



Animal Management Approved Systematic Inspection Program 2023/2024

1.0 Inspection Program

1.1 Program Name

The inspection program will be known as the Animal Management Systematic Inspection Program 2023-2024, hereon referred to as 'the Program'.

1.2 Purpose and General Intent of the Program

Community safety and responsible pet ownership within our communities are priority items for Longreach Regional Council. To assist in achieving these important objectives, Council aims to educate pet owners on their responsibilities, and ensure compliance with the requirements for owning cats and dogs. The Longreach Regional Council has not undertaken an Approved Inspection Program for animal-related matters in many years.

With Council's data showing that animal-related issues are on the rise, Council is taking proactive action to ensure community safety and peaceful enjoyment of the communities in which we all live, by undertaking an Approved Systematic Inspection Program. The Program will focus on key animal-related issues, including:

- registration of dogs,
- microchipping of cats and dogs,
- the keeping of excess animals,
- the keeping of prohibited animals, and
- ensuring compliance with the minimum standards for keeping animals.

The key objectives of the Program are to:

- Achieve increased compliance with the State law surrounding the registration of dogs, and the microchipping of cats and dogs;
- Achieve increased compliance with Council's Local Law relating to animal management, surrounding the keeping of excess or prohibited animals, and compliance with the minimum standards for keeping animals;
- Assist in the collection of statistical data to provide an accurate record of the number and type of animals in the Region;
- Obtain updated contact details for animal owners, ensuring that Council maintains an accurate and up-to-date contact record;
- Promote responsible pet ownership, and educate pet owners on their responsibilities;
- Reduce the resources expended by Council for holding impounded animals for extended periods of time, by ensuring that animals are identifiable and able to be reunited with their owners quickly;
- Determine the accuracy of Council's dog registration records;
- Obtain new dog registrations; and
- Follow up on overdue dog registrations.

1.3 Legislative Requirements

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* provides for the identification of cats and dogs, the registration of dogs, and promotes the responsible ownership of cats and dogs.



The purpose of *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* (the Local Law) made under authority of the *Local Government Act 2009* is to regulate and manage the keeping and control of animals in the local government's area.

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* impose an obligation on each person to register their dog with the local government.

2.0 Authorised Persons

2.1 Powers of Authorised Persons

Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 113 of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* provide the power for Local Governments to conduct Approved Inspections Programs. Programs can either be Selective (specific to certain areas or suburbs) or Systematic (the entire Local Government area).

The *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that Authorised Persons appointed under both Acts may, at reasonable times, enter a place situated in an area to which a systematic inspection program applies, to take any action authorised by the program. It is usual procedure for Authorised Persons to enter private property to gain access to the front door of the dwelling, and yards and open areas within the property boundaries (not inside homes or structures). Inspections under this Program will primarily be undertaken by external Contractors to minimise interruption to usual service provision from permanent employees.

2.1 Authorised Persons Identification and Training

There will be two Authorised Persons present at each inspection. They will travel in Council vehicles. Authorised Persons will display their Authorised Persons Identification Card, which is available to inspect on request. Authorised Persons will be wearing and utilising body worn cameras during all inspections. Authorised Persons will participate in a refresher course relating to approved inspection programs and entry powers, as well as the requirements under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*.

3.0 Particulars of the Program

3.1 Commencement and Duration

Monday 6 November 2023 to Sunday 5 May 2024 – *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* requirements (**registration and microchipping**)

Monday 6 November 2023 to Monday 5 February 2024 – *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* requirements (**excess/prohibited animals, minimum standards**).

3.2 Inspection Times

Inspections will occur between 8:00am and 4:00pm, business days only.

3.3 Access to the Program

The Systematic Inspection Program will be available on Council's webpage and available for inspection at any Longreach Regional Council public offices at no cost.

3.4 Area affected by the Program

The program will apply to all residential properties within the designated town areas of the Longreach Regional Council, including Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka townships.



4.0 Authorisation of Systematic Inspection Program

On 14 September 2023, Longreach Regional Council resolved:

(Res-2023-09-239)

Moved Cr Nunn seconded Cr Smith

That Council:

1. Pursuant to Section 113 of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008, approves a systematic inspection program of all properties within the town boundaries of Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford, and Yaraka

- a. to be carried out from 6 November 2023 to 5 May 2024*
- b. for the primary purpose of achieving compliance with the registration and microchipping requirements of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008; and,*

2. Pursuant to Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2009 approves a systematic inspection program of all properties within the town boundaries of Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford, and Yaraka

- a. to be carried out from 6 November 2023 to 5 February 2024*
- b. for the primary purpose of monitoring the keeping of animals under Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011 and Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011, including the keeping of excess or prohibited animals, and monitoring compliance with minimum standards.*

CARRIED 7/0

For more information:

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