

# Nillumbik Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

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A requirement of the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994

### **Our Proposed Position Statement**

Pets are important and valued members of our community.

### **The values that underpin our service**

- The way we treat domestic animals is a reflection of who we are as a community
- Domestic animals will be cared for humanely and with respect
- Pets include more than cats and dogs. They also include rabbits, reptiles, fish, rodents and chickens
- We understand why pets are important to their families
- We aspire to be a compassionate community that cares for its animals and its people, regardless of whether they are pet owners or not
- We need help from our community to successfully address challenging and sensitive animal management issues
- We need to work with our community to provide safe haven for pets, along with their owners in times of crisis
- We have a legislated obligation to ensure compliance with state government legislation in relation to the management of pets
- We recognise that some of the issues we need to address are complex, can generate contrary reactions, and will need a mix of short, medium and long term strategies to address
- Pet owners have a responsibility to manage their pets so their pets do not adversely impact on the amenity and safety of our neighbourhoods and community.

*"I want to congratulate council on its refreshing approach to understanding the important role companion animals play in the lives of their owners, and often the community."*

DAMP submission  
respondent

*80% of survey respondents<sup>1</sup> said Nillumbik animal management staff are helpful and courteous ..... and 75% said that 'council recognises the benefit of pets'*

DAMP community survey

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<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>			
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition for the purpose of this document</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition for the purpose of this document</b>
AMOs	(Council) Animal Management Officers	Authorised Officer	Person authorised by council under section 224 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> to administer/enforce any Act
NSC/Council	Nillumbik Shire Council	DAA	<i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i>
Local Laws/ Orders	Ordinances put in place by council under various Acts of state government	LGA	<i>Local Government Act</i>
POCTA	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Community survey	Survey conducted as part of the research carried out for the DAMP
AVA	Australian Veterinary Association	Strategies to address issues	Stakeholder
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Strategies to address issues	Stakeholder
AIAM	Australian Institute of Animal Management	Strategies to address issues	Stakeholder
G2Z	Getting to Zero	Strategies to address issues	Stakeholder
DV	Dogs Victoria	Strategies to address issues	Stakeholder

## 1. Background information

### 1.1 What is the purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan?

The Domestic Animal Management Plan identifies the emerging and ongoing issues for Council's animal management services that need to be considered and address over the next four years. It provides the service planning and delivery framework for animal management services, and includes the timeframe during which Council will address priorities identified in the plan.

The plan also provides an overview of the ongoing compliance and education activities carried out by Council's Animal Management Service.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 Planning for domestic animals in Nillumbik

#### 1.2.1 The Victorian Domestic Animals Act 1994

The Victorian Domestic Animals Act<sup>2</sup> requires all Victorian councils to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan to outline how councils will address matters associated with cats and dogs.

The Act also specifies a number of matters that Council must address as part of the plan. These matters relate to:

- Establishing the measures and processes for:
  - evaluating the effectiveness of the service and associated programs
  - reviewing local laws and orders
- Ensuring residents and Council comply with Act, particularly in relation to:
  - identification and registration of cats and dogs
  - training of staff
- Minimising risk and nuisance associated with:
  - dogs, including dog attacks, barking dogs, wandering dogs, dogs defecating in public places, and dogs that are declared as 'dangerous'
  - cats, including cats trespassing
- Animal welfare including the high euthanasia rates associated with cats and dogs
- The management of animals in times of disasters.

#### 1.2.2 Council planning

In addition to the requirements of the Act, Council supports the need for an integrated approach to the planning for cats and dogs, as well as other pets in the community.

Consultation undertaken for the Nillumbik Health and Wellbeing Plan currently under development identifies the benefits associated with pet ownership, particularly in terms of physical and mental health, and community networking. It also identifies the need to address the impacts to pets in situations of family violence, natural disasters; and to investigate 'pet related support programs' that enhance health and wellbeing outcomes.

Recreation planning has identified the need to address the challenges associated accommodating the needs and expectations of both dog owners and non-dog owners in parks.

Planning for the DAMP also identified the influence pets are having on their owner's travel and recreation decisions. This potentially presents new opportunities associated with tourism and economic development within the Shire.

An integrated approach to the planning for pets in the community enables council to understand and address pet management and health and wellbeing matters, as well as wider opportunities associated with pets.

#### Key references important to the Nillumbik DAMP:

- Domestic Animals Act, 1994
- Council Plan; Living in the Landscape
- Recreation Strategy
- Draft Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Positive Ageing Strategy
- Nillumbik Planning Scheme
- Green Wedge Management Plan

<sup>1</sup> DAMP Appendix 3

<sup>2</sup> Domestic Animals Act, section 68A, Victorian State Government.

## 2. How we prepared the Domestic Animal Management Plan

Research for the Domestic Animal Management Plan has taken into account the research and consultation carried out for other strategic plans, including the Draft Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Recreation Strategy<sup>3</sup>. It has also considered how the plan can help Council address the recommendations and actions of those documents.

Consultation and community engagement carried out to date specifically for the Domestic Animal Management Plan has involved:

- An online survey with 842 respondents
- 18 written submissions
- Council staff workshops and interviews, including with staff from disability, community, tourism / economic development, environmental, and recreation services
- Consultation with benchmarking councils
- Consultation with key industry groups including Getting to Zero (G2Z); the RSPCA, the Cat Protection Society, Australian Veterinary Association.

## 3. What did we achieve from the 2013-2017 Domestic Animal Management Plan?

The 2013-2017 Domestic Animal Management Plan identified the important role that pets play in the life of their owners. It also identified the wide-ranging expectations the community has of council's animal management service.

As a result, the plan proposed an ambitious program of initiatives that went well beyond initiatives proposed in previous plans, and which put extensive pressure on Council's Animal Management Service team to deliver upon.

In order to optimise resources, council staff put considerable resources into investigating future partnership opportunities as part of the previous plan. These will be further investigated over the next four years as identified in actions 15, 16 and 23.

The highlights from the 2013-2017 DAMP, and the last four years of operations include:

- A significant decrease in the number of:
  - cats impounded
  - impounded cats that were euthanased (-206 / -58%)<sup>4</sup>
  - undesexed dogs<sup>5</sup>
- A continuing high rate of rehoming of impounded cats
- The provision of two fully fenced dog parks, one in Diamond Creek and the other in Hurstbridge
- The establishment of a 'Ranger Work Experience' program
- A significant increase in the number of people attending the annual Pet Expo (an estimated 6,000 at the last Pet Expo)
- Initial consultation with commercial pet service providers to investigate partnership service and promotional opportunities
- The registration of a large number of unregistered pets as a result of Council's door knock<sup>6</sup> program.

<sup>3</sup> Council Plan: Living in the Landscape; 2017- 2021; Recreation Strategy 2011-2019; Health and Wellbeing Plan, 2017-2021

<sup>4</sup> A comparison between the 2012/13 and 2016/17 DAMP data

<sup>5</sup> As identified on the Nillumbik pet registration database

<sup>6</sup> Un-notified visitation to over 700 households

## 4. About domestic animals in Nillumbik

### 4.1 What are domestic animals?

Domestic animals are generally those animals that reside as companions to people living in Nillumbik homes, or they may be working animals such as farm dogs or assistance animals.

Domestic animals may also be unowned or semi-owned animals, as can be the case with some populations of cats that residents may feed, or tend to, but do not take ownership of. They may also be animals that are temporarily residing in shelters or with foster carers.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994 only sets requirements for the management of cats and dogs. However, Council recognises that residents have a large variety of other species of animals living with them as their pets<sup>7</sup>. These can include reptiles, rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, ducks and chickens.

Of the survey respondents, 11 residents (1.3 %) stated that they have never owned a cat or dog. All others stated that they owned cats or dogs now, had in the past or intended to in the future. 8 respondents (0.95 %) stated that they had never owned a pet of any type. Further:

- 83 / 9.9 % respondents stated that they currently owned pets other than cats and dogs
- 283 / 33.6 % of respondents own cats now and/or will into the future
- 530 / 63 % respondents own dogs now and / or will into the future.

### 4.2 What does research say about the benefits of pet ownership?

Research cited in a number of publications including 'Pet Ownership in Australia' (2016) highlights considerable research that demonstrates the significant health and well-being benefits associated with owning a pet. These include:

- People who own pets typically visit the doctor less often and use less medication
- Pet owners, on average have lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure and are less likely to report feeling lonely
- Pet owners recover more quickly from illness and surgery and deal better with stressful situations
- Pet owners show lower levels of risk factors associated with heart disease
- Pets have been shown to greatly increase quality of life for the elderly including reduced tension, fatigue and confusion and increased feelings of enthusiasm, interest and inspiration; and
- Self-esteem has been shown to be higher in children or adolescents who have a pet.<sup>8</sup>

In addition, in 2015 Australians spent approximately \$12.2 billion on pet products and services, a 42% increase since 2013<sup>9</sup>. Australians spent significantly more on their cats (up 35%), dogs (up 33%) and fish (up 54%) across most product categories in 2016 than they did in 2013.



<sup>7</sup> Including 10% of survey respondents

<sup>8</sup> The Power of Pets: The benefits of companion animal ownership, Australian Companion Animal Council, 2009

<sup>9</sup> Pet Ownership in Australia; 2016; p31

## 5. About pets in Nillumbik

### 5.1 What pet owners told us about their pets

The role pets play in the families of Nillumbik is revealing and clearly indicates the impact that pets have in the daily lives of residents. Here is what the DAMP survey respondents told us<sup>10</sup>:

- 89% say their pets are an important part of their family
- 86% say it is important for them to have an animal in their life
- 84% say their pets are important because they give unconditional love
- 70% say they talk to more people because they have a pet
- 65% say they or their family exercises more because they have a pet.

### 5.2 Pet owner obligations

Pet owners have a number of legislated responsibilities which are well documented in Council information and on Council's website. One of the most significant challenges Council and the community has relates to pet owners who are not aware of their need to minimise the impact their pets can have on other people and other pets.

Residents make choices about the type of pets they will bring into their household based on a number of factors. These include lifestyle, preference for one type of pet over another and the cost associated with adopting a particular type of pet.

Often pet owners assume or want to believe that other pet owners and neighbours will be equally embracing of their pet as they are.

This is often not the case. As a result, a significant amount of Council time and resources are taken up with managing different neighbour and community expectations around pets, helping pet owners understand their responsibilities, and assisting people impacted by pet owners who forget that they need to consider the needs of other residents.

The following are examples of the issues that Council needs greater understanding and support from pet owners to address:

- dogs that bark, particularly when their owners are away from home
- dogs that owners let off-leash in on-leash areas or that are allowed to annoy other people and their pets
- cats that urinate, disturb other pets, or attack wildlife in neighbours properties
- cats that are out at night.

Council does not have the resources to deal with these issues alone, and seeks to work with pet owners and the broader community to ensure pets are not regarded as an unnecessary nuisance.



<sup>10</sup> % of DAMP survey respondents who selected 'very important' or 'important'



## 6. Some key statistics and trends

There are 11,058 dogs and 3,153 cats on Council's pet registration database. This is an increase of 40 dogs and 63 cats on 2012/13<sup>12</sup> registrations and represents a slight decrease in cat and dog populations as a proportion of the population.

Data released in 2016 indicates there could be up to 20 dogs and 16 cats for every 100 people in Australia<sup>13</sup>. Actual cat and dog ownership rates might be more or less in some areas depending on household type<sup>14</sup>, the level of urbanisation and socio-economic factors.

Criteria	2012/13	2016/17	+/- <sup>11</sup>
Cats	3090	3153	+63
Cats / 100 residents	5.12	5.04	-0.08
Dogs	11018	11058	+40
Dogs / 100 residents	18	18	0

Compared to a number of other outer eastern Melbourne councils, Nillumbik would appear to have a significantly higher rate of registration for dogs, and a slightly higher rate of registration for cats.

The suburbs in Nillumbik with the largest number of registered cats are Eltham, Diamond Creek and Eltham North; and the suburbs with the largest number of registered dogs are Eltham, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge and Greensborough.

The Domestic Animals Act requires Council to collect data about cats and dogs and monitor trends that may require intervention. A full account of this data is provided in Appendix 2.

## 7. About Animal Management Services

Animal Management Services are part of Council's Community Safety Department, which form part of Council's Services and Planning Directorate. Council invests over \$680,000 annually in the management of the service.

The equivalent of 3.35 Effective Full Time (EFT) officer positions are dedicated to delivering animal management services. The focus of these positions is on:

- Applying state legislation and Council local laws and policies to the management of pets and pet related businesses and activities
- Providing advice to pet owners and information to the wider community and encouraging residents to manage and care for their pets appropriately
- The registration of domestic cats and dogs
- Inspections of animal businesses and animals with special registration requirements
- Managing conflicting community attitudes and expectations relating to pets in public places such as parks and along trails
- Managing neighbourhood issues and complaints relating to cats and dogs
- Responding to animal welfare issues
- Co-ordinating the Pet Expo
- Managing Council's pound service and facility for dogs and liaising with the Cat Protection Society, the organisation that provides Council's cat pound service.

Council has a number of policies and procedures that underpin the operations of animal management services. These are listed in Appendix 3.

### 7.1 'Local Laws', 'Orders' and planning scheme requirements

There are a number of ordinances that residents must comply with if they own or are responsible for the care of animals, or manage animal businesses or facilities. The following provides a summary of these ordinances:

- *Section 26 Order in Council<sup>15</sup> – 'Cat confinement'*  
This order requires cats to be confined to their property between 7.30 pm and 6 am.
- *Section 26 Order in Council – 'Dogs in public places'*

<sup>11</sup> For every 100 residents

<sup>12</sup> Data reported in the 2012/13 DAMP

<sup>13</sup> Pet Ownership in Australia in 2016

<sup>14</sup> Families are more likely to have pets than single person households / Older people less likely to have pets than younger people

<sup>15</sup> A council ordinance that is made under Section 26 of the Victorian State Government DAA – Appendix 4

This order requires dogs to be on leash in all public places, other than in designated areas where dogs are allowed off leash. It also requires owners / carers to ensure they have their dogs:

- under effective control at all times
- on-leash within 5 metres of playgrounds in pre-schools, schools and childcare centres.

In addition to this legislated requirement, council's planning scheme places restrictions on the keeping of cats and dogs in the Bend of Islands Environmental Living Zone.

- *Section 26 Order in Council – 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge'*  
This order disallows dog being on any sports field in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.
- *Section 10A Order in Council – 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'*  
This order requires cats to be desexed before they can be registered.
- *Amenity Local Law – 'The Keeping of Animals'*  
This local law requires residents to have a permit if they want to house more than two dogs and 2 cats at any one property.

## 8. The issues and opportunities we will address over the next four years?

This section provides an overview of the findings from consultation and research carried out for the DAMP, and incorporates findings from other council planning projects. It also provides a summary of new initiatives that will be put in place over the term of the DAMP (2017-2021).

Ongoing compliance and educational activities that are carried out as standard practice are outlined in Appendix 3.

### 8.1 Service Management, Training and Awareness

#### Objectives:

- To provide an efficient and effective service that responds to our legislated responsibilities, and the changing needs and expectations of our community
- To ensure our staff are trained to enable them to safely and effectively manage the service, particularly in light of changing service demands.

#### 8.1.1 The key messages from our consultation and research

- 80% of survey respondents<sup>16</sup> that expressed an opinion said animal management staff are helpful and courteous and 75% said council recognises the benefit of pets:
  - 61% said our website could have more information about caring for pets
  - 87% said it would be good to have more support services for elderly and pet owners with disabilities
  - Anecdotally residents expect more than a compliance / punitive relationship with Council when it comes to pets.
- Pets are being reunited with their owners via an increasing number of avenues, including social media and veterinary clinics. This needs to be appropriately embraced by the service.
- The community has a growing expectation of local government in relation to:
  - Raising awareness about the plight of pets and pet owners in times of crisis, and advocating for support for these pets and their families
  - Local action on animal welfare issues

There were 203 fewer infringement notices issued in 2016/17 than recorded for the 2012/13 DAM Plan

Council's Ranger Unit has 5 Rangers of which 2.15 EFT is designated to animal management. The Ranger Unit is also supported by an Administration Unit which provides 1.2 EFT for support.

All 5 Rangers are multi-skilled so the service has backup when needed.

Staff have Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation and receive regular training and education in matters essential to the service including:

- Customer service / conflict resolution
- Restricted Breed Dog Identification
- Managing dangerous dogs
- Prosecution proceedings
- Industry best practice
- POCTA training

A full schedule of staff training is at Appendix 3

<sup>16</sup> % of survey respondents that expressed an opinion. i.e. did not say 'don't know' / 'not relevant to me'

- There is a need to increase community awareness of the scope and value of the service, and understand how animal registrations enable Council to address issues even if they are not specific to individual residents e.g. dealing with semi-owned / unowned cat populations.
- It would appear there may be a significant number of pet owners<sup>17</sup> and residents generally:
  - who do not understand the scope of Council's animal management service
  - with whom Council could be engaging with more, in order to address issues and investigate opportunities.
- A whole-of-Council approach is required if issues are to be effectively addressed and opportunities realised.

### 8.1.2 Service Management, Training and Awareness

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>YEAR OF PLAN</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>
1.	Animal management Officers to undertake CRAF (Common Risk Assessment Framework) or similar training	Yr 1 then ongoing	* CS
2.	Investigate the need for agreements with veterinary surgeries and other organisations that meet the Code of Practice to rehouse dogs and cats, and / or the need to review current arrangements	Yr 2	* CS
3.	Undertake a review of website, social media platforms and hard copy information provided to customers for the animal management service and update to improve customer awareness of and access to the service	Yr 1 then ongoing	* CS
<b>* Lead Department</b> CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing			

<sup>17</sup>Possibly in excess of 40% of pet owner survey respondents that do not know what Council does. Has implications, particularly in terms of perceived 'value' for registration cost.

## 8.2 Registration and identification

### Objectives:

- To increase pet registrations as a proportion of our resident population.
- To maintain accurate animal registration records.

Appendix 2 contains detailed information about cats and dogs in Nillumbik. This information is used to set performance targets for the service, and importantly to identify any animal management and welfare trends that Council may need to address.

### 8.2.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- Council was able to reunite 258 dogs with their owners in 2016, or 85% of impounded dogs; and 23 cats or 21% of impounded cats. This is because Council could trace owners through registration and microchip information.
- However, 42% of dogs (127 of 302) and 98% of cats (103 of 106) impounded in 2016 were not on Council's pet registration database. This represents a decrease in the actual number of dogs impounded that were unregistered, but an increase as a proportion of impounded dogs overall (6.6% increase).
- There was a significant increase (935) in the proportion of registered dogs that were desexed in 2016/17 compared to 2012/13. Council encourages owners to have their dogs desexed for community safety and dog health and wellbeing reasons.
- Based on industry feedback and information<sup>18</sup> Nillumbik has a significantly higher rate of dog registration and a slightly higher rate of cat registration than a number of adjoining councils<sup>19</sup>.
- it is anticipated that there are a number of pets registered on various industry microchip databases that are not on Council's registration database. There is likely to be many residents:
  - who assume Council's registration database and the microchip data base are one of the same
  - who do not know how to access microchip databases in order to update pet information
  - who do not realise the scope and complexity of animal management services, and therefore do not see the benefit of pet registrations.

Of 710 households 'doorknocked' in 2014, 51 unregistered pets were identified. This represents approximately 7 unregistered pets for every 100 households.

### 8.2.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
4.	Use the information currently being prepared by the AVA and the RSPCA to help residents understand the benefits and value of pet registration.	Yr 2 then annual	* CS RSPCA, AVA, DV other LGAs
5.	Cross-reference council database of registered animals with microchip registries to identify unregistered animals, animals with no permanent identification, and restricted breed dogs.	Yrs 1 & 3	* CS
6.	Ensure all impounded cats and dogs are registered and microchipped on release.	Yr 1 then ongoing	* CS
7.	Advocate for a single industry microchip registration database.	Yr 2	* CS

#### \* Lead Department

CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing

<sup>18</sup> Information from 4 councils in outer eastern Melbourne including Nillumbik, Maroondah, Knox and Yarra Rangers

<sup>19</sup> Pet Ownership in Australia in 2016

### 8.3 Dealing with nuisance and amenity issues

#### Objectives:

- To minimise the number of complaints relating to pets particularly in relation to:
  - Barking dogs
  - Dogs off leash in on leash areas
  - Dog owners not collecting dog droppings and inappropriate disposal of dog litter bags
  - Cats trespassing.

#### 8.3.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- Overall, complaints relating to pets have increased slightly in number on the 2012/13<sup>20</sup> figure (49), an increase that is proportional to the increase in population.
- In 2015/16:
  - The most significant increase in complaints relate to barking dogs. There were 49 more complaints about barking dogs than in 2012/13 (37), which represents a 6% increase
  - dogs that are not confined to their property are the source of the majority of complaints (504/65% of all complaints<sup>21</sup>). This is an increase on the 2012/13 figure of 475, and is in proportion to the increase in population
  - there was a decrease of 40 cat related complaints compared to 2012/13 (65/105), which also represents a decrease in cat complaints as a proportion of all complaints.
- Nuisance issues highlighted in the DAMP survey<sup>22</sup>:
  - Dog owners not picking up after their dog (68%)
  - Dogs barking (50%)
  - Cats not confined at night (45%)
  - Dog owners letting their dogs annoy other people / other dogs / not controlling their dogs in public places etc. (40%)
  - Dogs being off-leash in on-leash areas
  - Cats trespassing (40%).
- Cats allowed to wander into adjoining properties / not confined at night, unowned / feral cats, cats in bushland areas; dogs off leash in on leash areas and owners not collecting dog droppings were the source of significant written complaint in the DAMP survey.
- There is a need to collect more location specific information about nuisance issues. This will enable Council to implement targeted strategies to address nuisance issues.
- The lack of any requirement for cats to be confined to some degree is a concern for nearly half survey respondents. This is a topic that triggers diverse opinions and extreme emotions, which need to be appropriately managed.

<sup>20</sup> Data from 2012-2013 DAMP

<sup>21</sup> As a proportion of all cat and dog related complaints

<sup>22</sup> DAMP Community Survey

### 8.3.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>
8.	Adopt the location specific nuisance reporting data (e.g. barking dogs, cat trespass) in order to identify problematic areas and target strategies to address local needs.	Yr 2	* <b>CS, CC</b>  G2Z, Other LGAs, AIAM, AVA, DV
9.	Liaise with animal behaviourists to consider options available to assist with the reduction of barking dog complaints.	Yr 3	* <b>CS, E</b> Other LGAs, AIAM, AVA, DV
10.	Review cat trapping information and protocols.	Yr 2	* <b>CS, E</b>
11.	Investigate successful community-based awareness raising relating to dog owners that do not pick up dog droppings.	Yr 4 or sooner if sector interest	* <b>CS, E</b> Other LGAs, AIAM, AVA, DV
* <b>Lead Department</b> CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing; E=Environment			

### 8.4 Dog attacks

#### Objectives:

- To reduce the number of dog rushes and attacks
- To increase community understanding of the behaviour that constitutes a 'dog attack'
- To optimise the reporting of dog attacks
- To collect informative data on dog attacks that can better inform future community awareness initiatives

#### 8.4.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- There were 93 reported dog attacks/rushes in 2015/16 compared with 68 in 2012/13 and 43 in 2006. This represents an increase of 25 cases and a slight increase proportionate to the increase in the population over the same time.
- Data needs to be differentiated for dog 'attacks' from dog 'rushes' to better distinguish between extreme acts of aggression and other incidents that result in complaints.
- Generally, dog attacks are most likely to occur in the home or immediate vicinity of the home rather than in public places with young children being the primary victim. Records show that in Nillumbik there is no particular environment that is more or less associated with dog attacks.
- Anecdotal industry information and hospital admissions data indicates there are likely to be a significant number of dog attacks that are not being reported. The full extent of these issues needs to be understood so that council can respond with appropriate initiatives.
- Dog owners need to better understand that dogs can behave unexpectedly and even erratically given the combined circumstances.
- More accurate information relating to the location of dog attacks may assist Council target problem locations and dog owners. It is acknowledged that other domestic animals, livestock and wildlife may be victims of dog attacks.

### 8.4.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
12.	Enhance the promotion/distribution of information that assists residents make appropriate pet selection, particularly in relation to dogs.	Yr 1	* CS, CC
13.	Improve community awareness of procedures for reporting a dog attack or rush.	Yr 1	* CS

\* Lead Department  
 CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing



Young children must be strictly supervised around dogs.

The rate of Australians being attacked has increased by almost 60 per cent from 2003 to 2013.  
 University of Tasmania's Menzies Institute for Medical Research

“Even though young children have the most bites the overall rate of injury in this age group is not increasing, suggesting public awareness campaigns are working.”  
 Dr Mithun Rajshekar Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, July 2017

### 8.5 Managing dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Objective

- To minimise the number of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in the community

#### 8.5.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- There are 8 'declared' dogs on Council's pet registration database.
- Residents must not assume that it is only 'restricted breed dogs' that may have a predisposition to aggressive behaviour. It is recognised that these dogs pose a greater risk because of the nature of the breed. Restricted breed dogs include Japanese Tosa; fila Brasileiro; dogo Argentino; Perro de Presa Canario / Presa Canario; and American Pit Bull Terrier / Pit Bull Terrier.
- Some dog owners may register their 'restricted breed dog' as another breed in order to avoid the restrictions that come with a restricted breed dog.
- Dogs that are not appropriately trained, socialised and controlled can develop behaviour that results in them being declared as a 'menacing' or 'dangerous' dog. Appropriate management and education of dogs will reduce anti-social behaviour.

- 'Menacing Dog'** – A dog that has chased or rushed at a person, or has bitten an animal or person resulting in injury that is not deemed 'serious'. If a dog incurs 2 menacing dog violations then it is declared a 'dangerous dog'
- 'Dangerous dog'** – A dog that has caused a serious injury to or death of another animal or person
- 'Declared dog'** – A restricted breed, 'menacing' or 'dangerous' dog

### 8.5.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
14.	Cross-reference microchip database information with current Council registration database for potential restricted breed dogs.	Yr 2 & 4	* CS
15.	Review and enhance information for dog owners to ensure there is a clear understanding as to dog behaviour that will lead to their dog being 'declared'	Yr 4	* CS
* <b>Lead Department</b> CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing			

### 8.6 Overpopulation and abandonment of pets (including euthanasia)

#### Objectives

- To minimise the number of stray, abandoned and unwanted pets
- To identify and manage the semi-owned cat population challenges.

#### 8.6.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- Survey respondents told us they are concerned about a number of issues relating to the over population and abandonment of pets generally, even though these may not be significant issues in Nillumbik. Key issues relevant to residents include:
  - The high rate of euthanasia of cats and kittens (61%)
  - The abandonment of pets (87%)
  - Unowned cats that people feed but do not take full responsibility for.
- In 2015/16 Council impounded 106 cats, of which 94 were returned to their owner or rehoused, and 12 euthanised.
- Based on anecdotal feedback in the community survey, there is likely to be a population of semi-owned cats in the community that is contributing to the overpopulation and high euthanasia rates of cats and kittens.
- G2Z (Getting to Zero) has developed medium and longer-term strategies to address cat over population issues, and will work with councils to implement these.

#### 8.6.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
16.	Work with the Cat Protection Society and animal rescue groups to develop strategies to enhance awareness of high re-homing rates for cats and encourage residents to contain and surrender semi-owned / unowned cats	Yr 2	CS CPA
17.	Work with Getting to Zero (G2Z) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ improve information to the community about managing the semi-owned cat populations and residents to address the semi-owned cat populations</li> <li>▪ establish trial programs to address the semi-owned cat populations.</li> </ul>	Yr 3 & Yr 4	* CS G2Z
* <b>Lead Department</b> CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing			

In excess of 100,000 cats and 76,000 dogs were euthanased in Australia in 2010. It is determined that up to 90% (138,523) of these pets were of good health and disposition and therefore appropriate for rehoming.

G2Z (Getting to Zero).



## 8.7 Domestic animal businesses

### Objective

- To ensure domestic animal businesses comply with their legislative responsibilities and relevant codes of practice.

### 8.7.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- There are 11 domestic animal businesses in Nillumbik:
  - One pet shop
  - Two animal shelters
  - Eight boarding establishments.
- 40% of survey respondents told us they are interested in knowing about dog training or activity groups they could access.

Under the Domestic Animals Act, Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) are establishments such as animal shelters, pet shops, animal breeding and/or rearing establishments, and boarding and/or training facilities that are run for profit<sup>1</sup>.

Council is the agent responsible for monitoring DABs to ensure they comply with codes of practice and state government legislation.

### 8.7.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
18.	Identify opportunities to work with DABs to promote responsible pet ownership and initiatives that address the objectives of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.	Yr 4	* CS
<p>* <b>Lead Department</b>            CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community &amp; Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing</p>			

## 8.8 Provision for dog off leash opportunities

**Objective:**

- To effectively plan for use of parks by the dog owning and non-dog owning communities.

### 8.8.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- There is a significant demand for additional dog off leash areas, particularly in areas where there may be an under supply of opportunities.
- There is considerable community frustration with dog owners who let their dogs off leash in on-leash areas, causing significant annoyance and distress to both other dog owners and other users of Nillumbik parks. Refer section 8.3.
- Due to conflict between sports activities and dogs, the wear and tear on sports fields due to use by dogs owners / dogs, and in particular due to the prevalence of dog droppings, dog off leash activities have been prohibited on some sportsfields.
- The DAMP survey indicates significant demand from dog owners for additional fenced and / or unfenced areas where dogs can be legitimately let off-leash.
- Dog off leash areas become significant community gathering places and allow dogs to socialise freely (dog behavioural benefits).
- Generally fenced dog parks are only considered:
  - where there is a need to provided for off leash activities in close proximity to other park activities
  - where there is not the space for appropriate buffers between activities on the site
  - when there is not the space for a buffer between the dog off leash area and other community infrastructure such as roads, shopping precincts, railway lines.

There are 12 designated dog off leash areas in Nillumbik:

- Eltham (4)
- Eltham Lower (1)
- Greensborough (1)
- Hurstrbridge (1)
- Eltham East (1)
- Research (1)
- Diamond Creek (2)
- Kangaroo Ground (1)

This includes fenced areas in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge

### 8.8.2 Strategies to address new and emerging issues

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
19.	Develop a policy / rationale for providing or expanding off leash areas for dog owners and their dogs and a provision strategy that considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gaps in current provision and a review of the fenced dog parks</li> <li>▪ A rationale that underpins future provision including matters relating to dogs on sports fields</li> <li>▪ An evaluation of possible sites for consideration as off leash areas</li> <li>▪ Use of sportsgrounds by dog obedience groups.</li> </ul>	Yr 1	* CLF, CS, DV  Dog obedience clubs

**\* Lead Department**

CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing

## 8.9 Community support and community building initiatives

### Objectives:

- To recognise and optimise the community building / strengthening benefits associated with pets, including initiatives that support:
  - older people to remain pet owners
  - pet owners to make their pets safe in times of family violence

### 8.9.1 The key findings from our consultation and research

- Of survey respondents:
  - 80% were concerned about the welfare of pets in family violence situations. 10% stated that the welfare of a pet as a result of family violence was an issue for them now, or has been in the last 12 months
  - There is a need for relevant service areas within council to work together to ensure an integrated approach to identifying and addressing issues associated with pets in 'at risk' families.
  - A study conducted by Eastern Domestic Violence Service showed that 53% of women in violent relationships reported pets being hurt or killed, and 46% reported their pets had been threatened.<sup>23</sup>
  - Newly released research indicates pets are an under-recognised conduit for building social capital particularly as associated with trust, reciprocity and involvement of more pet owners than non-pet owners in civic affairs<sup>24</sup>.
  - As people age, they are less likely to own a pet, and yet pets help minimise the effects of loneliness which can increase the risk of death by 26%<sup>25</sup>. Less than 50% of people aged 70 years or older own a pet compared to 62% across all other age groups.



**Therapy pets... when no one else can possibly understand**

### 8.9.2 Our plans to address priorities for the next four years

	ACTION	YEAR	STAKEHOLDERS
20.	Work with Council's Community Services Department to put in place relevant procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring an integrated approach when dealing with families at risk of family violence</li> <li>▪ Investigating and promoting respite options for pets in situations of family violence.</li> </ul>	Yr 1	* CC, CS
21.	Encourage relevant Council departments to advocate for accommodation for victims of family violence that allows families and pets to stay together.	Ongoing	* CC, CS
22.	Work with relevant Council departments to encourage volunteers interested in supporting older and pet owners with disabilities retain their pets e.g. volunteer dog walkers, vet transport.	Yr 4	* CC, CS

**\* Lead Department**

CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing

23 Royal Commission Into Family Violence Submission: The Link Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse, Judy Johnson OAM

24 The petconnection: Pets as a conduit for social capital? Social Science & Medicine 61 (2005) 1159–1173

25 Loneliness and Social Isolation as Risk Factors for Mortality, <http://journals.sagepub.com/>

**8.10 Pet related tourism**

Objective:

- Understand the potential benefits associated with pet related tourism in Nillumbik

**8.10.1 The key findings from our consultation and research**

- There is the potential for Nillumbik to benefit from the growing pet owner visitor tourism market.
- The availability of pet friendly accommodation is not keeping up with demand across Australia.<sup>26</sup>
- Of DAMP survey respondents:
  - 40% stated that they regularly take their dog to cafes with dog friendly outdoor areas
  - 50% stated that they make holiday choices based on there being pet friendly accommodation available.
- Evidence would indicate that there is merit in considering opportunities associated with pet tourism / visitation in Nillumbik and pet related tourism branding.

**8.10.2 How will we respond to these specific issues over the next four years**

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>
23.	Recommend to the Economic Development Department that consideration be given to exploring and quantifying the potential benefits associated with pet tourism / visitation	Yr 1 & ongoing	* BTM, CLF Tourism Assns
24.	Consider opportunities to work with partner councils and the tourism sector to investigate opportunities associated with pet tourism / visitation	Yr 4	* BTM, CLF, CS Tourism Assns

\* **Lead Department**

CC=Connected Communities, CS=Community Safety; CLF=Community & Leisure Facilities; BTM=Business Tourism and Marketing

The lack of acceptance of animals in society is threatening to hurt the tourism industry by deterring pets owners

CEO PIAS, 2014



<sup>26</sup> CEO, PIAS (Pet Information Advisory Service)

## **9. How we will implement the Domestic Animal Management Plan**

### **9.1 Setting priorities for the next four years**

Priorities in the Domestic Animal Management Plan may change over the life of the plan depending on changing service demands and priorities, available resources, partnership opportunities and external funding opportunities.

### **9.2 Monitoring and reviewing the Domestic Animal Management Plan**

Council will review the Domestic Animal Management Plan in years 1 to 4 to ensure actions and priorities are still relevant and can be completed within available resources.

In year four, council will undertake a major review of the plan.

## 10. Appendices

### Appendix 1 – The Domestic Animals Act requirement of council

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan, as follows:

#### 68A Councils to prepare Domestic Animal Management Plans

(1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary (*of the Department of Primary Industries*), prepare at 4 year intervals a *Domestic Animal Management Plan*.

(2) A *Domestic Animal Management Plan* prepared by a Council must—

- (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this *Act* and the regulations; and
- (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this *Act* in the Council's municipal district; and
- (c) outline programs, services and strategies, which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
  - (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
  - (ii) to ensure that people comply with this *Act*, the regulations and any related legislation; and
  - (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
  - (iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and
  - (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
  - (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
  - (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this *Act* and the regulations; and
- (d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this *Act* and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
- (e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
- (f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

(3) Every Council must—

- (a) review its *Domestic Animal Management Plan* annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
- (b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
- (c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

## Appendix 2 – Key statistics

Measure	2012/13	2016/17	Difference
Resident population [1]	60342	62602	+2,260
<b>DOGS</b>			
Number of registered dogs	11018	11058	+40
Per 100 people	18	18	0
Estimated total dog population (registered & unregistered)	-	12,520.4	-
Number of undesexed registered dogs	2153	1218	-935
As a % of registered dogs	19.54%	11.01%	-8.53%
Number of registered 'declared' dogs	10	8	-2
Number of impounded dogs	390	302	-88
As a % of registered dogs	3.54%	2.73%	-0.81%
Number of impounded dogs returned to owner	332	258	-74
As a % of impounded dogs	85.13%	85.43%	+0.30%
Number of dogs rehoused	47	33	-14
As a % of impounded dogs	12.05%	10.93%	-1.12%
Number of dogs euthanased	9	10	1
As a % of impounded dogs	2.31%	3.31%	1.00%
Number dogs not registered when impound	138	127	-11
As a % of impounded dogs	35.38%	42.05%	+6.67%
<b>CATS</b>			
Number of registered cats	3090	3153	+63
Per 100 people	5.12	5.04	-0.08
Estimated total cat population (registered and unregistered)	-	10,016	-
Number of undesexed registered cats	31	23	-8
As a % of registered cats	1.00%	0.73%	-0.27%
Number of impounded cats	312	106	-206
As a % of registered cats	10.10%	3.36%	+6.74%
Number of impounded cats returned to owner	18	23	+5
As a % of impounded cats	5.77%	21.70%	+15.93%
Number of cats rehoused	76	71	-5
As a % of impounded cats	24.36%	66.98%	+42.62%
Number of cats euthanased	218	12	-206
As a % of impounded cats	69.87%	11.32%	-58.55%
<b>CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS/COMPLAINTS</b>			
Dog nuisance	44	30	-14.00
% of total requests	6.04%	3.86%	+0.02
Dog attack (including dog rush)	68	93	+25.00
% of total requests	9.33%	11.95%	+2.63%
Dog – barking	37	86	+49.00
% of total requests	5.08%	11.05%	+5.98%
Dog – wandering	475	504	+29.00
% of total requests	65.16%	64.78%	-0.38%
Cat nuisance	105	65	-40.00
% of total requests	14.40%	8.35%	-6.05%
<b>Customer service requests/complaints - TOTAL</b>	729	778	+49
Customer service requests/complaints per 1,000 residents	12.08	12.43	+0.35
<b>INFRINGEMENT NOTICES</b>			
Dog – wandering at large	299	332	+33
Dog and cat - failure to register	470	235	-235
Dog – nuisance	1	0	-1
<b>Infringement notices- TOTAL</b>	770	567	-203

<b>Measure</b>			
	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Infringement notices per 1,000 residents	12.8	9.1	-3.7
<b>STAFFING LEVELS</b>			
Rangers / Ranger Co-ordination	2.15	2.15	-
EFT Management and administration	1.2	1.2	-
Total EFT	3.35	3.35	-



### Appendix 3 – Operational Information

#### 1. Ongoing service compliance and educational activities

The following provides a list of all the ongoing compliance and educational activities associated with animal management services.

ACTIONS	FREQUENCY DAMP
<b>Training of Authorised Officers and Service Management</b>	
Continue to review Animal Management staff training requirements in line with operational requirements	Annual
Maintain accurate training register	Ongoing
Continue to review the service in line with council's continuous improvement policy	Annual
Review council's Emergency Animal Management Plan	Bi-annual
<b>Registration and identification</b>	
Targeted 'doorknock' program to identify unregistered cats and dogs	Annual – target – minimum of 500 households
Registration notifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewal notices sent out</li> <li>▪ Advertising in local media</li> <li>▪ Advertising in council's newsletter</li> <li>▪ Advertising on council's website</li> <li>▪ Renewal notices</li> <li>▪ Registration reminder notices</li> <li>▪ Text messaging e.g. registration renewal reminders</li> </ul>	Annual 1st week in April Quarterly Ongoing Early March Mid / late May
Registration information on council's website	Ongoing
Micro chipping days promotion at Pet Expo	Annual
New resident Pet Ownership Pack delivered to new residents	As required
Information brochure for pet owners on rural properties distributed	Annual
<b>Dealing with nuisance issues</b>	
Liaison with commercial providers that can work with residents to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ dog obedience control issues</li> <li>▪ barking dog issues</li> </ul>	Annual consultation Promotion ongoing via council website
Barking dogs – Information provided to relevant dog owners	Brochures – ongoing Online - ongoing
Cat confinement - Information provided to relevant cat owners	Brochures – ongoing Online - ongoing
Pet Expo - Information and 'expert' presenters	Annual
Monitor the effectiveness of 'Barking Dog' complaint process	Ongoing
Provide cat traps for the confining of trespassing cats	Ongoing
<b>Dog Attacks</b>	
Work with pre-schools to ensure parents and children have access to dog behaviour awareness programs and information.	Annual
Review information on council's website relating to safe/appropriate behaviour of children round pets, and parental monitoring responsibilities, particularly in relation to dogs.	Ongoing
Patrols of public places such as reserves, retail precincts, trails etc., particularly during high use times such as community events	Ongoing
Information provided at Pet Expo	Annual
Information available at council offices and council website	Ongoing
Media releases - Information about owner responsibilities relating to the control of dogs in public places	Annual

<b>Managing dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs</b>	
Assessment of all restricted breed, menacing and dangerous dogs and associated properties to ensure compliance with requirements	Annual
Review of registration and microchip databases to identify possible / suspect 'restricted breed dogs	Annual
Consultation with owners of dogs declared as 'dangerous', 'menacing' and/or are a 'restricted breed' dog	Ongoing
Information provided at Pet Expo about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the implications of owning a restricted breed, dangerous or menacing dog</li> <li>▪ preventative measures</li> </ul>	Annual
Information provided on council website as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the appropriate housing of 'dangerous', 'menacing' and/or are a 'restricted breed' dog</li> <li>▪ appropriate selection of dogs for the family and community environment</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Overpopulation (including euthanasia) and abandonment of pets</b>	
Information in council Newsletter	Annual
Information handed out at Pet Expo	Annual
Information to encourage pet owners to desex cats and dogs	Ongoing – council website
<b>Domestic animal businesses</b>	
Verbal information provided at time of audit	Annual
Provision of written material provided by DPI	Annual
Information on council's website to support DABs comply with relevant legislation and best practice	Ongoing
<b>Provision for dogs off leash</b>	
Monitoring of dog off leash areas for compliance	Annual-targeted monitoring
Monitoring of community events and high use areas	As required
<b>Community support and community building initiatives</b>	
Continue to work with relevant departments in council to identify opportunities to address community support needs and initiatives identified in the DAMP	As part of ongoing integrated service planning processes
<b>Pet Related Tourism</b>	
Continue to work with relevant departments in council to identify business development, tourism and marketing initiatives identified in the DAMP	As part of ongoing integrated service planning processes

## 2. Authorised Officers and Civic Compliance Officer training requirements

QUALIFICATION / TRAINING	Frequency
Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation	Years 1 and 2
Customer service training	Annually
Conflict management training	Annually
DPI/BAW training/information seminars	Annually
Australian Institute of Animal Management Annual Conference	Annually
Breed identification	Annually ?
Industry Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ animal handling,</li> <li>▪ animal assessment,</li> <li>▪ prosecutions,</li> <li>▪ statement taking</li> <li>▪ Evidence gathering</li> </ul>	

### **3. Procedures**

Documented procedures relating to the following are in place:

- Impounding of Animals
- Pound Operations
  - Dog release
  - Dog rehousing
  - Impounding of seized dogs
  - Shelter Code of Practice
- Animal registration and renewal
- Barking dogs
- Seizing of dogs
- Dog attack assessment process
- Prosecution of DAA offences
- Injured animal
- Pet Expo - Event management
- Issuing of Infringements notices
- Process for managing appeal of infringement notices
- Permit application – Excess animals
- Working in isolation - Rangers

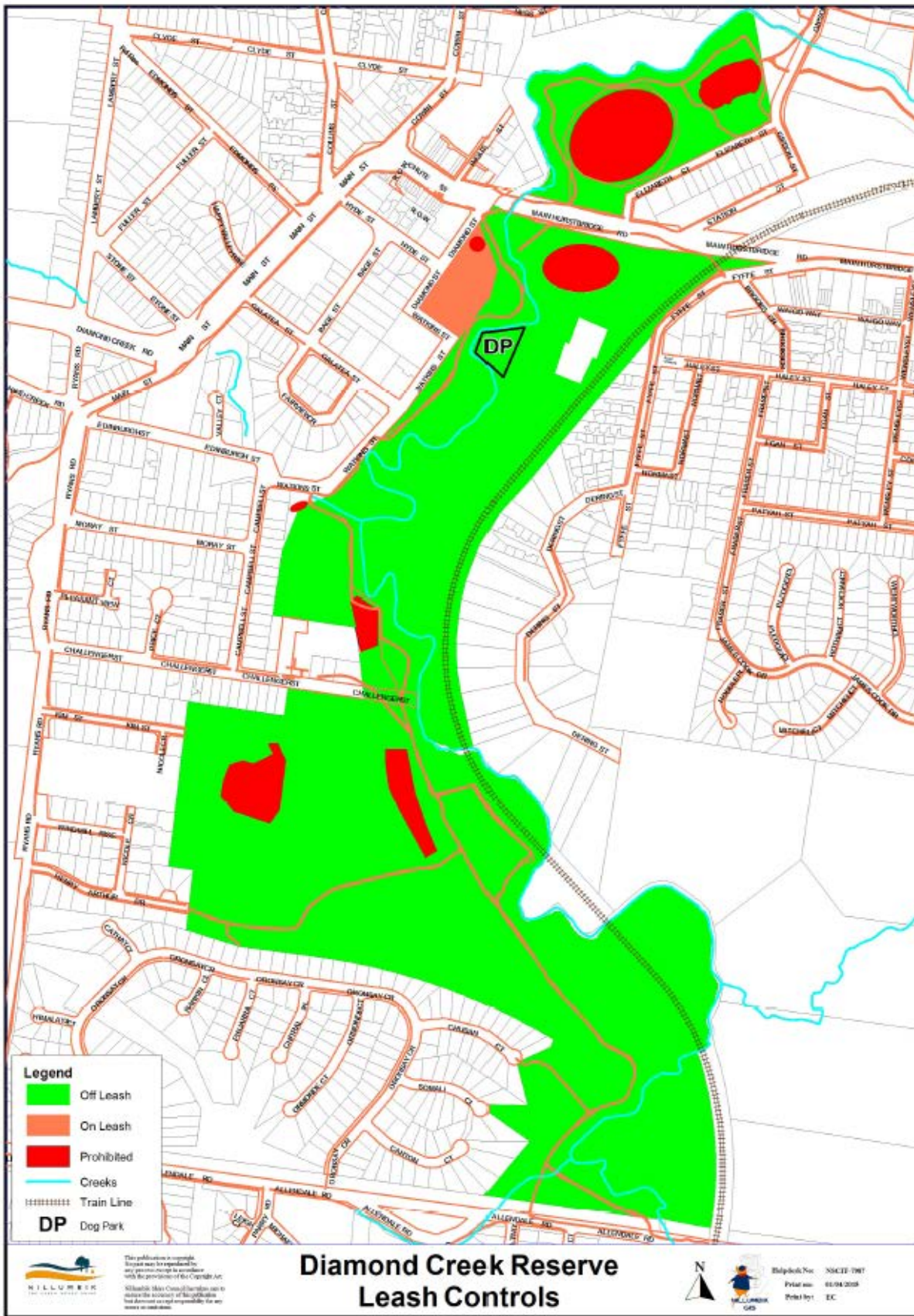
### **4. Service Plans**

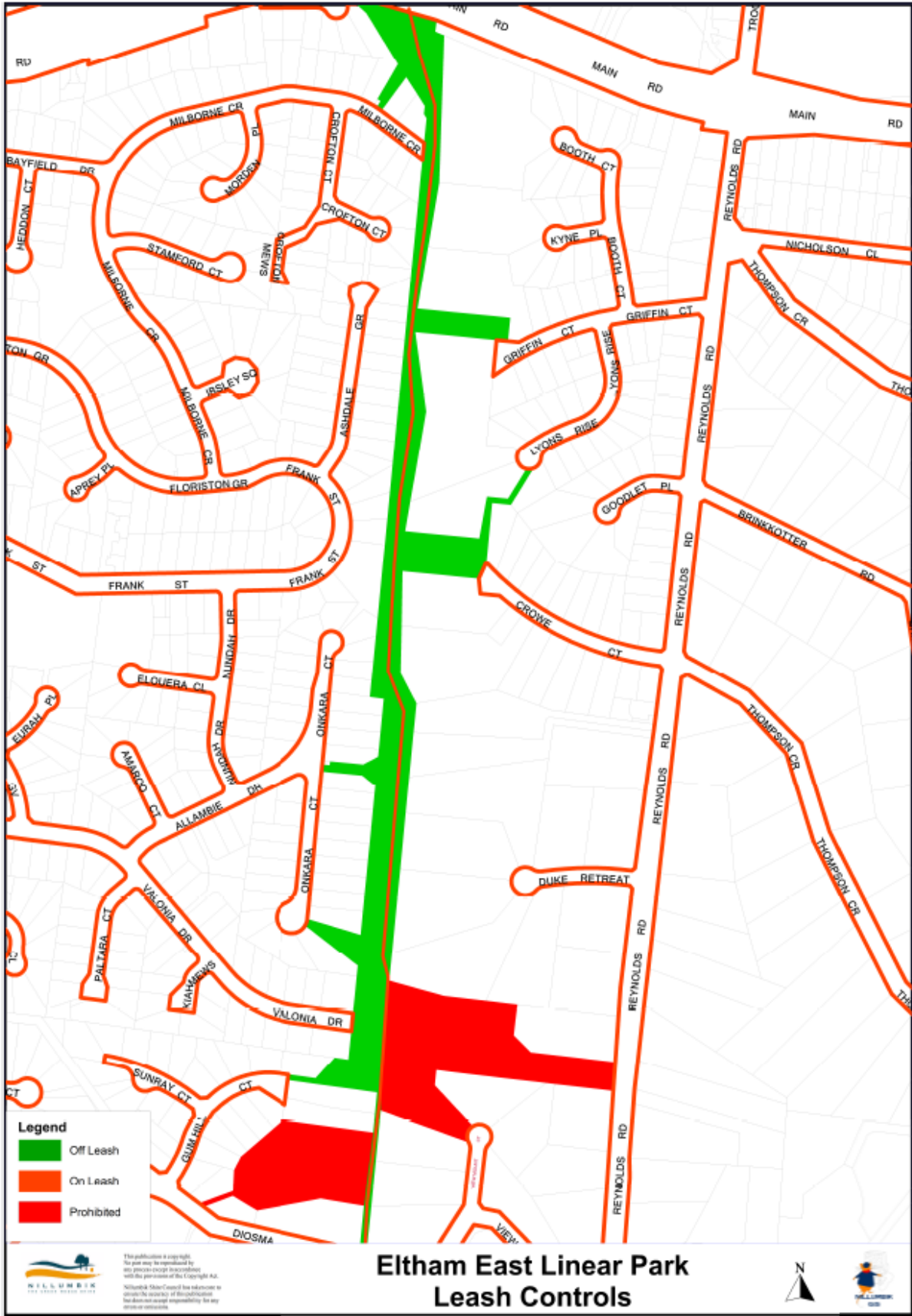
Emergency Management Plan

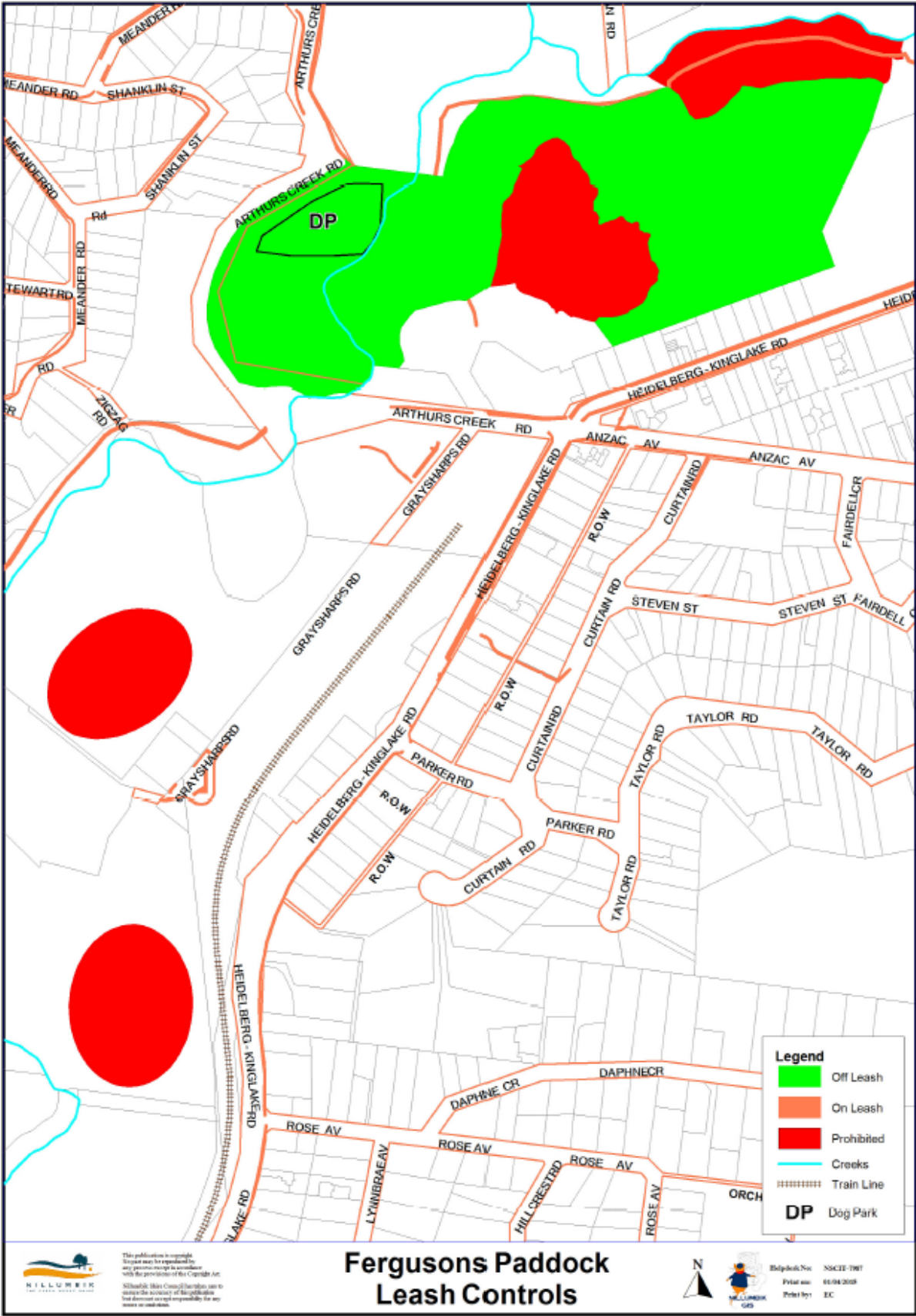
#### Appendix 4 – Current Section 26 Order

- a) Dogs must be under effective control of a person by means of a chain, cord or leash no longer than 3 metres:
  - i) In all public parks and reserves except where designated by signs (ie. in the parks listed below).
  - ii) Within 5 metres of a shared use path.
  - iii) On all streets, roads, public car parks and footpaths.
- b) Dogs and cats are not permitted whether restrained or otherwise:
  - i) Within 5 metres of any children’s playground or public barbeque.
  - ii) In environmentally sensitive areas where designated by signs (ie. in the parks listed below).
  - iii) In schools, kindergartens and childcare centres unless with the prior permission of the Principal or Director.
- c) Cats are required to be securely confined during the hours of 7.30pm and 6am.
- d) Dogs are permitted off-leash but must be under effective control whether restrained or otherwise in the following parks and reserves (as designated by signs):
  - i) Eltham Lower Park, Eltham (Melways 21H11).
  - ii) Griffith Park, Eltham (Melways 21J11).
  - iii) Plenty River Drive Reserve, Greensborough (Melways 11B8)
  - iv) Eltham East Linear Reserve north of Diosma Road, Eltham (Melways 22E4).
  - v) Falkiner Street Park, Eltham (proposed) (Melways 21H9).
  - vi) Susan Street, Eltham (Melways 21H6).
  - vii) Gumtree Reserve, Research (Melways 22F5).
  - viii) Woodridge Linear Park, Eltham (Melways 22B5).
  - ix) Fergusons Paddock, Hurstbridge (Melways 185K7). South side of path only. Dogs are prohibited from entering the wetlands areas as signposted.
  - x) Former Eltham Tip, Kangaroo Ground – excluding bushland reserve (Melways 271A10).
  - xi) Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek (Melways 12A5).
  - xii) Diamond Creek Reserve, Diamond Reserve (Melways 11K7): dogs prohibited from entering wetlands areas where signposted.
- e) As a guide for implementation, a dog shall be deemed to be under the effective control of its owner if:
  - i) It will return to its owner upon command;
  - ii) The owner retains a clear and unobstructed view of the dog;
  - iii) It does not bother or worry other people or animals; and
  - iv) It stays within 50 metres of its owner.
- f) Dogs and cats are not permitted whether restrained or otherwise from entering the following public places in the following parks and reserves (as designated by signs):
  - i) Diamond Creek Reserve, Diamond Creek (Melways 11K7): dogs prohibited from entering wetlands areas.
  - ii) Sweeneys Flats, Eltham (Melways 22B10) – Parks Victoria land.
  - iii) Professors Hill Reserve, North Warrandyte (Melways 23C7).
  - iv) Chase Reserve, Research (Melways 23D5).
  - v) Blue Tongue Bend Reserve, North Warrandyte (Melways 23J6).
  - vi) Temple Ridge and Bailey Gully Reserve, Wattle Glen (Melways 185J11).
  - vii) Reserve, Watsons Creek (Melways 272D5).

Appendix 5 – Off-leash, On-leash maps

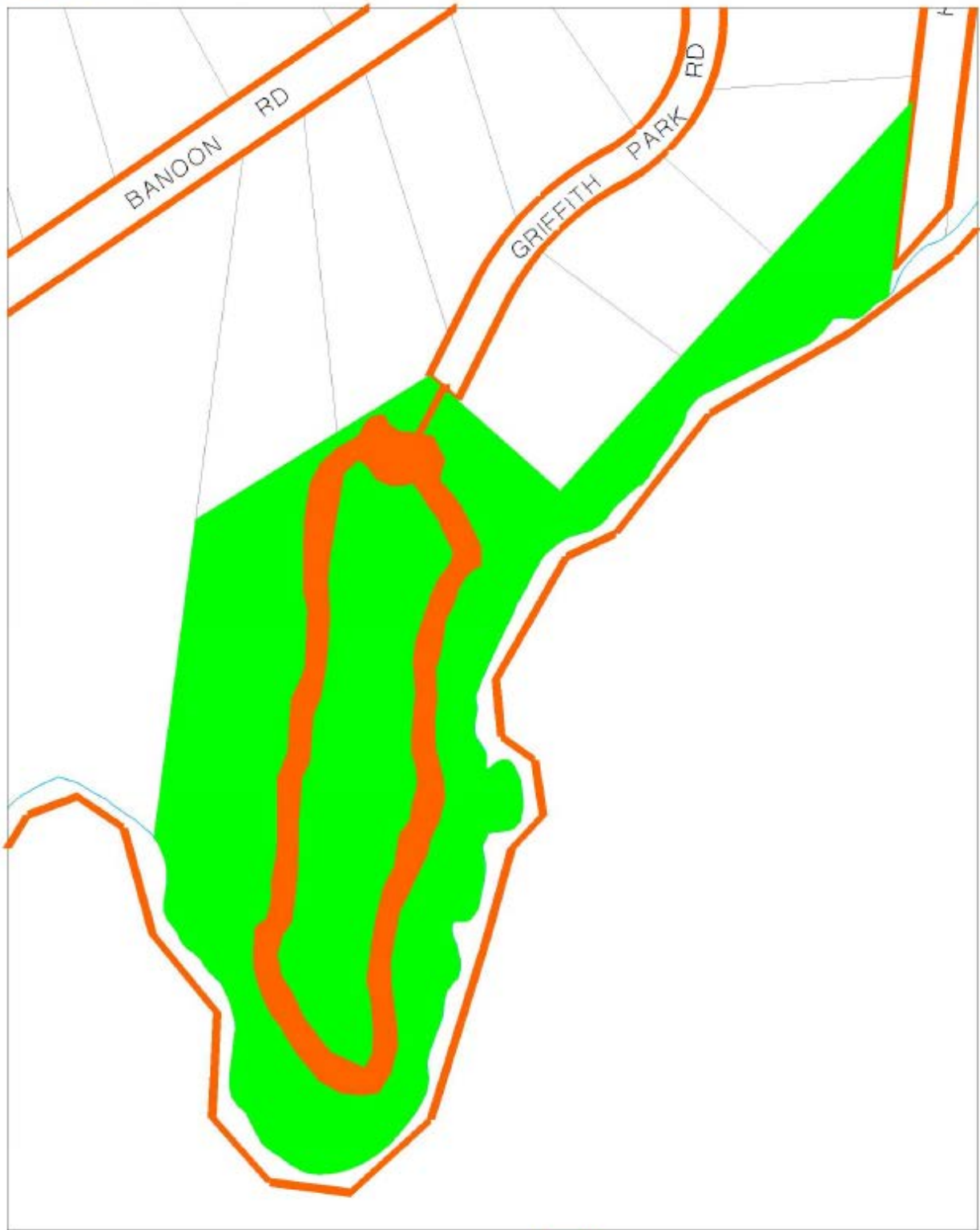








# Nillumbik Shire Council Griffith Park



## Leash Controls

- Off Leash
- On Leash
- Prohibited





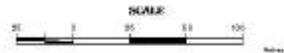


# Nillumbik Shire Council Susan Street Reserve



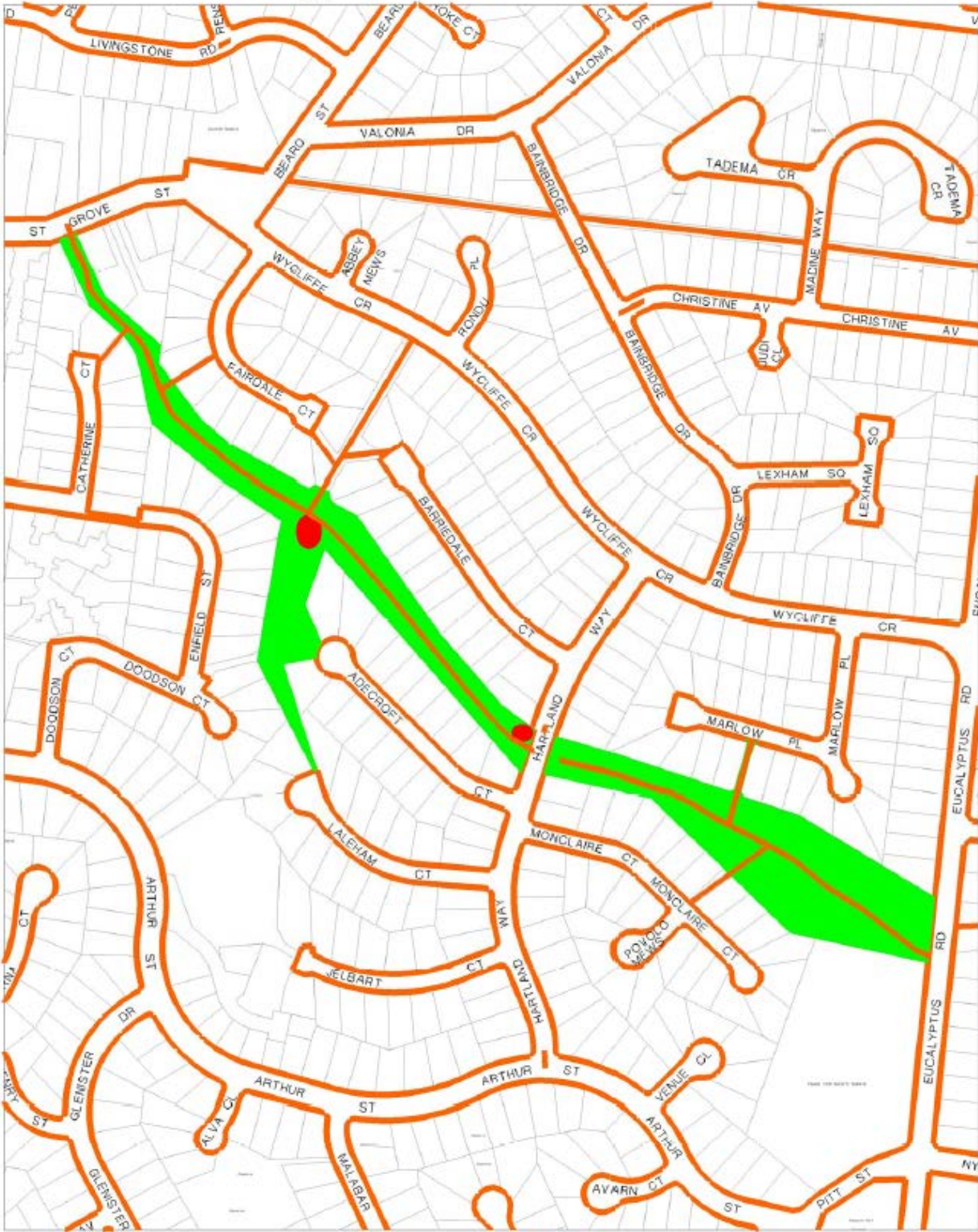
## Leash Controls

- Off Leash
- On Leash
- Prohibited





# Nillumbik Shire Council Woodridge Linear Park



## Leash Controls

- Off Leash
- On Leash
- Prohibited





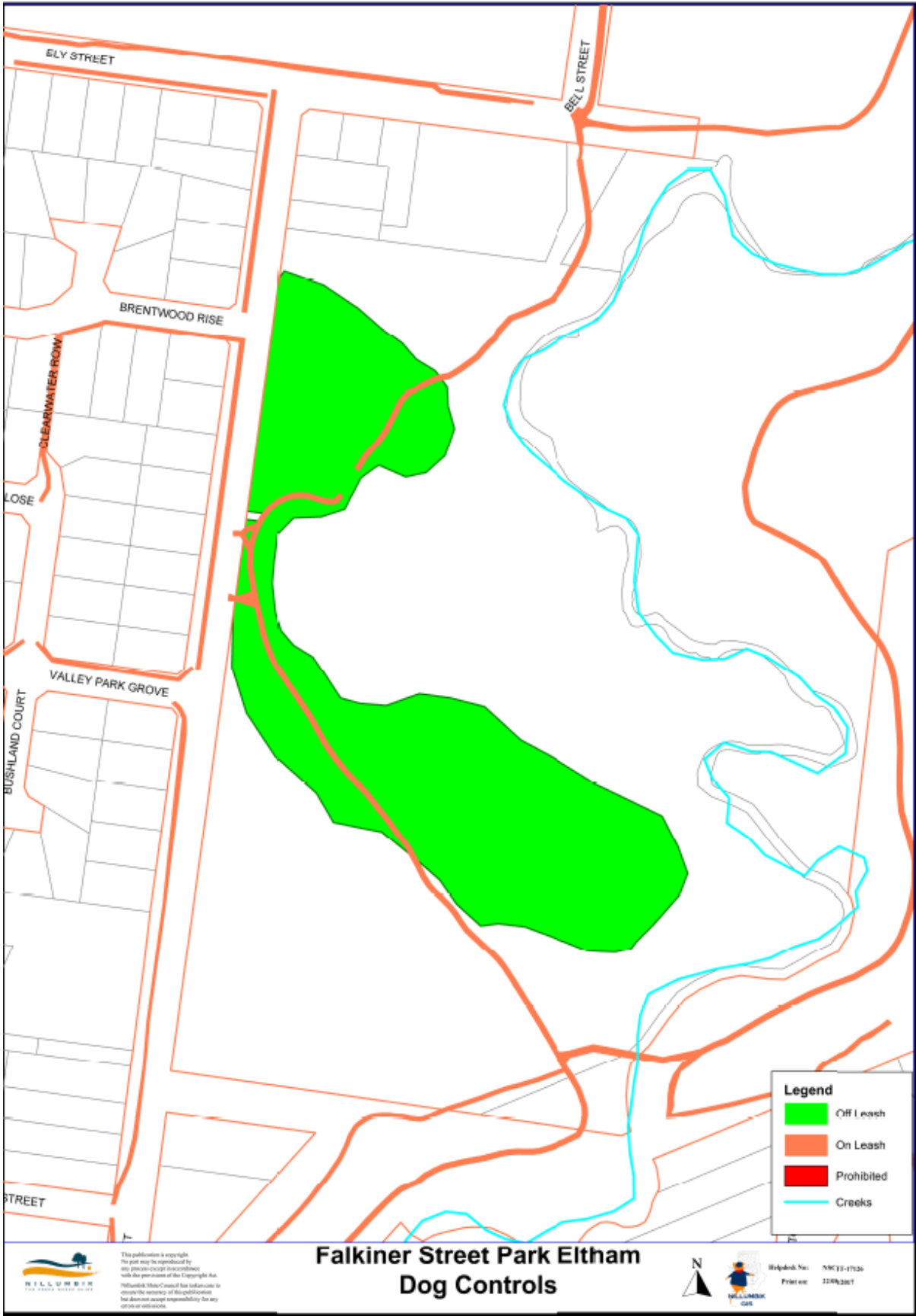
# Nillumbik Shire Council Eltham Lower Park

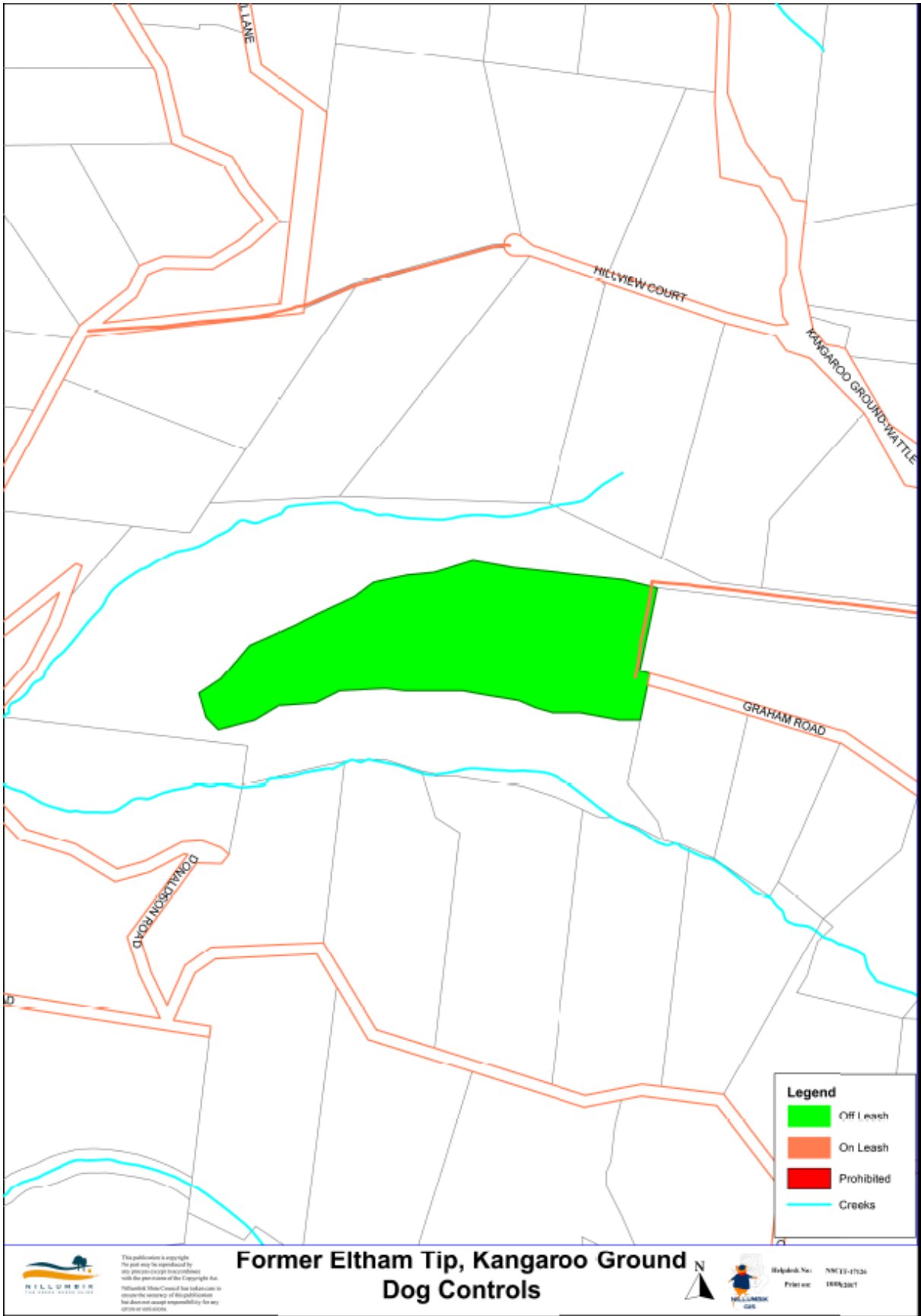


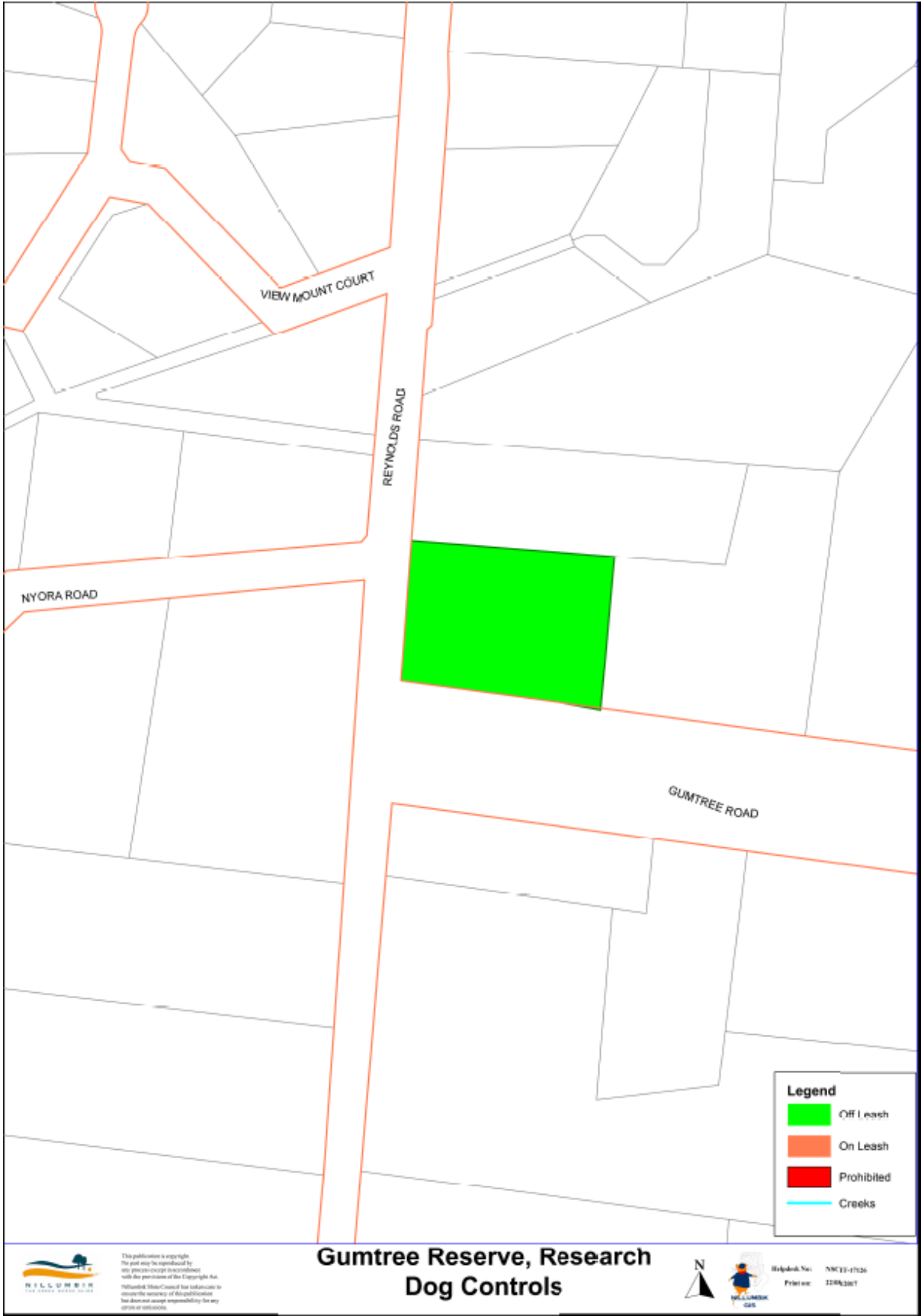
## Leash Controls

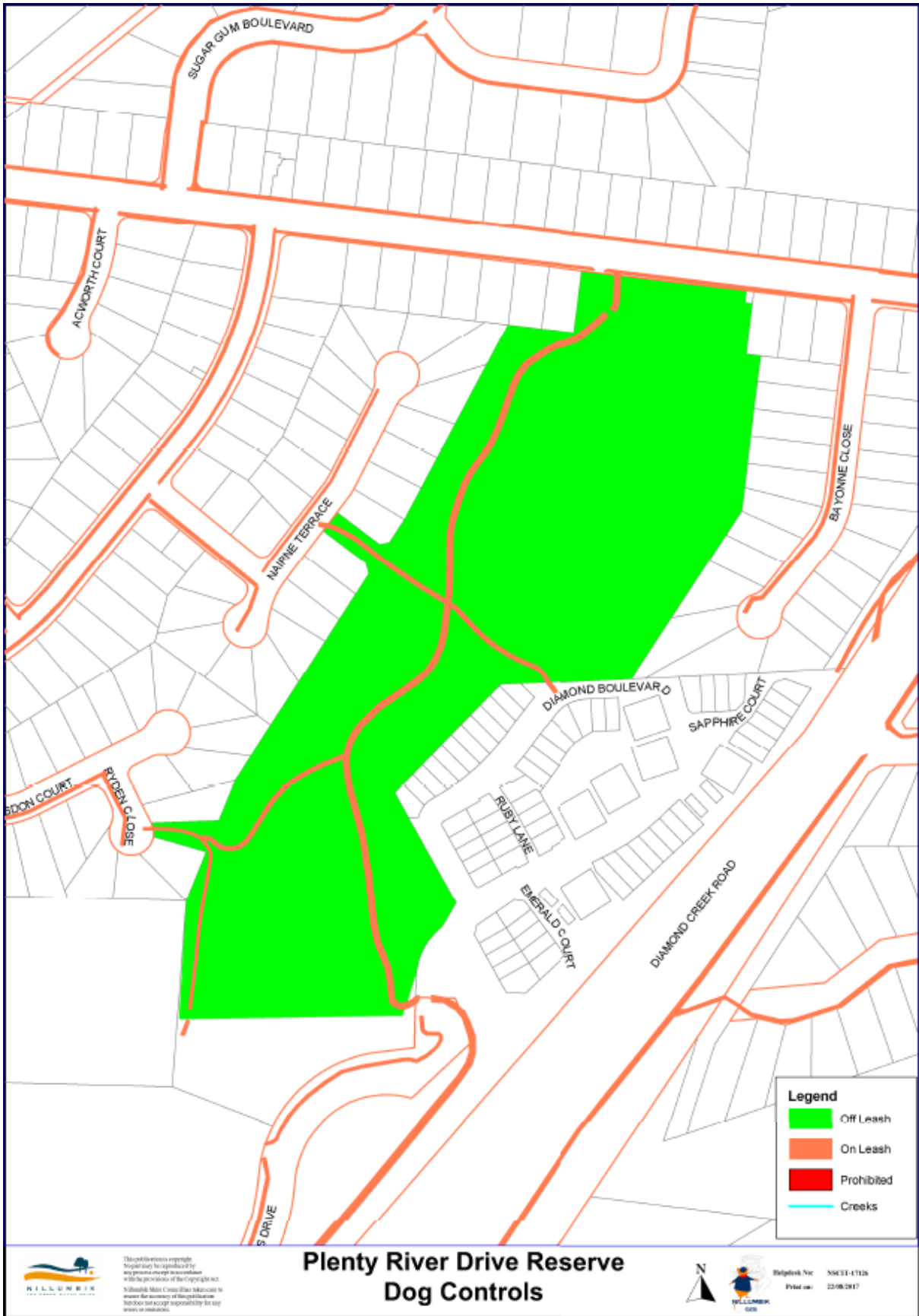
- Off Leash
- On Leash
- Prohibited











## Domestic Animals Act 1994

### 68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

(1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan.

(2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—

(a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and

(b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and

(c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—

(i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and

(ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and

(iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and

(iv) to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and

(v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and

(vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and

(vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those

dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and

(d) provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and

(e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and

(f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.



**Fifty-nine submissions were received in response to the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, which was release for community consultation on 1 September 2017. The submissions are listed below and a response noted. If a change proposed to the draft document has been made in response to the submission, it has been noted in the table.**

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very happy with the Plan, particularly regarding actions pertaining to barking dogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent and very comprehensive document</li> <li>Gives good understanding of what is required for responsible pet ownership.</li> <li>It's good to know that Council provides services that residents can access in relation to excessive barking and nuisance cats not confined during curfew.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Noted</li> <li>Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A very comprehensive document.</li> <li>Suggest that the maps on Council's website indicating where off-leash walking is permitted could be improved. The Melways references seem to me to be somewhat 20th century and the small illustrations accessible on the website are not helpful to a new person in the municipality who is trying to understand where these areas are in relation to the rest of the municipality. I'm sure it is possible to re-do these using Google maps where you can zoom down to see the area in question is highlighted. The current system assumes a level of local knowledge not held by all those who live here.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Recommendation noted, to be included as part of Action 3. Google maps has been explored previously, together with smart phone apps. The technology was not intelligent enough to identify specific areas that were on-leash, off-leash and prohibited. To be revisited and explored with Council's IT unit.</li> </ul>
Submitter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes dog and cats should be confined to their properties and kept away from all native animals and birds at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan is unreadable as it has no executive summary.</li> <li>Unsure of what the impact of the Plan will have on their pets and themselves as owners and whether it will result in regulation.</li> <li>Concerned about the expense of the Plan and the impact it has on Council rates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost is derived from Council's pet registration program.</li> </ul>
Submitter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes there needs to be greater importance on dog barking education and promotion in specific area. Suggests an 'everyone sms', mail or email around the responsibilities that dog owners have in relation to nuisance barking and the consequences outlined if a complaint is made and substantiated by Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to actions 8 and 9</li> </ul>
Submitter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly concerned with the over-regulation and strict guidelines in relation to dogs off lead in parklands and tracks. Own dog is very active and very friendly yet in Nillumbik pet exercise is very restricted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to action19</li> </ul>
Submitter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned with the current process regarding nuisance barking and length of time involved in an investigation, by own experience. Would like process changed as part of the Plan</li> <li>• Would like more fenced and manicured locations with seating.</li> <li>• Would like Council supplied poo bags that are replenished regularly and enough bins that are emptied regularly.</li> <li>• Would like parks and open spaces to be mowed more regularly and drainage to be improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted. Refer actions 8 and 9.</li> <li>• Noted. Refer action 19</li> <li>• Noted. Council's general position is that owners carry receptacle/bags and dispose of rubbish in accordance with the Amenity Local Law and responsible pet ownership – refer action 11</li> <li>• Noted.</li> </ul>
Submitter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes the Plan to be good and covers majority of issues.</li> <li>• Would like to see more off leash areas.</li> <li>• Would like to see no animal put down and 100% rehomed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted.</li> <li>• Refer action 19</li> <li>• Council is considered as a 'No kill' municipality.</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers the Plan to be good.</li> <li>• Would like for more enclosed/fenced dog parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted.</li> <li>• Refer action 19</li> </ul>
Submitter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes the Plan has addressed the aspects which have been raised by residents.</li> <li>• Is looking forward to seeing improvements across the board relating to animal welfare, education of pet owners/non pet owners and extension of off leash.</li> <li>• Understands that issues will always be ongoing but is pleased to see that issues are being addressed and dealt with.</li> <li>• Wishes the Animal Management all the best in their endeavours as they seek to improve the wellbeing of pets and the education of pet owners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted.</li> <li>• Refer action 19</li>   <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes cats should not be allowed to wander at all.</li> <li>• Believes Council has inadequate controls on the excess breeding and destruction that foxes and rabbits do and takes no responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's position to keep the current curfew and work with actions 8,10,16 and 17</li> <li>• Pest controls of foxes and rabbits is not within the legislative scope of the DAMP</li> </ul>
Submitter 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like a blue registration tag issued annually as part of the registration fees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifetime tags are currently issued and replaced free of charge if worn or broken – to issue new tags to every registered pet every year would have significant financial and staff resource implications.</li> </ul>
Submitter 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary concern is in regards to pests such as the fox and deer, which cause road accidents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest controls are not within the legislative scope of the DAMP.</li> </ul>
Submitter 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan will assist in making sure that animals (pets) will be treated well and with the respect they deserve.</li> <li>• Any negligence or cruelty to animals should be severely punished.</li> <li>• More control is welcome.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li>   <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like a law for cats to be registered and contained to the owner's property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted. All cats over the age of 3 months, must be registered with Council. Refer action 5</li> </ul>
Submitter 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes there to be a bias toward dogs and an omission of the 98% of cats (103 of 106) impounded not on the council registration database. No mention of targeting owners and stray cat that do immeasurable damage to Australian wildlife. No mention of microchip of all cats. Mandatory microchip and council access to all databases should be number 1 priority for now.</li> <li>• Would like to know how council can justify the statement that dogs and their owners do damage to sporting fields.</li> <li>• Of the 106 cats impounded and of those, 103 not being registered with council, would like to be shown a graph of the statistic? And believes the cat statistics in Appendix 2 '23,71 and 12' – do not add up to your claim of 103 unregistered.</li> <li>• In your preamble you also mention other 'pets' so now is council going to try and 'register' chooks but why no mention of rabbits?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlined in 8.2.1 – refer actions 4, 5, 6 and 7. Microchipping is mandatory for all dogs and cats in accordance with the DAA</li> <li>• Noted. Anecdotal evidence provided by Leisure Services, Operation Centre Maintenance and sportsground users.</li> <li>• 106 cats were impounded in 2016-2017, 23 were returned to their owner, 71 were rehoused, 12 were euthanised, equalling 106. 103 cats were not registered with Council.</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
Submitter 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan was illegible due to text and pictures imposed over it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft DAMP is legible – verified.</li> </ul>
Submitter 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes the Plan to be an important document.</li> <li>• Definitions should specify what is not a 'pet'. What does the plan say about people who have sheep or goats on small blocks to keep the grass down? Are these pets? Is there a certain block size where the keeping of sheep, goats and horses should not be allowed?</li> <li>• Concerned about dogs chasing wildlife on their own property and cats stalking and killing birds and wildlife. Would like to see strategies within the plan to make owners more responsible?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• The DAMP is specific to cats and dogs in accordance with the DAA</li> <li>• Noted refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the plan consistent with the RSPCA policy regarding keeping cats? There is also the issue with diseases from animals, for example cat poo, a particular problem with pregnant mothers or the disease from parrots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan is consistent with RSPCA policy</li> </ul>
Submitter 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes that 12,000 registered dogs would indicate that Nillumbik is a community who values animals.</li> <li>Believes there are too many stipulations regarding on leash areas. Too many on leash areas and not enough off leash, wrong balance. On leash signs on the pathways are officious. Believes most owners walk their dog responsibly and that the signs are heavy handed and reactive.</li> <li>Suggests the focus needs to be on hot spot.</li> <li>Council should consider large flat full ball run fenced areas in Research and Eltham. An agility area for the dogs, open up a few more walking tracks for dogs that people can discover. Print top10 dog walk in the shire. Create some that are at least 10 km. All can be on lead and see how it goes. Dog owners don't want tiny pockets only. In the town have some creative dog tie up area's and water fountain for dogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Refer action 19</li> <li>Noted</li> <li>Refer actions 19 and 3</li> </ul>
Submitter 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, believes that the document is impressive in that it considers an amalgam of issues and benefits of animal ownership.</li> <li>Believes the survey issued was misleading and probably over emphasized issues due to the way the questions were formatted. This could easily be addressed to give more accurate information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main concern is with not enough off leash areas. For many years we have thought that Riders Flat was an off leash area, and this was its major community function, until a sign was placed there this year informing dog owners that they would be fined for dogs off leash. Since that time, the park has hardly been utilised by anyone for anything, which is a major disappointment given the lack of public spaces in the area. Having to wait for this review before anything could be changed seems incredibly wasteful of everyone's time. There is nothing specific in this review that says that this particular space is being reviewed, but really I would hope that all rural public spaces would be dog off leash in the first instance, and designated on leash if that was required (not the other way round!) This would seem to fit more appropriately with how animals are viewed in the rural parts of this shire.</li> <li>Thank you so much for the care with which you have reviewed pet management. I hope to see some quick resolutions of issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer action 19</li> <li>Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes dogs in the suburbs are ok. Concern is with cats that are killing birdlife.</li> <li>Would like kangaroos to be left alone they were here before us what choice do they have when urban sprawl takes over their land. Cruel people who torture and kill kangaroos in inhumane ways should be prosecuted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted – refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> <li>Noted – not within the legislative scope of the DAMP</li> </ul>
Submitter 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like a "Leash Control" plan included for Plenty Park, Plenty. The 2 x synthetic grounds need to be "prohibited" areas with signage installed at the gates to the grounds similar to the signage on the synthetic Soccer Ground in Wattleree Road. We would also like signage installed around the park advising visitors of the Councils dog control regulations that apply to the Park. The Hockey Centre caters for users from across Victoria, resulting in many persons with dogs not knowing what the "local" policy is regarding leash control. This results in us having to regularly ask users to put dogs on leads with no Council signage to back up requests. We are conscious of our responsibility to provide a safe environment and in the last 12 months have had a number of instances of unleashed dogs acting in an aggressive manner or rushing children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer action 19</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for the opportunity to respond to DAMP.</li> <li>• Assistance animals - definition required, a possible loophole for the inclusion of animals not defined as domestic pets</li> <li>• Action 11 re: dog faeces identified by Melbourne Water as a major environmental problem. Action should be earlier, currently states Yr4 suggests 1-2 year of Plan.</li> <li>• Dog attacks needs to address attacks on both native and rural livestock.</li> <li>• Typo P8 recoures (resources) and 4th Para 2nd line, P 15 under Menacing dogs, biten (bitten) etc. Look forward to final draft.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• A definition for “Assistance Animal” requires a State legislation amendment to the DAA</li> <li>• Action to be considered earlier based upon sector interest.</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• 8.4.1 – last dot point to be amended to read as <i>“More accurate information relating to the location of dog attacks may assist Council target problem locations and dog owners. It is acknowledged that other domestic animals, livestock and wildlife may be victims of dog attacks.”</i></li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Spelling to be corrected</li> </ul>
Submitter 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I see nothing new in the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017—2021</li> <li>• I believe the way after hours calls are dealt with has changed (with little or no consultation) and no mention of it in this Draft Plan either.</li> <li>• The enforcement of cat registration and curfew looks as if it will be tossed in the 'too hard basket ' again. The only way it can be dealt with effectively is to introduce a 24 hour curfew where cats are treated the same as dogs and other pets and livestock and restricted to the owners property except when out on a lead.</li> <li>• Other than those two issues I am satisfied with the draft plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• BAU</li> <li>• Council’s position to keep the current curfew and work with actions 8,10,16 and 17</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan looks to be a sensible way forward, although I am not sure we are any closer to resolving the unrestricted cat situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I whole heartedly agree that we need more designated off leash areas as these are important to pet health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• I would support a single microchipping database to assist in the returning of lost animals.</li> <li>• I believe that we are missing an opportunity though in reducing the number of incidents with children and dogs, by having an education campaign about how to approach a dog. I have had many instances when small children have run up to my dog, hands in face etc. She is a good dog and poses no threat, but I am always taken aback by the lack of knowledge or understanding about how animals should be approached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• BAU – Bureau of Animal Welfare school education program – funded by Council’s pet registrations, website, brochures</li> </ul>
Submitter 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy for the most part about Nillumbik's Draft DAMP.</li> <li>• I am the owner of two dogs and appreciate having off leash areas to walk and exercise them in. I always pick up after my dogs but am conscious that many dog owners do not (predominantly men!) and that gives us all a bad name so would welcome any strategies or punishments to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. More bins around might help then owners would not have to carry it which probably puts some people off</li> <li>• I would like cats to be confined to their owner’s property at all times. I am tired of cats trespassing in my garden to kill birds and to go the toilet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Refer action 19</li> <li>• Council's position is to keep the current curfew and work with actions 8,10,16 and 17</li> </ul>
Submitter 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I must strongly object to the proposal that the Falknier St Park in Eltham be made in to an off leash area. This is the area that my daughter and her dog were attacked whilst on a leash by a dog not on a leash. The area is also used by local kids to play ball sports and has a bike path running through the middle of it. It will not be safe for bike riders or children if dogs are allowed to be off leash. Until you can prove to me that you can 100% guarantee that all the off leash dogs are under control you cannot make this an off leash area. You own report proves that the council has zero control of unruly animals as there has been zero infringement notices given for dogs found off leash or out of control in an off leash area. If you are not able to police it you cannot provide it. I will take this objection to every level of government that will listen to me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falkiner St has had an off-leash area since 2001. Refer action 19</li> </ul>



Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see some kind of summary sheet, that doesn't require being an attorney to read. I am very good at reading law, having been a police officer, but this is way over the head of most people to read or effectively comment on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a very wordy document and I can't believe pets can be so complicated when they provide so many benefits for their owners.</li> <li>• I live in Eltham and I cannot find one poo bag dispenser anywhere in Eltham, the last one was removed from Eltham Lower Park, many months ago. If you want to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog then you need to provide these facilities. Most dog owners do the right thing but convenience may increase those owners that are not quite as conscientious to pick up and bin their dogs poo!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted – DAA requirement</li> <li>• Council's general position is that owners carry receptacle/bags and dispose of rubbish in accordance with the Amenity Local Law and responsible pet ownership. Refer action 11</li> </ul>
Submitter 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly concerned about the lack of specifics on how the council plans on getting to Zero euthanasia? Partnering with one or more of the reputable rescue groups could be one option due to their experience and foster carer networks of carers who love are devoted to rehabilitating frightened semi owned felines into loving companions/homes. The resources are there to get to zero in regards to the cat population the animal lovers are there! The council needs to invest in its budget and collaborate with the available resources and people to get to zero for cats, dogs and other animals. To close the door on that horrible outcome! Someone needs to step up and speak up for the poor creatures getting caught up in the system of being killed due to their unfortunate life circumstances to date. Every animal deserves a chance to shine and a life of love and happiness.</li> <li>• Incentives to the public for doing the right thing should be made available to encourage responsible pet ownership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council is considered as a “no kill” shelter. Getting to Zero is a reputable rescue group that will assist with required actions.</li> <li>• Incentive ‘goody bags’ have been distributed in the past via Ranger patrols and will continue – BAU</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes something needs to be done to ensure our wildlife is no longer put at risk by cats! I have seen too many cats in active hunting mode, day and night, stalking birds, possums, lizards and more. This is UNACCEPTABLE. The statistics are clear - in Australia, cats are known to feed on more than 347 native species: that's 186 species of birds, 64 mammals, 86 reptiles, at least 10 amphibians and numerous invertebrates. And no doubt there are more. Research estimates that more than 100million native animals are killed each year by domestic cats, with other research indicating MUCH higher numbers. This is a disgrace, and if we are to maintain and enhance the natural values of this area, we need to make significant changes to legislation and community education. URGENTLY.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> </ul>
Submitter 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believes that the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan is generally quite good except for one catastrophic failure. I have ongoing issues with neighbouring cats killing the wildlife that exist in Nillumbik. This includes birds, lizards, bats, possums and various other small marsupials, frogs and even butterfly's in my gardens. After making complaints I was given a cat trap to essentially deal with the problem myself because Councils policies aren't good enough to prevent the problem in the first place. I can't catch the cats and I don't think it should be up to me to catch the neighbours pets. If a dog is reported at large are the residents told to catch the dog themselves? Every pet in Nillumbik has to be confined to a cage, a paddock, a pen or contained in some way except the creature that is most detrimental to the environment -the domestic cat. This Domestic Animal Plan does nothing to fix this problem. In this respect I believe it fails me and the wildlife in Nillumbik. There is evidence from many studies (peer reviewed studies) that support a policy of having cats confined 24 HOURS A DAY, (contact me for references) yet it appears that they have been ignored because I believe the Council is too scared of upsetting cat owners. I will be rigorously following up on this topic in the coming years until cat owners are no longer an 'exception' to the laws every other pet owner has to abide by. I understand that cats are not allowed to be a pest or out at night however I don't believe this rule is enforced as every morning walking my dog I see many cats. Unfortunately I will need to adopt my own strategies to deal with this problem, they might not be considered 'best practise' but due to the failings of this plan I believe I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's position to keep the current curfew and work with actions 8,10,16 and 17</li> </ul>



Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I believe a dog limit per property is essential and must be enforceable (sometimes there are 4 next door). An invisible fence has been installed since the Ranger visited next door, but only 2 dogs have been trained (it seems to have worked with those two). 2 of the dogs are very friendly but I don't encourage any interaction with them (they are the ones who are trained by the fence) but of the other two, one is small but very aggressive and the other has killed wildlife on my property.</li> <li>• I have no domestic pets these days but love the wildlife and allow them free access i.e. kangaroos, echidnas, wombats, birds etc. Wild rabbits are a pain. I know that pets are very important to some people's health and wellbeing and are loved. I have found that roaming dogs can be very aggressive especially in pairs and want legislation to enforce dog owner responsibility to contain all such animals.</li> <li>• Kindness to animals is certainly expected, but dog/pet ownership comes with responsibilities for the owner and should be powerfully enforced in my opinion. I have had one of their (neighbour's) dogs jump up on my back to shoulder height when I was working in the paddock and, although it seemed harmless enough, was dangerous for me as I am 71 and have had a hip replacement..... although I am very active, I take care when I work. Unexpected things are the problem. The dogs panicking a mob of kangaroos sent them in my direction and was very dangerous for me also. I have discovered dog poo in bags thrown onto my property and the wire fence, which is supposed to keep the dog in was pulled up in a couple of places to allow access for the dogs to my property for their daily "doings" I expect. I was impressed that they (the dogs) have been trained to accumulate their doings into plastic bags....as if!!!! It has caused a feeling of dread in me when I need to work near the fence as their persistent barking at anything that moves, planes etc. is overwhelming at times and goes on for hours during the night sometimes. This is my story and, although it does not specifically only address the legislation proposed, it shows my need for you to strengthen the enforcements. Thank you for inviting me to respond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted – Specific complaints regarding nuisance dogs and cats are investigated by Ranger services when Council is notified.</li> </ul>
Submitter 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes the plan is very good, and seems to have everything covered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would be great to see Nillumbik take on the approach of councils such as Banyule, who allow dogs to be allowed off lead in all parks except where signed due to environmental reasons. This means that the sports ovals are not overused by dog walkers, while still allowing dogs to be exercised and socialised appropriately. It also allows dogs to swim in the river where possible. Another example we should follow is that of Warrandyte, where dogs are allowed off lead along the river walk. This is a wonderful shared walk that brings people into the town. I know three separate families that have moved to Warrandyte following walks along the river walk with their family and dogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted. Refer action 19</li> </ul>
Submitter 38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.3 Dealing with nuisance and amenity issues The key findings highlight the issues, yet the strategy actions seem to completely ignore a number of the issues related to dog owners not controlling their pets in public places. This would also seem to be a factor in 8.4 Dog Attacks, and 8.8.</li> <li>Section 26 Order in Council requires owners to have their dogs "under effective control at all times". This is either not well understood or ignored by a minority of dog owners, to the great detriment of many. The DAMP seems to ignore this requirement, so I assume the Order is only used retrospectively if a dog causes a significant nuisance, can be identified and is reported - thus placing the onus on the victim. For too many, "effective control" in an off-leash area, or any area a few deem OK, is to walk along and ignore their dog while talking to others, jogging or listening to music/radio. If they don't have their dog in eyesight, I'm unsure how this can be effective control.</li> <li>I believe DAMP needs to directly address this issue, which could include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community education on what "effective control" means in an off-leash area so that appropriate expectations are set. e.g. voice/hand control to promptly leash their dog if necessary. Too often I hear owners calling repeatedly and being ignored by their dogs.</li> <li>simplifying reporting, and following up on reports of nuisance owners/dogs</li> <li>patrolling when/where nuisance owners/dogs have been reported and educating/fining them as required</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BAU - Specific complaints regarding nuisance dogs and cats are investigated by Ranger services when Council is notified.</li> <li>BAU – Council Rangers conduct patrols of off-leash areas to ensure compliance with leash requirements</li> <li>Dog owners are educated via Council's website and other educational material – Opportunity to include information in the Community Safety registration renewal brochure.</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exciting and thorough outline of future actions. I am not sure if there is already a program in place, where AMO's attend schools for information sessions on dog and cat responsible pet ownership and what to do if a dog rushes/attacks you. May be an idea for parents to be invited to a school day when these information sessions are held.</li> <li>At the local medical centres, community centres, Domestic Violence support services or hospitals, if not already provided, it may be an idea to have pamphlets available regarding "Pets in Crisis", organisations who are able to house pets in Domestic Violence situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School education programs are conducted through the Bureau of Animal Welfare and are funded by Council pet registration fees.</li> <li>Refer actions 20, 21 and 22</li> </ul>
Submitter 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for the draft DAMP to considered educations and regular officer patrols of footpaths and on-leash areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BAU</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports the expanding off-leash areas, however does not believe this to be the final answer. (hard copy received – summarised)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer action 19</li> </ul>
Submitter 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surely animals are either owned or not- I do not understand semi owned (you cannot pick and choose when you own something). If there is no owner then they are stray and Council is obliged to deal with them and if they are owned then deal with the owner, fairly simple, stray and feral cats need to be dealt with and resolved. I have seen no evidence that cat curfews etc. are being enforced especially in the North Warrandyte area.</li> <li>Where are the plans for off leash areas etc with the North Warrandyte area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> <li>Refer action 19</li> </ul>
Submitter 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have read the draft DAMP and it all looks good. However I am a cat owner and I struggle with the issue of confining a cat to premises during the day. Cats enjoy being outside, but unlike dogs cannot be confined by fences. I am aware that there are outdoor cat runs and cages that can be connected to the house and also cat-nets and other devices that can be put up from the tops of fences to help keep cats on premises. I think it would be helpful for Council to provide information on these options for cat owners and perhaps somehow identify affordable options for people, or identify trades people skilled at settling up such structures. Also, are there any building laws that would restrict what can be put on fences that might apply to this situation?</li> <li>Thank you for considering my suggestions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer action 3</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1: Proposed limited relaxation of requirement for permits for &gt;2 dogs/cats per allotment</li> </ul> <p>Proposal for Council consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural allotments of nominally 5 acres or more are exempted from the requirement to obtain a permit from Council to keep more than 2 DESEXED dogs and /or cats. DESEXED Dogs/Cats over 10 years age should not be included in any upper limit to the above.</li> <li>• Issue 2: Exemption of dogs/cats &gt;10 years age from any maximum limits of pet keeping per property.</li> <li>• I proposed that the current requirement for obtaining a permit to keep &gt;2 dogs and /or cats be exempted if the third or more animal was in excess of 10 years age. The rationale for this proposal is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Senior age animals suffer physical restricted mobility issues and are therefore less likely to roam.</li> <li>○ Senior age animals are more sedate and are arguably less likely to engage in territorial protection activities.</li> <li>○ There are abundantly more senior age animals surrendered as unwanted/for adoption than younger animals. Any incentive that encourages animal welfare through ‘senior’ adoption rather than encouraging puppy/kitten farms or back yard breeders should be strongly embraced by Council.</li> <li>○ Rural allotments within the Shire are also well placed to sustain placement of senior age animals.</li> <li>○ Achieve an equal approach with Manningham City Council, which to my understanding, exempts dog/cats over 10 years age from the maximum of 2 dogs/cats per property.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Recommendation to amend Council’s Amenity Local Law Guidelines to exempt properties over 2 hectares in size from requiring a permit to keep more than 2 desexed dogs and 2 desexed cats – Council report.</li> <li>• Recommendation to amend Council’s Amenity Local Law Guidelines to exempt properties over 2 hectares in size from requiring a permit to keep more than 2 dogs and 2 cats over the age of 10 years – Council report</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 22 - Council proposes to encourage/maintain pet ownership/welfare for older/disabled pet owners. What happens to the pet when the older/disabled owner has to go into a managed care facility? Answer: Council doesn’t care? Wouldn’t it make sense / add community value if Council was seen to care for its elderly/disabled residents, who have to enter managed care, by offering incentives for other residents to adopt those pets that are prohibited from accompanying their owners into managed care, and therefore face an uncertain future/possible destruction? Case example: We take one of our dogs to an aged care home to visit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<p>our mother, and in most part, the time is spent as dog ‘meet and great’ with countless other elderly residents, and some ‘special needs’ residents. The most common comment we get: “I had to give up my dog/cat to enter here. I miss them so much”. The most common reactions we get: smiles, dog pats/cuddles, happy tears...Nillumbik Council cites at s4.2 in the DAMP that research into the benefits of pet ownership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pets have been shown to greatly increase quality of life for the elderly including reduced tension, fatigue and confusion and increased feelings of enthusiasm, interest and inspiration; This begs the question: What decrease in life quality by way of stress, non-physical trauma and other mental health/wellbeing conditions are impacted upon elderly residents when they are forced to be separated from their pets? What else could Council do to help facilitate community support and community building through pet ownership? Implement these rules:</li> <li>○ Exempt ANY property from requiring a permit for keeping &gt;2 dogs and/or cats where any additional animal is over 10 years age. The rationale for this is that I find most elderly residents entering managed care have senior aged pets.</li> <li>○ Provide a financial incentive by way of reduced registration fee(s) for new owners adopting animals that were certified as being surrendered due to their previous owner entering managed care. For example, extend the ‘pensioner discount’ to new owners of pets that were surrendered by the previous pensioner owner.</li> <li>○ As per Issue 1 above, exempt large allotments within the Shire from requiring a permit to keep &gt;2 dogs and/or cats, as a potential additional incentive to encourage adoption of pets that must be surrendered due to managed care facility restrictions.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for considering these</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Council is unable to vary the ratio of pet registration fees as it is outlined in the DAA</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggests a number of text changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Amended where required</li> </ul>



Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2.2 Council Planning, suggests to add 'Economic development plan, Green wedge management plan and Nillumbik Planning scheme' to the Key references</li> <li>• 4.1 – Would like to know at what point does a domestic animal become a feral animal and to reference the feral animal plan.</li> <li>• 7.0 dot point 3, 'the registration of animals' - suggests to add the following wording 'The registration of domestic cats and dogs'. And dot point 7, the word 'pets', states, 'is it pets generally or cats and dogs specifically?'</li> <li>• 8.1.1 – Believes animal welfare issues outside of the Shire is not the role of Council and should not be considered in the Plan.</li> <li>• 8.2.2 – Suggests to add the following action 'Increase the proportion of cats that are registered</li> <li>• 8.3.1 – Believes the last dot point should be removed</li> <li>• 8.3.2 – Action 9 and 10 – Believes it is the responsibility of the pet owner to financially address issues not fostering costs onto the broader community</li> <li>• 8.4 – dot points 3 and 6 contradict each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to add the Green Wedge Management Plan and Nillumbik Planning Scheme. The Economic Development Strategy expired in 2016, therefore cannot reference.</li> <li>• Update Plan to reflect recommendation</li> <li>• Industry terminology – refer dictionary. May also refer to semi-owned cats.</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Update Plan to reflect recommendation</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Update Plan to reflect recommendation</li> <li>• This this be the outcome to all actions in 8.2.2</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Action 9 to be amended to read '<i>Liaise with animal behaviourist to consider options available to assist with the reduction of barking dog complaints</i>'</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• 8.4.1 – last dot point to be amended to read as "<i>More accurate information relating to the location of dog attacks may assist Council target problem locations and dog owners. It is acknowledged that other domestic animals, livestock and wildlife may be involved in a dog attack.</i>"</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.4.2 – add action ‘Enhance the take up of puppy and dog training in Nillumbik to increase dog owner understanding of their responsibilities regarding their control of their dogs, and consequences of not having this control’</li> <li>• 8.5.1 – correct the spelling of word ‘violation’, within the Menacing Dog definition.</li> <li>• 8.5.2 – suggests to provide clarity regarding the difference between playful chasing and rushing – Action 15</li> <li>• 8.7.2, action 18 to work with DAB to promote responsible pet ownership – believes this is not Council’s responsibility. States that ‘Council’s responsibility is one of compliance’</li> <li>• 8.8 – check the 13 designated off-leash areas against the numbers stipulated. Would like to know what the utilisation rate of each off-leash area is.</li> <li>• 8.10 – believes dot point 3, subpoint 2 (statistic) is not relevant as Nillumbik residents do not holiday in Nillumbik.</li> <li>• Action 24 – wording to be changed as follows; ‘<i>consider opportunities to work with partner councils and the tourism sector to commercialise pet tourism/visitation, particularly within the context of the award winning Artisan Hills Brand</i>’.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAU – RDO program</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Spelling to be corrected</li> <li>• Legal definition of ‘Rush’ is outlined in DAA</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Update Plan – 12 off- leash areas – Eltham 4, Eltham Lower 1, Greensborough 1, Hurstbridge 1, Eltham East 1, Diamond Creek 2, Research 1, Kangaroo Ground 1</li> <li>• Statistical comparison would apply.</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>
Submitter 45	<p>A summary of my main issues with the draft plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no measurable targets – what is our definition of success for each section? How would we know if we were achieving the aims of the plan? How do we want to perform versus today? How do we want to perform versus other Councils e.g. Best In Class, Amongst the Leaders, etc. Do you know what our Councillors expectations are with respect to performance (I have asked them but had no response, I will continue to do so)? How do they intend to track progress over the 4 year period?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All actions are measureable and are required to be reported on annually in accordance with the <i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i></li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No reference to budget – are the action points realistic within the budget allocated (and what has been allocated over the next 4 years assuming the number of residents and pets will rise over this period)?</li> <li>• I am supportive of community engagement but recognise this will have a resource implication at the Council so need to know if it is aligned with Council expectations and containable within the budget.</li> <li>• Specifically my comments on the 24 points are:</li> <li>• Section 2 - I would be interested to know what the consultation process was with other Councils and which Councils they were.</li> </ul> <p>Section 8.1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 2 – mentions using vet surgeries to re-home pets - would this be in addition to the partnerships we already have with shelters (Blue Cross, SADs and CPS)? I think there are other rescue groups who could also form useful alliances with the Council. They could benefit from some nurturing from the Council and the Council could use them as a communication channel and to recognise community fostering as an important way of moving animals towards new homes. I should stress that this should be a supportive partnership – not simply allowing certain charities to come in and pick animals (like many other Councils) but provide resources for them such as advertising, mentoring maybe even financial assistance such as Rockhampton Council. Maybe you could consider allowing them to use the pound for adoption days – which could also be utilised for communication days? This would also address the issue about residents not understanding the Councils role wrt animal management services. It would also ensure the pound facility is kept at a high standard and is welcoming to the public. Would Nillumbik consider direct adoptions from the pound?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget considerations will be performed as part of the annual budget preparation process.</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Benchmarked with Councils identified on page 12, footnote 18</li> <li>• Council will consider other organisations that meet the Code of Practice together with veterinary surgeries for 84Y agreements.</li> <li>• Add wording in Action 2 consistent with recommendation to include '<i>other organisations that meet the Code of Practice</i>'.</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 3 – in section 3.1.1 you mention pets are being reunited with their owners via an increasing number of avenues such as social media – would it make sense for the Council to utilise some of those in a more formal way? Such as identifying certain existing social media channels and sites for formal updates and news (like the old fashion press releases to local papers)? For example; the local dog rescue charities FB pages, The Dogs of Hurstbridge site, etc and making them more formal “partners” in the communication strategy? This would also go a way to addressing the third point in section 8.1.1 that refers to the community’s expectations of local government to do more for pets. (Small point – but pet photos are sometimes missing from the current Council website.)</li> <li>• Action 7 – would you consider a “check a chip” event – maybe at the Pet Expo – where owners can bring their animals in and have their chip info reviewed? It may remind people to update their info and show the benefit to any owners who have not microchipped? It could even offer a microchipping service in the same location?</li> <li>• Section 8.3.2 – are you planning to continue with the free Wiltja training course for dogs – personally I think that or a similar course is a great idea. Maybe use this type of course to include other training elements to specifically address nuisance behaviour? For example, to explain why dog rushing or barking is a problem and how to address it.</li> <li>• Action 8 – could this include more educational elements as above. Maybe there could also be practical workshops to address fencing for dogs and cats to keep them maintained (maybe the Men’s Sheds would help with practical assistance and Landcare groups could offer an opportunity for presentations in the more rural areas)</li> <li>• Action 9 – I feel there could be a more community based solution to barking dogs – something like Dogshare – a web site which allows people with animals to make contact with others in their local community and maybe share doggy sitting duties (free of charge). Maybe a behaviourist can help but the majority of barking dogs probably need intervention/amusement during the day so needs a community based solution. Or very reasonable doggy day care or dog walking facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• Action 3 to be amended to include wording ‘<i>social media platforms</i>’.</li> <li>• ‘Check a chip’ at Pet Expo – BAU</li> <li>• RDO program Wiltja and GS- BAU</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Action 9 to be amended to read ‘<i>Liaise with animal behaviourists to consider options available to assist with the reduction of barking dog complaints.</i>’</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 17 – you mention G2Z wrt to community cat programs. I've also seen that the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation are also doing a lot of research into this topic and seem relatively data driven. It may be worth asking them for advice on the subject of semi-owned cats? They could be considered a Stakeholder?</li> <li>• Section 8.6 - Do we need to do more to reduce the number of unwanted animals such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting de-sexing or low cost veterinary services. Is that considered to be an issue in Nillumbik?</li> <li>• Should we be addressing puppy farms/back yard breeders? I believe Rockhampton are introducing a scheme where the breeders permit number is required to register an animal – do we do that already? Could we incentivise rescue – reduction in registration fees? The logic being that adopted animals lower the cost of keeping them in the pound or killing them?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Section 8.9 – should this also include pet care during emergency situations? This is always a big topic at our emergency meetings. I believe there is at least one community group that helps with this and could be promoted.</li> <li>• Action 22 – maybe see if a community group could be established as a type of joint venture with the Council to coordinate the volunteers for this – even one of the existing shelters/rescue groups may help if a grant was made available to them. Those guys have huge expertise when it comes to working with, organising and motivating volunteers. Hume Council have just given Second Chance a grant for an outreach program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• BAU</li> <li>• Section 8.9 refers to family violence situations. In emergency situations the Animal Management Emergency Management Plan takes effect.</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like to see an action point added in section 8.9 on community education – which is being honest about kill rates and how they can be reduced (this is part of the G2Z model). I think people aren't more engaged as they have no idea that healthy animals are killed on a regular basis. I also believe that Councils that are not honest and hide behind stats are becoming increasingly vulnerable to bad publicity (e.g. Mornington, Mildura, etc). Looking after people's pets isn't just the Councils responsibility so if you are open, share the issue and invite help it makes for a more open discussion. I also believe we have the type of community that would respond well to that approach.</li> <li>• Linked to the above point – there was no mention of KPI's and budget. What metrics are proposed to judge the status/success of our plan? I feel the type of metric should have been added to each action in the plan.</li> <li>• Actual metrics should be reviewed at Council meetings on a regular basis and need to be completely transparent - no sleight of hand with pets being shuffled off the balance sheet under a woolly heading or being put down under the "dangerous/feral" collective.</li> <li>• Is there a budget that supports this plan and what are the implications of the proposed strategies? Is the budget increasing over the next 4 years and is that based on projected number of animals which I would assume will be increasing? I would welcome a discussion with the Councillors on this topic.</li> <li>• What are the plans for registration and impound fees? Are these the sole source of revenue for the DAMP or is there further funding allocated? Do we ever have animals which are not collected due to the cost of impound fee?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• The success of the Plan will be measured against the completion of the actions within the nominated time frames.</li> <li>• A formal review of the Plan is addressed annually by Council</li> <li>• Registration and permit fees are reviewed annually as part of the budget preparation process.</li> <li>• Registration and permit fees are reviewed annually as part of the budget preparation process.</li> </ul>
Submitter 46	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Draft Nillumbik Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021. I would like to commend Nillumbik Shire Council for producing a responsible and compassionate document, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognises the importance of pets as contributors to the wellbeing of the families of Nillumbik. (DAMP item 4.2)</li> <li>• Consulted with the 'Getting to Zero' model, developed in Australia, to inform the DAMP (<a href="http://www.g2z.org.au/why-getting-to-zero.html">http://www.g2z.org.au/why-getting-to-zero.html</a>) (DAMP item 8.6.2)</li> <li>• Recognises the constantly increasing benefit of pets to the economics of a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<p>community, including pet tourism. Australians now spend a vast amount on their pets...Households are estimated to have spent more than \$12.2 billion on pet products and services last year, up 42 per cent since 2013. (See: <a href="http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-27/australians-are-spending-up-big-on-pet-ownership/8651270">http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-27/australians-are-spending-up-big-on-pet-ownership/8651270</a>). It seems that as the economic value increases, so does the overall value, and I am glad that council has recognised the monetary value of pets, as it is even more incentive to treat all animals and the environment with the care and responsibility that they deserve. (DAMP item 8.10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of this response I will focus predominantly on the welfare of cats (although the same issues pertain to dogs). I believe that the Nillumbik Shire Council has the opportunity to consider even more areas where they can show leadership in compassion and treatment of pets, and enhance their reputation as a leader in animal and environmental welfare. Increasingly this is what communities are demanding.</li> <li>• I believe that aspects of the Getting 2 Zero Model should be more of a focus in the DAMP. “The Getting 2 Zero Model provides for a comprehensive and sustained ongoing cooperative improvement community- wide. It includes and benefits government animal management departments, pounds, shelters, rescue groups, pet shops, breeders, wildlife groups, animal welfare groups and caring individuals by preventing stray and abandoned animals and ensuring that those who stray or are abandoned can still enjoy life. “(<a href="http://www.g2z.org.au/why-getting-to-zero.html">http://www.g2z.org.au/why-getting-to-zero.html</a>)”</li> <li>• Specifically, I request (related to DAMP items: 8.6, 8.6.2' 8.9, 9.1)</li> <li>• Nillumbik Shire actively promotes animals collected by the ranger so that they have the best chance of re-unification with their family. See the ‘Darebin Lost Animals’ Facebook page for a good example.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• BAU</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nillumbik Shire work with local rescue groups, not just the Cat Protection Society (CPS). My concern with the CPS is the lack of transparency on re-homing/euthanasia rates (data made public); lack of foster care options and complete lack of engagement with local rescue groups. CPS should be moving cats and kittens to local rescue groups and foster care as soon as possible, especially kittens, cats with upper respiratory tract infections (cat flu); FIV and timid/ shy cats needing socialisation. These cats will then have less chance of becoming sick or anti-social. The ill cats can be treated/ cared for back to health and the timid cats socialised, and all adopted. FIV cats are readily adopted by people, with the full knowledge that these cats can lead a long and healthy life as indoor cats. All rescue groups promote that cats should live an indoor life and/or cat cage/ contained set up in the back yard.</li> <li>• Moving cats from shelters to rescue groups/foster care is vital as, for example, the longer a cat stays in a shelter the higher likelihood it will contract cat flu or other illnesses. In addition cats and dogs show stress responses in a shelter that look like ‘anti-social behaviour’ (I am not referring to extremely aggressive/ dangerous animals here). This is extremely risky to the animal, as a diagnosis of ‘antisocial behaviour’ can easily lead to euthanasia. Typically once these animals are in a loving foster care-home environment they blossom into affectionate, happy animals that can be adopted. The shelter is a noisy, crowded institution and foster care is a quiet, safe home where the animal can get individualised care and attention and socialised to live with a family.</li> <li>• Please see Darebin Council for an excellent example of the Animal Rescue Officer liaising with local pet rescue groups to get animals quickly out of the Lost Dogs Home and into foster care. (DAMP item 8.9, 8.6.2.</li> <li>• Nillumbik Shire ensures that data on adoption and euthanasia rates from the CPS is accessible to members of the community. CPS processes and procedures have been created on a high euthanasia, shelter model that is no longer acceptable to, or keeping up with, current community expectation. Requesting transparency from CPS will help CPS to be more accountable to the community, and lead them to move with the changing attitudes towards ‘pet rescue’ and work more collaboratively in the pet rescue space. (DAMP items 8.6, 8.6.2, 8.9, 9.1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will consider other organisations that meet the Code of Practice together with veterinary surgeries for 84Y agreements</li> <li>• Amend wording in Action 2 to include wording ‘<i>considering other organisations that meet the Code of Practice</i>’</li> <li>• Council will consider other organisations that meet the Code of Practice together with veterinary surgeries for 84Y agreements</li> <li>• Amend wording in Action 2 to include wording considering other organisations that meet the code of Practice</li> <li>• Nillumbik has a lower euthanasia rate than Darebin, however are both considered ‘no kill’ shelters.</li> <li>• BAU – information is provided upon request</li> </ul>



Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nillumbik Shire provides subsidised pet de-sexing and vaccination for families that are on a low income or health care card.(DAMP 8.6.2)</li> <li>• Nillumbik Shire actively promotes the ‘rescue’ work they are doing (see above) and actively promotes an ‘Adopt Don’t Shop’ message.(DAMP item 8.9)</li> <li>• Nillumbik Shire provides a ‘free’ consultation and suggestions to pet owners re: establishing/ purchasing outdoor cat runs etc. (DAMP item 8.3)</li> </ul> <p>Thank you again for the opportunity to have input into the DAMP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This has been considered in the past, however due to the extremely high levels of desexing compliance rates with dog and cat owners, and low euthanasia rates, there would be no community benefit.</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• BUA at Council’s Pet Expo – which allows businesses to promote their products and services for no fee</li> </ul>
Submitter 47	<p>This Management plan extensively covers many issues related to animal ownership in the Shire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One issue which, in my opinion, needs to be addressed relates to the Hurstbridge Dog Park.</li> <li>• Firstly it needs to be significantly enlarged to cater for the number of dogs, often in excess of 12, which are all trying to run, play and chase at the same time.</li> <li>• Secondly, regardless of the fact that dog parks are deemed Public Open Space, activities other than dog walking should not be permitted. There have been instances of children playing on the agility equipment at Diamond Creek and on another occasion there was a family picnic taking place. At Hurstbridge we have "shared" the path with children on bikes, footballs being kicked end to end and in recent times someone who allows their child to dig very deep holes. (This child was observed). Fortunately our Councillor, Ms Egan, arranged for a load of soil to be delivered so we now able to fill in the holes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Refer Action 19</li> </ul>
Submitter 48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hurstbridge dog park needs to be bigger please.</li> <li>• I know the rangers are busy but there's so much dog poo ON the paths and heaps of off lead dogs in on lead areas. If you have an anxious dog that you walk on lead, in on lead only areas, this is a huge issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer action 19</li> <li>• BAU</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can I please have a copy of the survey results?</li> <li>• Dogs Victoria should be a "stakeholder" as listed on page 4 as they are well equipped to provide Nillumbik with feedback/ assistance in implementing its DAMP. DV can also assist in providing foster carers/ assistance in re-homing purebred dogs reducing the time dogs spend in shelters which is better for the dog and the Council.</li> <li>• One of the questions in the survey related to land size and the requirement for a third dog permit however there is no mention of this in the report. I think this should be a key consideration for assessing who needs a permit for additional dogs or cats.</li> <li>• Additional bins on walking paths to encourage people to clean up after their dogs is recommended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be provided</li> <li>• Agree</li> <li>• To be added to the Stakeholder list</li> <li>• Recommendation to amend Council's Amenity Local Law Guidelines to exempt properties over 2 hectares in size from requiring a permit to keep more than 2 desexed dogs and 2 desexed cats – Council report</li> <li>• Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 50	<p>In revising the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 (the Draft) and the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Vic), it is reassuring that Nillumbik Shire are dedicated, whilst not obligated by the State, to taking care of animals subjected to domestic violence. In 2013, I was invited by Southern Cross University to submit my research paper on 'The Link between Animal Cruelty and Interpersonal Violence' as part of their Animal Law Compendium. I effectively illustrated in my discussion that although State legislation looks as if it protects animals, 'in reality it fails to succeed at reassuring its prime intention, which is the appropriate treatment of animals.' Through extensive empirical evidence, I identify both the reasons for this failure and the legal reforms which are required to better protect animals from human violence.</p> <p>Animal cruelty and violence to humans contain common characteristics. One such characteristic is that the victims in both situations are sentient beings, implying they do endure pain from the injuries sustained. However, for a number of reasons, society tends to view animals as inferior to humans, especially when it comes to brutal acts. For instance, out of 326 animal cruelty cases prosecuted in Victoria between 2010 and 2012, the most common penalty was a fine. In human violence cases on the other hand, the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2004 reported 80% of defendants accused of sexual assault and associated crimes were guilty, in which approximately 70% received a prison term. Acts of aggravated animal cruelty are constantly penalized by lenient punishments.</p> <p>The maximum jail sentences for aggravated animal cruelty in Australia is between 1.5 and 7 years but this is rarely applied. For example, a 2012 case in Victoria revealed that a person, who asphyxiated a kangaroo, by tying a rope around its neck and fastening it to a car which dragged behind for 2 kilometres, received no prison sentence. Furthermore, a Tasmanian case established the shortfall of such animal welfare legislation, with a man receiving a 3-month suspended sentence and community service for beheading two kittens. Inappropriate sentencing demonstrates a total disregard for animals and their safety.</p> <p>Animal welfare legislation fails to progress at the same rate as the continually changing views regarding animal status in Australia. Over time, human knowledge of animal behaviours and degree of sentience has developed considerably with companion animals now generally thought of as family instead of items of property. The existing animal welfare laws fail to openly replicate this point of view and instead retain the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Refer actions 20 and 21</li> <li>• BAU re: Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act – State legislation</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<p>extremely inflexible, archaic and unsuitable notion of animals as property. One suggestion to Council is that you must be pioneers, just like the City of Darebin and the City of Yarra have done in replacing their citizenship ceremonies with an event marking the loss of Indigenous culture. Such developments will positively pressurize the State by giving more thought to the concerns of animals, as well as do everything within their power to ensure the ancient legal principles relating to animals as property are transformed to better reflect the views of modern Australia.</p> <p>Many cases of animal cruelty are overlooked until it is too late, that is, until the violence is directed at humans. Generally, this is attributable to the language of the law as well as the appropriate Codes of Practice, in which animals are regarded as significantly inferior to humans. However, the critical discussion of whether animals acquire any cognitive capacity beyond sentience, to support their existence is mostly irrelevant, since the meaning of sentience is self-awareness. This is all that is needed to have interests in living. Yet, in spite of the people who hold such rational explanations for why animals are inferior to humans, at least understand the ramifications animal cruelty has on humans, as confirmed in psychology, sociology and criminology. With respect to reform, amendments to both Council regulations and State legislation to support the views of society, empathetic judgments for victims, and a separate law enforcement agency that only handles animal cruelty cases, must all emerge ahead of tougher penalties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To finish, under 8.9.1 of the Draft, referenced footnote 25 refers to an article on ‘Loneliness and Social Isolation as Risk Factors for Mortality.’ The web address provided fails to make this article available to the community. Hence, can this please be corrected.</li> <li>• Under 8.10.1 of the Draft, the fourth point states ‘evidence would indicate that there is merit in considering opportunities associated with pet tourism/visitation in Nillumbik and pet related tourism branding,’ however this is not backed by a reference or references. I am requesting this too be amended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link tested and confirmed as being available</li> <li>• Refer action 23 and 24</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In section 8.9 it states family violence and domestic violence. I think it should state 'family violence' rather than domestic violence so it is consistent language and aligns with the Victorian Family Violence Protection Act 2008 and its definition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed</li> <li>Amend wording to reflect suggestion.</li> </ul>
Submitter 52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. I am surprised your draft plan mentions nothing about the registration process for infant animals. The current registration process requires owners to pay an exorbitant rate because an animal is not yet desexed, although veterinarians state that it is not appropriate to desex them so young. You need to address this anomaly as responsible animal owners want to do the right thing for their pet, and the council comes across as being more concerned with money. I realise there has been a change to this across many councils, but your council can choose to do the right thing and actually address our concerns. It is not acceptable to ask people to pay a fee that is many more times the cost of registration, in effect, a fine, for bringing a young, new pet into their homes. There must be a better way to manage this instead of actually encouraging people not to register their animals until they have been desexed at the appropriate time advised by a medical professional. It seems as though this is almost hoping to catch people out who are trying to do the right thing. It is clear that Nillumbik residents are more likely to register their pets, and this is something that needs to be appreciated. You need to build in some kind of grace period between the initial registration and when the animal turns 6 months old, which is the time that most vets suggest desexing is appropriate. It is not acceptable to charge a ridiculous figure and then expect the owner to claim the balance back again. You must also remember that owners are already going to be paying money for desexing and microchipping, and this inflated registration fee for a non-desexed animal may simply mean they put off having the surgery because of the overall costs involved. This is a very important issue. People who embrace pet ownership should be supported to do so responsibly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration age is dictated by DAA, state government legislation which Council cannot vary. Council has identified the issue with veterinarians not desexing before 5-6months, (although early age desexing has been endorsed by the Australian Veterinarians Association) therefore to address this, Council offers a refund if desexed before 6 months</li> </ul>
Submitter 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A fairly balanced approach on an "touchy" subject for some</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
Submitter 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This draft policy is clearly leading onto 24 hour cat curfews, as before. Most of us are responsible owners and lock our cats in overnight. It would disappoint me if the council tries to bring in again a 24 hour curfew as it tried a few years ago.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's position is to keep the current curfew and work within actions 8,10, 16 and 17.</li> </ul>
Submitter 55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grounded Paws Animal Rescue notes that Nillumbik's Domestic Animal Management Plan is being reviewed. We wish to make a submission by expressing our interest in assisting Nillumbik in rehoming cats and kittens We are a small scale, not for profit community foster care rescue group dedicated to helping animals in need and finding them forever homes. We have arrangements with other councils ('section 84Y's') to do this and are willing to enter into similar arrangements with Nillumbik. We would be interested in discussing this further.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> </ul>
Submitter 56	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit for your consideration some recommendations specifically regarding s68A(2)(c)(iv) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 which requires Council to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats. I am co-Founder of Pound Reform Alliance Australia, former Vice President of Oscar's Law, and current President and Founder of Forever Friends Animal Rescue Inc., a volunteer-run animal welfare charity. I submit the following on behalf of our organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We believe one of the most effective way councils can reduce euthanasia numbers and increase adoptions of homeless animals is to cease using a funding model that rewards service providers for killing animals rather than rehoming them, and to set out clear requirements for your providers as part of the DAMP and in your tender specification. We recommend the following be included: That the service provider work with volunteer foster carers who can assist with care and socialisation of animals by having them live with a family while awaiting adoption. That the service provider not kill any animal where a community-based rescue group is willing to take the animal in order to provide medical and/or behavioural rehabilitation as required. That the service provider track the progress of each animal through the pound process, including the outcome for each animal, and provide documentation to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted</li> <li>Amend action 16 to include 'animal rescue groups'</li> <li>Action 16 to read '<i>Work with the Cat Protection Society and animal rescue groups to develop strategies to enhance awareness of high re-homing rates for cats and encourage residents to contain and surrender semi-owned / unowned cats</i>'</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<p>verify that all options were exhausted before euthanasing an animal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request: We ask that NSC investigates the statistics that have been provided more fully to determine if all cats are being included and if they are being calculated correctly and that the service provider issue monthly reports to the public to show the number of their community’s animals impounded, reclaimed, adopted, transferred to rescue groups and killed.</li> <li>• Request: We ask that CPS statistics be independently audited each year.</li> <li>• Request: We ask that the statistics from both Blue Cross and CPS are published each quarter, on Council’s website. This will ensure greater transparency, in line with Council’s values</li> <li>• To our knowledge, neither the Cat Protection Society nor Blue Cross currently engage with community foster care networks or use rescue groups to assist with saving lives of Nillumbik’s homeless companion animals</li> <li>• Request: That Council requires both CPS and BCAS to invite rescue organisations such as Forever Friends to provide rescue for Nillumbik’s unclaimed companion animals who are facing euthanasia. Rescue groups like Forever Friends are well-equipped and experienced in providing medical and behavioural rehabilitation and treatment for animals who would otherwise be euthanased in pounds and shelters for conditions from epilepsy to dog reactivity. Currently neither CPS and BCAS work with rescue organisations, and this is no longer acceptable when experienced and professional volunteers are ready and willing to assist Nillumbik’s homeless animals.</li> <li>• We recommend that you specify what is to be achieved, e.g. ‘No Nillumbik animal shall be killed where a community-based rescue group is willing to take that animal in order to provide medical and/or behavioural rehabilitation.’ (This initiative is now law in some states of the United States).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer actions 3 and 16</li> <li>• CPS statistics are independently audited and recorded in their annual report. Data is reconciled with Council records</li> <li>• Refer action 3</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Refer action 16</li> <li>• Council current rehuses any animal that can be rehoused in accordance with the Code of Practice</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request: Impounded lost and stray animal need be photographed and posted on a Facebook page or website, as done by numerous other councils, to assist with owner reunions</li> <li>• We believe there is an incompatibility between some of the activities you list such as Council officers undertaking cat trapping and providing cages to residents for trapping cats, and the requirement under DDA s68(A)(2)(c)(iv) to address high euthanasia rates. As you would know these activities contribute substantially to the numbers of cats entering the pound and, inevitably with your current service providers, higher euthanasia rates. This approach to managing feral and free-roaming cats is ineffective in the long-term and draws the community into a costly, endless cycle of killing. We recommend that Council investigate more humane ways of managing unwanted cats.</li> <li>• Community reference group The issue of homeless animals is a community problem and we believe, ultimately, the solution must be a community one. We recommend that Nillumbik establish a community reference group on domestic animal matters. This will ensure ongoing community consultation and representation in Council's decision-making processes in this area in keeping with the Local Government (Best Value Principles) Act 1999 s208B(d) "A Council must develop a program of regular consultation with its community in relation to the services it provides".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAU and Refer action 3</li> <li>• Refer actions 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> <li>• Refer action 16</li> </ul>
Submitter 57	<p>We are pleased to make a submission into Nillumbik's draft DAM plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three components of our submission Our principal interest in the DAMP is to:</li> <li>• Offer to assist Nillumbik's cat pound provider by rehoming cats when it is unable to.</li> <li>• Request that Nillumbik develop effective strategies to ensure that semi-owned cats are desexed and microchipped</li> <li>• Ask that Nillumbik develops a Facebook lost and found page, to help people find their cat should they go missing. We haven't been able to find such a page from a search</li> <li>• Rehoming cats - We are interested in helping Nillumbik and the Cat Protection Society, given that it is Melbourne-based.</li> <li>• We encourage Nillumbik to explore different strategies for helping cat semi-owners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer actions 3, 8, 10, 16 and 17</li> </ul>



Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<p>and their cats. Although Nillumbik may not consider it to have a stray cat problem, our experience (we live in the Dandenongs) is that there are likely to be stray cats out there and people who need help.</p>	
<p>Submitter 58</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We wish to express our strong interest in partnering with Nillumbik’s cat pound provider, the Cat Protection Society, and preventing the killing or long-term holding of cats at the shelter.</li> <li>• The number of cats impounded by Nillumbik would, according to the statistics detailed in the DAMP, appear to be low.</li> <li>• Nillumbik is well placed to kill very few cats. It can do this by requiring its pound provider to form rescue partnerships and make cats available to rescue groups.</li> <li>• We are willing and able to assist cats, including those who have illnesses and behavioural issues that may be beyond the time and financial commitment of a shelter.</li> <li>• Offering a rehoming arrangement. Anticipating it is a similar process to one which CPS would use, other than the ‘lifetime take back’ policy.</li> <li>• Section 1.2.2</li> <li>• Helping animals caught up in domestic violence</li> <li>• Recommendation We would suggest that Nillumbik develop a registry of people interested in providing short term care of animals who are at risk of domestic violence. We would suggest Nillumbik consults with family violence service providers to determine the average length of stay an animal would require and ensures people understand this.</li> <li>• Section 4.1</li> <li>• Recommendation From our experience, helping people get their semi-owned cats desexed is a core initiative that will reduce cat overpopulation and prevent a larger problem from developing. We would urge Nillumbik to assist people in accessing heavily subsidised desexing for such cats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted.</li> <li>• Refer action 16</li> <li>• Noted</li> <li>• Refer action 20 and 21</li> <li>• This has been considered in the past, however due to the extremely high levels of desexing compliance rates with dog and cat owners, and low euthanasia rates, there would be no community benefit.</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 8.1.1</li> <li>• Recommendation 1: If Nillumbik does not yet operate a lost and found Facebook page, we ask that it commences. It will increase the reclaim of cats and also provides a means through which Nillumbik can convey its message of responsible pet ownership.</li> <li>• Recommendation 2: Allow interested vet clinics to return microchipped cats to their families directly, rather than sending them to the Cat Protection Society for holding. Nillumbik can then follow should the cat not be registered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer action 3</li>   <li>• BAU</li> </ul>
Submitter 59	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission - Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Nillumbik's draft DAMP for 2017-2021. The draft document is comprehensive and I will only comment on some sections of it.</li> <li>• Page 6, s 2 - Can Nillumbik please advise which benchmarked councils it consulted with?</li> <li>• P10, s 8.1.1 - Recommendation 1: I ask that NSC publishes details of all impounded animals, whether they have been impounded at Nillumbik's dog pound, or at CPS, or passed on to Blue Cross, on a Facebook page which it manages. This needs to include cats who are deemed to be 'feral' or 'unable to handle' as well as those who are ill, given that cats behave quite differently in shelter environments than in their home environment.</li> <li>• P11, s 8.1.2 - Recommendation 2: Authorise vet clinics to return animals to their families if the animal is microchipped to them; allow NSC to arrange registration afterwards. The most important thing is keeping the animal out of the pound or CPS. Traditionally, pounds and shelters are the most dangerous place for an animal to be. Cat reclaims, in particular, are very low.</li> <li>• S 8.3.2 - I support the use of contract animal behaviourists to address barking dogs. Living next to a constantly barking dog is no fun. I suspect that, often times, the dog's person isn't aware how distressed they are when left on their own. Any initiative that will help more dogs stay in their home, and not be surrendered, is very welcome.</li> <li>• P16 s 8.6 - Recommendation: I ask that CPS's statistics are analysed more thoroughly, preferably by an independent authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted</li>   <li>• Page 12 – footnote 18</li>   <li>• Refer action 3</li>   <li>• BAU</li>   <li>• Noted</li>   <li>• CPS statistics are independently audited and recorded in their annual</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is interesting that 94 of 106 impounded cats were either returned to their family or rehomed.</li> <li>• P16, s 8.6.2 –</li> <li>• Recommendation 1: Cease promoting the Who’s for Cats campaign. The Who’s for Cats campaign has not succeeded in its aim. Also, investigate funding models and support schemes to that people who semi-own a cat can easily access low cost desexing to stop the flow of kittens into the CPS and avoid kittens being given away ‘free to good home’, undesexed, thereby exacerbating the problem</li> <li>• Support: I support NSC working with G2Z to help people better care for semi-owned cats.</li> <li>• P 19 s 8.9 - Request: It would be helpful if NSC was to seek expressions of interest from residents who are interested in providing short term care to animals of people fleeing domestic violence and link with domestic violence agencies.</li> <li>• I am aware that some shelters can provide low cost short term accommodation.</li> <li>• Request: I ask that CPS statistics be independently audited each year.</li>   <li>• Request: I ask that the statistics from CPS are published each quarter, on NSC’s website.</li> <li>• Request: I ask that NSC investigates the statistics that have been provided more fully to determine if all cats are being included and if the statistics are being calculated correctly. Not made available for adoption, and why.</li>   <li>• Request: I ask that the statistics from Blue Cross are published each quarter, on NSC’s website. This will ensure greater transparency, in line with NSC’s values.</li> <li>• Request: I ask that Nillumbik requires CPS and Blue Cross to make any dog or cat who they intend to kill, or otherwise not make available for adoption, available to interested rescue groups.</li> </ul>	<p>report. Data is reconciled with Council records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer actions 16 and 17</li>   <li>• Noted</li>   <li>• Refer actions 20 and 21</li>   <li>• CPS statistics are independently audited and recorded in their annual report. Data is reconciled with Council records</li> <li>• Refer action 3</li>   <li>• CPS statistics are independently audited and recorded in their annual report. Data is reconciled with Council records</li> <li>• Refer action 3</li>   <li>• Refer action 16</li> </ul>

Submitter	Submission details – points raised	Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coalition of rescue groups willing to help the rescue groups listed below are interested in working with Nillumbik to care for and rehome any cat or dog who the CPS or Blue Cross intends to kill or not make available for adoption.</li> <li>• Cheltenham Cat Rescue (cats)</li> <li>• Maneki Neko Cat Rescue (cats)</li> <li>• Forever Friends Animal Rescue (dogs, cats, farmed animals)</li> <li>• The Cat Corner (cats)</li> <li>• Grounded Paws Animal Rescue (cats)</li> <li>• Pound reclaim fees</li> <li>• One barrier to returning animals to their families is the large reclaim fees. Recommendation: If an animal has a loving home already, and is wanted, and the reclaim fee is the only barrier to their return, I ask that Nillumbik allow payment plans to avoid the animal being surrendered.</li> <li>• Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment on this important document.</li> <li>• I look forward to working with Nillumbik to improve the care we give to our very important companion animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer action 16</li>   <li>• Council statistics indicate that pound release fees are not a contributing factor to surrender rates within Nillumbik.</li>   <li>• Noted</li> </ul>