safe as it is on Webb St, due to slope and traffic. However, the main access point to the large dog section is off Young St.  
□  
Total area: 3,500 sq.metres

**12. Banjo Paterson Way - Clifton Grove Mud Hut.**

□  
Identification of this fenced off-leash area is somewhat confusing as it is identified as on Banjo Paterson Way in the coloured brochure, but as the Clifton Grove Mud Hut leash free area on Council's website. It is actually located off Homestead Lane with no directional signs to the Mud Hut. □

**SUMMARY.**

□  
Orange residents are very fortunate to have access to a variety of both fully fenced and unfenced off-leash dog exercise areas strategically located in the urban areas and in nearby Bloomfield and Clifton Grove. □

□  
However, while the naming and location of the areas is described in Council's Off-leash Dog Exercise Areas coloured brochure, and on its website, identification signage with the name of the Dog Exercise Area, is restricted to Council's standard vertical park identification sign, which is sometimes inappropriately located or absent altogether. Many of the instructional signs at entry points are old and faded, and it is only on the more recently developed areas that clear instructional signs are mounted on entry gates. □

□  
The audit of the Off-Leash Areas revealed a wide variation in key elements, important in a well designed area, that meet the needs of both the dogs and their owners with regard to access, safety and socialisation. □

□  
Many dogs and their owners arrive at Off-Leash Areas by car, particularly at the more popular fully fenced areas, and safe parking should be an essential feature at all areas, which is often overlooked. □

□  
Clear instructional signage, briefly outlining owner responsibilities, was not uniformly exhibited at all entry points, and was significantly deficient in older established areas. □

□  
Double entry gates are important in ensuring that dogs can't escape from their owners' control when entering a fully fenced area, and this feature is only present in two of the most recently developed areas. □

□  
While the provision of poo bag dispensers and waste bins was generally satisfactory, watering facilities and shade were often either absent or inadequate. Poo bag dispensers were empty at several locations. □

□  
The provision of seating in areas varies from area to area, and while seating adds to the amenity of the area and is of particular benefit to older owners or those with a disability, there is a school of thought that says that seating encourages owners to sit down and not pay careful attention to the movements of their off-leash dog, and be in a position to respond to any conflicts. □

□  
Unfenced areas pose particular problems, particularly when there are adjoining roads, residential backyards, multi access points, multi-use pathways and owners not keeping their dogs under command control at all times. □

□  
The overall appearance and standard of maintenance of all features and facilities tends to vary from Area to Area, and would appear to be a key factor in the popularity and utilisation of one Area over another. □

□  
□

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**Attachment 2    Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held  
on 5 February 2026**

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**3.2    Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas - Audit**

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□

**RECOMMENDATIONS.**

□

**1.** That the term, Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area, be considered as the most appropriate terminology to be applied, and not "Leash Free".

□

**2.** That Council brochures and website be amended accordingly, and that the naming of all areas be reviewed to ensure that the name effectively identifies and reflects their location.

□

**3.** That Instructional signage be placed at the entry to all areas, either on gates or posts.

□

**4.** That poo bag dispensers, waste bins, watering facilities, shade trees and satisfactory grass be provided and maintained in all areas.

□

**5.** That the purpose and provision of seating in all areas be reviewed.

□

**6.** That safe on-street and/or off-street parking be provided at all areas.

□

**7.** That new Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas which may be located in emerging residential suburbs and in planned residential areas, embrace all the essential features required in a "best practice" Off-Leash Area.

□

**8.** That Orange City Council develop an Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas Policy

□

This Updated Report has been prepared by Neil Jones, a community representative on the Orange City Council Companion Animals Community Committee.

15 January, 2026.

□

□

□

□

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**3.3 Desexing Program - Companion Animals Community Committee Budget**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/84

AUTHOR: Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Committee discuss motioning a portion of the allocated budget be used to fund a desexing program for Orange City Council residents who hold a pension card, as it has been done in the past. Council staff have received several enquiries from local pet owners about such a program.

**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**

A portion of the budget allocation for the 2025/2026 financial year would be used.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Companion Animals Community Committee move to allocate a portion of the allocated budget for a desexing program for pension holders with a limit of one procedure per residential property in Orange LGA.**

**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>	The Committee has an allocation of approximately \$13,000 they can recommend Council spend on projects or programs. No financial risk to Council.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Nil
<b>Environment</b>	Nil
<b>Compliance</b>	Nil
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Nil. Council staff administer the program only; procedures are undertaken by a veterinarian.
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Nil

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

There have been several enquiries regarding a Council desexing program, with some residents leaving their contact details for when the program becomes available. Currently, eight people have registered interest in cat desexing, with some owning two cats. Four people have expressed interest in dog desexing, including one resident who has three dogs and a cat.

Previous desexing programs have been limited to one procedure per residential property. The most recent program focused on cats only, resulting in 29 cats being desexed at a total cost of just over \$6,500.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025, D26/6715

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026****Attachment 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025****DRAFT: Community Dog Desexing Pilot****Executive Summary**

The Community Dog Desexing Pilot ('The Pilot') is a one-year pilot initiative aimed at reducing the population of stray and unwanted dogs in the Orange City Council area. The intention is to test the program for learnings to ascertain whether a similar model could be used more broadly across New South Wales to address post COVID-19 issues with escalating (and often uncontrolled) dog populations.

Due to overcrowded pounds, shelters and rehoming organisations, this pilot provides subsidized desexing services to help control dog populations, improve public safety, and ultimately ease financial pressure on local government services. By partnering with key stakeholders, including local veterinarians, the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, and Orange City Council, The Pilot will offer free and/or low-cost desexing to pet owners in need.

By the end of the 12-month period, The Pilot expects to see a measurable decline in stray dog numbers, a reduction in euthanasia rates, and decreased public costs associated with dog-related incidents. The Pilot can also be used as a test case to inform the newly (anticipated) Companion Animal Act legislation on these issues to assist with ensuring this crisis is avoided in the future.

**Introduction**

Post COVID-19, which saw an unprecedented boom in pet ownership and surge dog numbers<sup>1</sup>, the Orange region, like many others, is currently experiencing a significant increase in stray and uncontained dogs, leading to:

- Uncontrolled dog populations leading to injuries and fatalities among children and elderly residents
- Feral dog packs attacking livestock, causing financial losses to farmers.
- High costs for local government in ranger services, lost pet recovery, and public safety concerns.
- 400 euthanized dogs in OCC Pound last year due to overcrowding (this figure is consistent with other areas).

The Pilot is designed as an initiative to mitigate these issues and curb continuing escalation of this problem by offering free or subsidised desexing for dogs in partnership with local veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, and government bodies.

The proposal anticipates the development of a co-funding model with contributions from the state government and Orange City Council.

It is proposed that The Pilot will include an educational component to inform pet owners about the long-term benefits of desexing, and 'pets for life' and help inform authorities on the scale of the issue and gauge communities' appetite for participation. A minimum expectation on owners participating in The Pilot will be to have dog microchipped and registered with OCC.

<sup>1</sup> Australia's Pandemic Pet Boom – more dogs and cats, closer bonds than ever before - Animal Medicines Australia, 2021

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline.docx

1

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026****Attachment 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025**

By addressing the root cause—uncontrolled breeding—the belief is that this pilot will create a sustainable, long-term impact for both the community and animal welfare.

**Objectives:**

1. Improve community safety by reducing roaming, aggressive, and untrained dogs.
2. Minimize feral dog attacks on livestock, preventing financial losses to farmers.
3. Improve understanding for dog owners of the obligations of owning a companion dog.
4. Ease financial pressure on local government by lowering costs related to:
  - a. Pound operations & euthanasia expenses
  - b. Ranger services & stray dog recovery
  - c. Insurance claims from dog-related injuries
  - d. Gather accurate data through community engagement
5. Reduce the number of stray and unwanted dogs by increasing desexing accessibility.
6. Decrease euthanasia rates in local pounds (600+ dogs euthanized in the past year)
7. Successful pilot to share with other NSW local councils for adoption.

**KPI's**

1. Number of dogs successfully desexed (Target: 1,000+ dogs within 12 months).
2. Reduction in stray dog intake at local pounds (Baseline: 1200 intake, 600 euthanized, target: 30-50% decrease).
3. Decrease in dog-related injuries reported in the community (Tracking data from local health services).
4. Reduction in livestock attacks by feral dogs (Tracking reports from local ag members & DPI).
5. Decrease in local government funding on dog management (Pound operations, ranger callouts, and insurance claims).
6. Statistically significant data capture

**Top Line Logistics**

*Start Date:* TBC

*Duration:* 12 months

*Owner Co-pay:* Pensioner FREE (Nb. This would include any and all govt subsidies, up to X dogs) non-subsidy nominal co-pay \$100.

*Animal statistics:* dogs 0-7 years of age (geriatric point) male and female, all breeds.

*Location:* Local Vet Clinics x 5 (Poss. AWL van visits and RSPCA townhall days) TBC

*Stakeholders:*

- Local Veterinary Clinics – Directors & staff (5 clinics in Orange participating in The Pilot).
- Orange City Council -Logistics
- RSPCA – Funding & Offer of resources and townhall days
- AWL – Van scheduled for numerous desexing days.
- Dept. of Local Govt. – funding and support
- OCC Community Members -

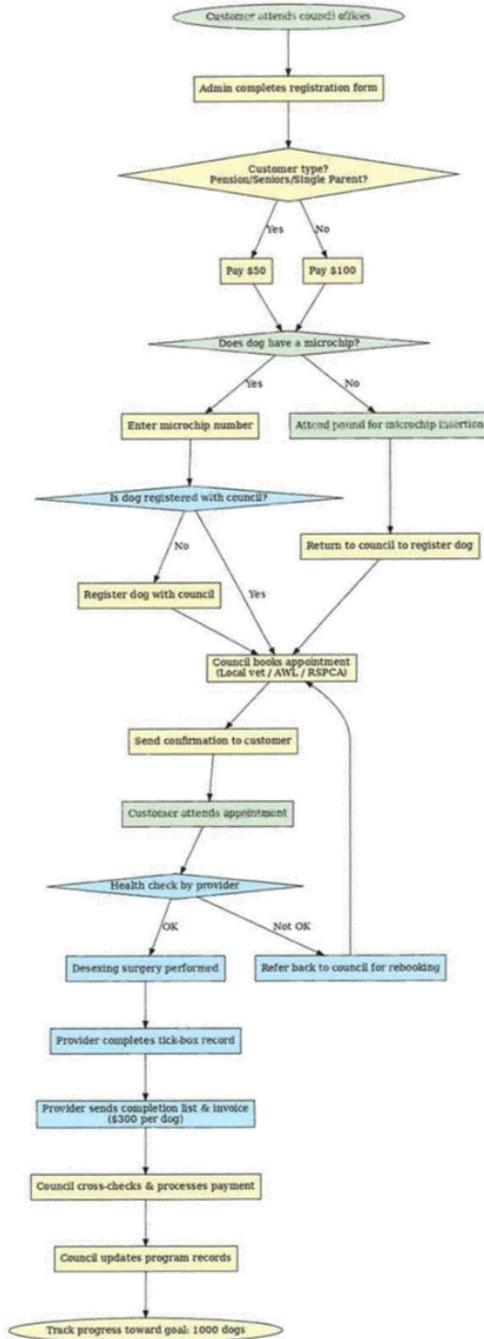
Wednesday, 10 December 2025

DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline.docx

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025**



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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**Attachment 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025**

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**Free Dog Desexing Program – Registration Form**

(Pilot Program – 1 Year – Goal: 1000 Dogs)

**1. Customer Details**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Concession Status (tick one):

 Pension Card  Seniors Card  Single Parent  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  None**2. Dog Details**

Dog Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed / Cross: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_ months

Sex:  Male  Female

Colour/Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Medical Challenges / Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Microchip & Registration**Microchip:  Yes  No Number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_Council Registration:  Yes  No Number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_**4. Payment**Amount Paid:  \$50 (Concession)  \$100 (No concession)

Receipt No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**For Office Use Only**

Form completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip verified?  Yes  No

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 DRAFT Community Dog Desexing - The Pilot Outline - Danielle Haase - 10 December 2025**

Registration completed?  Yes  No

Desexing appointment booked?  Yes  No

Provider booked: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**


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**3.4 Companion Animal Statistics**
**RECORD NUMBER:** 2026/93

**AUTHOR:** Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Customer Request Statistics, including reported dog attacks, barking/noisy dog complaints, and stray dogs for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 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.

**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 Council 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>	Accurate reporting of customer requests and pound figures supports informed planning and service delivery improvements.
<b>Financial</b>	Trends in requests may indicate future resource or budget pressures for animal management services.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Transparency in presenting corrected data reinforces trust, but misinterpretation of figures could affect community perception.
<b>Environment</b>	Animal management practices reflected in the data may have been implications for environmental sustainability.
<b>Compliance</b>	Reporting must comply with Council’s governance and record-keeping requirements.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	Data trends may highlight operational pressures that impact staff workload and wellbeing.
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Accuracy and security of systems used to capture and report data are critical to maintain integrity.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Nil

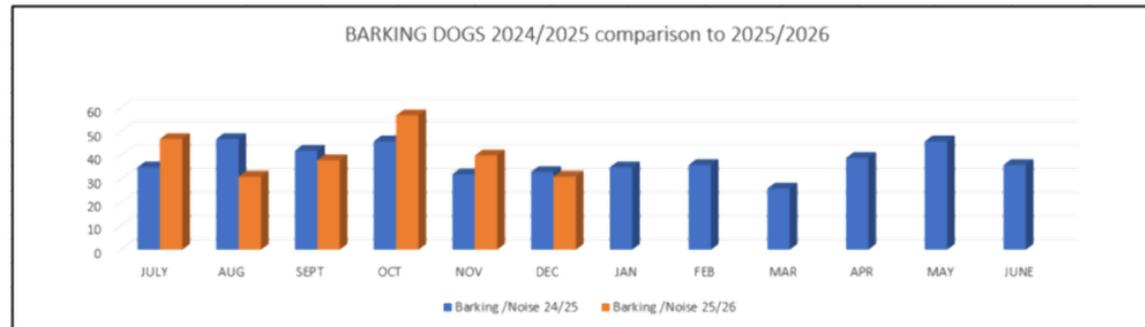
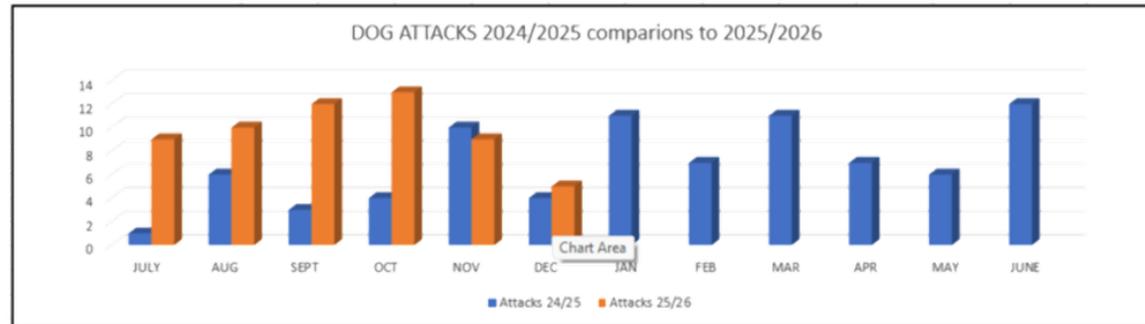
**ATTACHMENTS**

1 Customer Request Statistics - February 2026 Agenda, D26/9443

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 Customer Request Statistics - February 2026 Agenda**

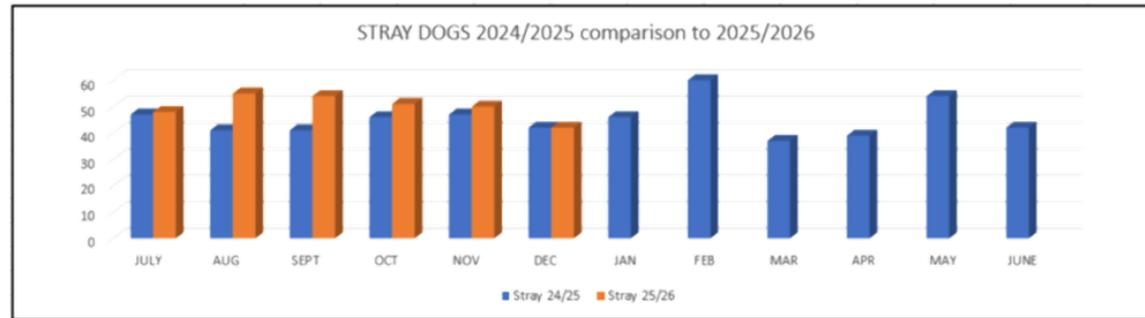
**Customer Request Statistics**



**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 Customer Request Statistics - February 2026 Agenda**

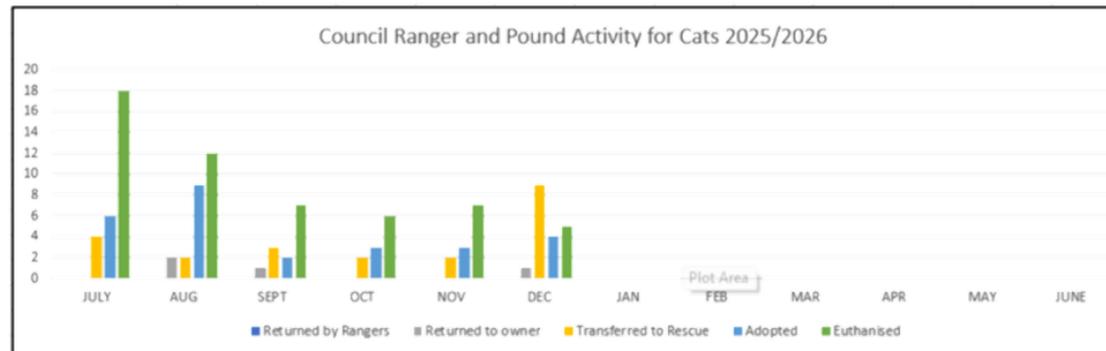
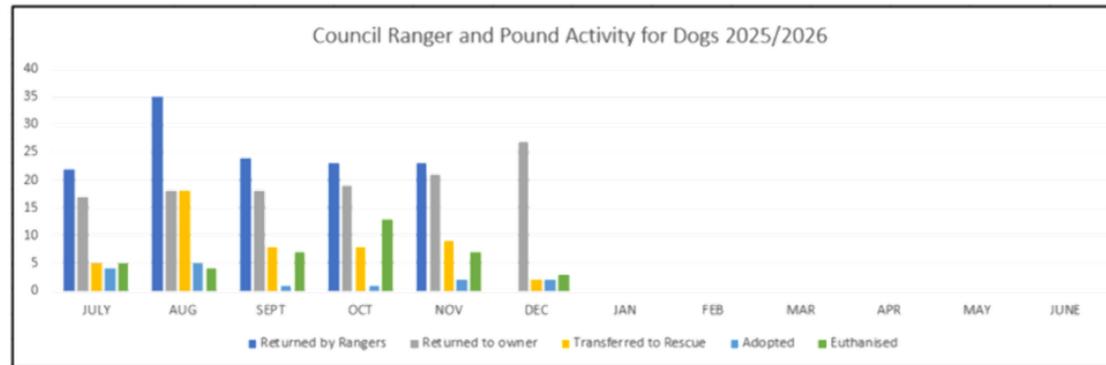
**Customer Request Statistics**



**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 Customer Request Statistics - February 2026 Agenda**

**Council Ranger & Pound Statistics**

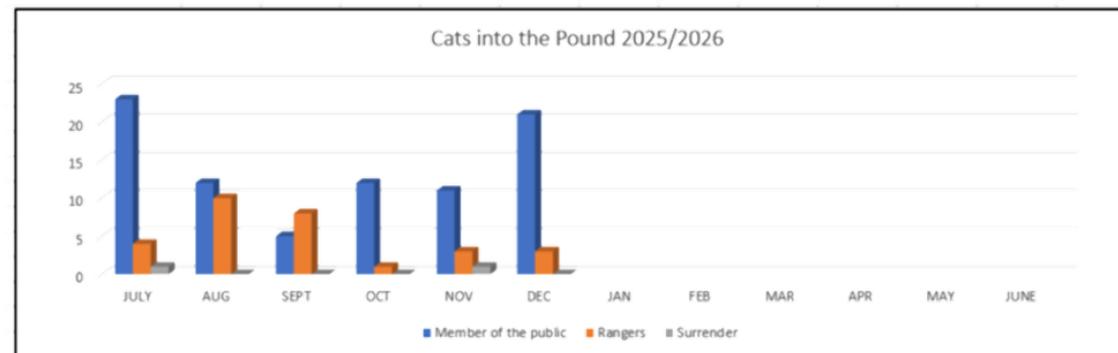
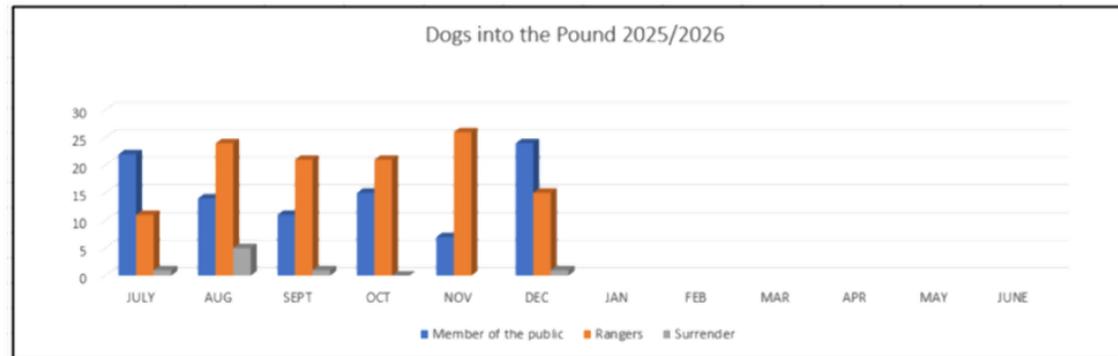


Companion Animal Statistics | 3

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

**Attachment 1 Customer Request Statistics - February 2026 Agenda**

**Council Ranger & Pound Statistics**



Companion Animal Statistics | 4

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**


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**3.5 Action Plan**

RECORD NUMBER: 2026/94

AUTHOR: Trinity Preston, Administration Officer (Compliance)

**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 overtime.

**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>	Changes to the Action Plan may affect timelines or delivery of existing community initiatives.
<b>Financial</b>	New or updated actions may require additional funding or reallocation of existing resources.
<b>Reputation/Political</b>	Community expectations may be impacted if priorities shift or previously endorsed actions are removed.
<b>Environment</b>	Revised actions should consider environmental impacts and alignment with sustainability goals.
<b>Compliance</b>	Updates must align with Council policies, committee terms of reference and relevant legislation.
<b>People &amp; WHS</b>	New or revised actions may introduce workload or safety considerations for volunteers and staff.
<b>Information Technology/ Cyber Security</b>	Digital updates to the Action Plan must ensure secure access and accurate version control.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Nil

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2026, D25/58859



**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2026**

D25/58859

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
							with update on how they can assist.	
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  THIS ACTION IS NOW CLOSED AS PER COMMITTEE MEETING: 4 SEPTEMBER 2024		Review of other LGA's					<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full review of current policy and be presented to Council for adoption.</li> <li>2. RSPCA closing – clarification of how they are going to support the community moving forward.</li> <li>3. Council to contact neighbouring Councils about their pound facility scope and services offered.</li> <li>4. Information previously requested by the Cmte was emailed to them prior to the meeting 4/9/2025.</li> <li>5. The Cmte review the current fee structure for the Pound for adequacy and alignment with community expectations.</li> </ol>	4/9/2025

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2026**

D25/58859

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
							* Council staff conduct an impact assessment based on lowering the surrender fees and adoption fees. * Manager Compliance explained the new goals for the Compliance Section out of the Council's new Operational Plan and the information gathered from other Councils in the region on their adoption and rehoming practices compared to Orange Pound.	
Council's Interim Rehoming & Adoption Strategy			Manager Compliance				Manager Compliance to develop Council's Interim Rehoming & Adoption Strategy, which will reflect current practices. A long-term strategy will be developed once the new Companion Animals legislation is finalised in late 2026, as these changes may impact all areas of companion animal management.	4/9/2025

**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**
**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2026**

ACTION OR PROJECT	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY OF	COST IMPLICATIONS	START DATE	END DATE	COMMENTS/PROGRESS	UPDATED
Compliance Section Operational Plan			Manager Compliance				The development and implementation of at least 2 education projects around companion animals (in addition to the brochures and verbal education staff already provide).	4/9/2025
Off-Leash Dog Areas			Neil Jones				Conduct an inventory and assessment of current off-leash areas in Orange and report back to the Committee. Neil presented his audit to the Committee.	4/9/2025 10/12/2025

**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.

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**Attachment 2 Agenda of the Meeting of the Companion Animals Community Committee held on 5 February 2026**

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**Attachment 1 Companion Animal Community Committee Action Plan - 2026**

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**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.