
October 2012
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The District Council of Mallala currently has a registered dog population of 4672; this figure fluctuates annually as demonstrated in the dog registration figures on page 17. Council impounds an average of 105 dogs annually with approximately 47% of this total returned to their owners. Council staff investigates dog attacks, noise nuisances and promote and enforce dog registration compliance throughout the district.

This Animal Management Plan is prepared in response to the requirements of Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. Section 26A of the Act requires that, the plan must allocate parks to be designated for dogs ‘on leash’ and ‘off leash’ areas where they can be exercised under effective control. This Plan must cover a 5 year period and should be presented to the Dog and Cat Management Board by February 2012 for approval to meet the statutory deadline of 1 July 2012.

The plan has been developed by interested members of the community with the formation of a Section 41 Committee called the Animal Management Plan Advisory Committee. The Plan also addresses problems that are common throughout the District Council of Mallala.

The Animal Management Plan identifies strategies and actions to implement the mission, aims and objectives for the management of dogs, cats and other animals. This plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council.

There is now considerable evidence to support the benefits of owning pets. This implies a potentially new role for Council in harnessing the benefits of pet ownership or at least maintaining the ability of the community to continue to own dogs and cats. This plan will provide Council with a sound basis and direction from which it can co-ordinate and make future decisions to meet the needs of the community over the next five years.

In view of the rural setting of the Council district the plan has been extended to include not only dogs and cats but other rural animals and poultry.

1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL AREA

The District Council of Mallala is situated 60 kilometres north-northeast of Adelaide, within the northern Adelaide plains. Its western boundary is the coastline of the St Vincent Gulf. The northern boundary abuts the Wakefield Regional Council and to the east is the Light Regional Council. The Gawler River is situated to the south of the Council area and serves as a boundary, separating the District Council of Mallala from the City of Playford.

The topography of the area is mainly flat becoming slightly undulated toward the eastern boundary with several areas of uncleared natural scrub, scattered
throughout the area. The southern half of the Council area is prone to flooding and under normal conditions the risk of bushfire is moderate.

The District includes several townships that are surrounded by rural areas. The main townships in the Council area are Two Wells, Dublin and Mallala.

Residential settlements within the area are Lewiston, Redbanks, Lower Light and Fischer, whilst the main coastal settlements consist of Parham, Thompson Beach, Webb Beach and Middle Beach.

East of the Two Wells township in Lewiston there is a unique Rural Living and Animal Husbandry Zone. Many dog breeding kennels are situated within this area. Redbanks is another township where larger numbers of dogs are kept for breeding purposes.

1.3. STRATEGIC OUTLINE

Council’s management of animal issues has an impact on the health, well being and lives of the whole community and the welfare of animals kept within the Council area. This Plan is therefore designed for everyone in the District Council of Mallala, from owners of a dog or a cat, to those who keep other animals as pets and for those in the community that keep animals in larger numbers for animal husbandry purposes.

Council’s Strategic Management Plan acknowledges the unique animal husbandry keeping area, and strives to further facilitate low scale animal keeping and/or animal breeding in the appropriate areas.

1.4. MISSION STATEMENT (District Council of Mallala)

To recognise and promote the value of animals as part of the community. To encourage and facilitate responsible pet ownership and environmental responsibilities whilst maximizing public safety.

2. AIMS

1. Encourage and promote responsible animal ownership.
2. Ensure public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats and other animals
3. Improve public safety in regard to stray stock and other animals
4. Promote the unique locality of the animal husbandry area throughout the District whilst also recognising and respecting other community members.
5. Ensure the expenditure of registration fees are used in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and the objectives of this plan.
6. Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by animals as to protect native fauna and flora.
7. Promote the effective management of animals in our Council district
8. Encourage the enjoyment and benefits from animals by people.
3. OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act are carried out effectively.
2. Enforce identification and registration of dogs to enable the reunion of lost pets with their owners and control of all disowned animals.
3. Maintain adequate facilities and arrangements for the temporary protection of lost or disowned animals.
4. Promote the de-sexing of dogs and cats through incentive schemes.
5. Provide appropriate off-leash areas for the running exercise of dogs and identify, develop and promote other reserve areas for dog facilities as the need arises.
6. Formulate educational and reward programs that promote responsible dog, cat and animal ownership and recognise examples of good management.
7. Support community, local dog obedience clubs and other community recognised animal training programs.
8. Increase public safety through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by animals including dogs and cats.
9. Provide effective animal management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats and other animals within the community.
10. Identify other animal management issues.

4. THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The District Council of Mallala has a legal responsibility under the following:

- Dog and Cat Management Act 1995;
- Impounding Act 1920;
- Local By-Laws; and

The responsibilities for dog and cat management in South Australia are prescribed in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Under the Act, councils are required to administer and enforce the provisions relating to dogs within their area. Responsibilities associated with the Act include the appointment of a Registrar, maintenance of a Dog Register and the appointment of a Dog Management Officer to manage Council’s obligations under the Act.
The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce the public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats, and
- To promote the effective management of dogs and cats including through the encouragement of de-sexing and microchipping of dogs and cats.

The Act also provides for the appointment of the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board), which has responsibilities to plan, promote, and advise on effective management of dogs and cats in the State. The Board also monitors Councils management of responsibilities, issues guidelines for Councils to advise and assist them to undertake their responsibilities.

The Board also has a role to provide advice to the Minister, keep the Act under review and undertake research into companion animal management. Furthermore, the Board works to provide education programs for Dog Management Officers and community awareness information.

The Board provides general guidelines to Councils in the areas of dog attack investigation and barking complaints. Councils are able to make By-laws relating to the management of dogs within its area.

The *Local Government Act 1999* has a Section on Order Making that may be applied and assist in the area of dog and cat management and management of other animals.

These provisions provide the legal framework for Council to apply penalties to dog owners for non compliance. However, this Plan seeks to implement a balanced approach that will benefit the wider community.
5. ANIMAL STRATEGIES

5.1. PET OWNERSHIP

Successful pet ownership has both financial and time commitment considerations. It is important that people contemplating pet ownership should choose an appropriate pet for their particular home and family circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| That people contemplating dog and/or other animals be encouraged to consider the factors affecting the suitability of successful pet ownership. | 1. Inform people of the online information regarding breeds and assistance in pet selection from Council Web Site [www.mallala.sa.gov.au](http://www.mallala.sa.gov.au) by links provided in the Animal Management Section.  
2. Encourage people to obtain dogs and other/or animals from recognised bodies.  
3. Encourage new pet owner to consider training for their pet.  
4. Promote responsible ownership through permanent identification of dogs (Micro chipping)  
5. Provide information and educational kits to prospective and new dog owners | We anticipate that this strategy will encourage pet owners to choose a pet that suits their situation and be more aware of the pet needs. Hopefully this will contribute to a reduction of:  
• Dogs wandering at large by 1%  
• Dog attacks and dog harass by 1%  
• Stock wandering to neighbours and on roadsides by 1%  
and increase:  
• Return to owners for impounded dogs by 1%  
• Dog registrations by 1%.  
This can be measured by Council's yearly statistics. | Ongoing |
| Consideration of a suitable animal for their particular circumstances and consideration of the environment that the pet will be kept in will be especially important. |  |  | October 2012. |
### 5.2. DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Act requires that a dog can be in a public place providing that it is under the effective control of a person by means of a physical restraint ie. dog leash (not more than 2 metres in length). Dogs can be in a park or designated open space provided that they are under effective control by command of that person who is in close proximity of the dog, and the person is able to see the dog at all times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| To provide safe public areas for the exercise of dogs and other animals within the Council area. | 1. Council continues to monitor the needs of the community to identify suitable areas to be utilized as off leash, on leash and dog prohibited areas to be able to provide the community with suitable areas to walk their dogs.  
2. Provide signs to identify these areas  
3. Provide adequate dog faeces and other rubbish disposal facilities in areas where needed. | We anticipate that this strategy will also contribute to the reduction of:  
• Dogs wandering at large by 1%  
• Dog attacks and Dog harass by 1%  
This can be measured by Council’s yearly statistics.  
Extra signage, bags and receptacles be erected in identified problem areas within 12 months which will assist in keeping exercise areas and public areas clean. | Ongoing  
As needed  
July 2013 |
5.3. **DOGS WANDERING AT LARGE**

A dog is deemed to be “wandering at large” when it is in a public place, not under effective control of a person. The owner or the person responsible for the dog wandering has committed an offence.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| To minimise the number of dogs wandering at large within the Council area. | 1. Dog owners are made aware of their responsibilities to ensure their dog is contained within the property and to keep their dog under effective control when in a public place.  
2. Conduct random patrols in all public areas and detain dogs found wandering at large.  
3. Council Officers respond to reports of dogs wandering at large and take the necessary action.  
4. Publicise the impact and consequences that wandering dogs have on environment in Council Newsletter. | Endeavour to publish two articles annually regarding responsibilities of dog ownership, one information pamphlet to be sent out with rate notices and an article be placed in local papers such as Echo, Dublin Dispatch.  
Problem areas identified and monitored  
We anticipate that these strategies will contribute towards reducing:  
• Dogs wandering at large by at least 1%.  
• Dog attack/harass by 1% | Ongoing  
Annually |
5.4. BARKING DOGS

Barking complaints are difficult to resolve and depend largely on the co-operation of the dog owner and the complainant. Dog barking complaints are investigated by Council Inspectors and the collection of evidence requires the full co-operation of the complainant, dog owner and any witnesses. Noise complaints lodged about Kennels involving a number of dogs requires a specific procedure to be implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| To reduce the incidence of excessive barking concerns and complaints within the Council area. | 1. That Council continues to improve procedures for the investigation of noise nuisance complaints.  
2. That Council continues to investigate the availability of recording devices, particularly for the kennel situations.  
3. Provide education to the community about the problems of dogs being left alone and other issues that could contribute to the development of barking issues.  
4. Encourage an informal approach between the complainant and the nuisance dog owner in the initial period in an effort to resolve the issue before Council involvement.  
5. That Council continue to be mindful of the possibility of concerns or complaints for properties to have a number of dogs. | To provide more efficient investigation of noise nuisance complaints.  
Provide better evidence of noise nuisance.  
Continue to communicate with Building and Planning Dept.  
We anticipate that these strategies will reduce:  
• The time spent on investigating barking complaints by 5%  
• Reduce barking complaints by 2%.  
• Increase the number of noise complaints that can be resolved before any legal action by 2%.  
This can also be measured by Council yearly stats. | Ongoing  
Ongoing  
October 2012  
Ongoing |
5.5. IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

Under provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, it is an offence for Council to use funds generated by dog control activities including dog registrations for any other purpose than dog management. The purpose for dog registration includes:

- To fund dog management activities and administration, this includes the collection of registration fees;
- To fund dog management projects to improve amenities;
- To allow lost dogs to be reunited with their owners;

To provide proof of ownership and to assist an authorised officer in identifying the dog.

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<tr>
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</table>
| To ensure that all dogs within the Council area are registered in accordance with the legislation. | 1. Promote responsible dog ownership and the benefits and obligation for the need to register dogs.  
2. Continue management and enforcement of dog registration through follow up of dogs not re-registered and perform door knocks as time is available.  
3. Promote the benefits and legal requirements of adequate identification and encourage the need for multiple identification, in addition to Council registration discs e.g., microchipping or individual name tags.  
4. Investigate the undertaking of a microchip day.  
5. Publicise statistics of the numbers of dogs impounded and the number of dogs reunited with their owners. | Reduce the percentage of unregistered dogs within the Council area by 1%.  
Continue to monitor the levels of dog registration via the Council database.  
Increase in dogs reunited with owners/ reduction in unidentified dogs by 1%.  
Data publicised in Council newsletter and council Website. | Ongoing  
            |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Annually     |
|                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Ongoing      |
|                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | August 2013  |
|                                                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      | Annually     |
5.6. FAECES MANAGEMENT

Dog owners when in public areas are legally required to collect and dispose of their dog's faeces for health, environmental and amenity reasons. Education and the development of strategies are an important part of long term faeces management in the District Council of Mallala.

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</table>
| Ensure public footpaths and all public areas are kept free of dog faeces. | 1. Promote responsible dog ownership by increasing awareness of the penalties associated with failing to remove dog faeces in a public places by Council newsletter and other media.  
2. Provide dog faeces disposal bins and access to disposable bags within the townships and public parks and encourage dog owners to utilise them.  
3. Explore options for the disposal of dog faeces for the benefit of approved dog kennels - i.e. www.eco-organics.com.au/shift.htm | Extra signage, bags and receptacles be erected in identified problem areas within 12 months which will assist in keeping exercise areas and public areas clean.  
We anticipate that the strategies will hopefully reduce the incidents of complaint by 1% | July 2013 Ongoing |
5.7. COUNCIL PROVISION FOR THE WELFARE AND SHELTER OF IMPOUNDED DOGS

Council is required to operate a dog handling facility in accordance with the “code of conduct for pounds and shelters” as set down by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

The District Council of Mallala’s dog handling facility is currently of a high standard. It is essential that Council guarantee all impounded dogs have a clean and safe facility.

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
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</table>
| Continue to maintain the Council pound to a high standard for the welfare and safety of all impounded dogs. | 1. Council continues to provide for the welfare and shelter for dogs and conducts regular reviews of pounds for compliance.  
2. Impounded dog information be placed on Council website.  
3. That Council ensures impounded dogs are returned to their owners as soon as practical. | To continue to provide a safe and secure environment for dogs that have been impounded.  
To reduce the stress on the dog by minimising the time spent in the pound  
Increase the no of dogs returned to owners by 1%. | Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing |
5.8. DOMESTIC CAT MANAGEMENT

The District Council of Mallala recognises that community education is the key to effective long term cat control. Council currently loans out humane cat traps and gives residents advice in accordance with the Dog and Cat management Act.

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<th>Time Frame</th>
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</table>
| To increase awareness of benefits of cat management and reduce nuisances to residents and the environment. | 1. Promote responsible cat ownership in the community.  
2. Encourage owners to ensure their cats are immunized and Microchipped. We also have education material available with information on how to keep cats healthy and provided with adequate food and shelter.  
3. Encourage owners to desex their cats by six months of age.  
4. Encourage owners to be responsible for their cat's behaviour and take positive timely action to avoid nuisance to neighbours and damage to the environment.  
5. Take note of and investigate any complaints relating to colony cats that could be operating in the Council area.  
6. Investigate the possibility using CATS Inc for practical assistance with colony cat problems.  
7. Continue the practice of making traps available to residents to capture nuisance cats.  
8. Council to be kept informed of any changes in cat legislation. | Endeavour to distribute education material twice yearly.  
We anticipate this will reduce cat complaints by 1%. | Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
As needed  
Ongoing  
As needed  
Ongoing |
5.9. EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Education in the Animal Control area has many facets. It includes education of pet owners as well as training of pets (usually dogs). Another focus receiving attention is educating people about how to behave around dogs.

Different programs cater for different needs; and Council will target its education activities based on careful assessment of the needs of the whole community and avoiding duplication of the education activities offered by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

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<th>Time Frame</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Distribute Council developed and the Dog and Cat Management PR material as efficiently as possible. | 1. Educate the community on the responsibilities of pet ownership:  
   a. Mail out renewal notices to all registered dog owners in early July. Included with that notice, information on the responsibilities of pet ownership.  
   b. Advertise dog registration requirements in the local media and in Council’s newsletter.  
   c. Provide contact details of specialized dog trainers in the area.  
   d. Encourage dog obedience schools to promote information to the media of dog obedience classes in the community.  
   e. Organize community micro chipping day.  
   2. Provide information to the media on the factors of successful pet ownership and any other animal matters of interest. | To be included in dog information and education kit.  
Increase in dogs registered by at least 1%  
Increase in number of owners applying for trained dog rebates by 1%.  
Increase in number of owners applying for micro chipped dog rebates by 1%. | Ongoing  
August 2013 |
5.10. ENFORCEMENT

The Dog and Cat Management Act requires Councils to enforce the provisions of the Act in its Council area. The District Council of Mallala encourages people to accept their responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.

To ensure provisions of the Act are complied with, the community requires public places to be monitored and the availability of a Dog Management Officer to respond to concerns and serious breaches of the Act. It is Council’s responsibility to make arrangements for efficient and effective services.

Council has found from past practice that these services are best provided by Council employees, who can represent all facets of Council’s Animal Management Policies and at the same time supplement other compliance responsibilities of Council.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Minimise dog and animal concerns and complaints | 1. Council is required to enforce the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act in its Council Area.  
  a. Council is required to maintain the appropriate standard of Registrar duties and ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for the enforcement of its legislative responsibilities.  
  b. Council will maintain a Dog Register, which is current and represents the known ownership and dog details of all dogs in the community.  
  c. Council will endeavor to monitor all public places for compliance with the provisions of the Act.  
  d. Council will respond to calls and complaints from members of the public regarding possible non compliance with the provisions of the Act.  
  2. Dog Management Officers will be required to enforce the provisions of the Act in a manner which can be openly viewed as a “progression of justice”. | We anticipate that these strategies will contribute to:  
  • Increase number of dogs registered by 1%  
  • Reduce the number of dogs caught wandering at large by 1%  
  • Reduce the number of attack/harass complaints by 1%.  
  • Reduce total number of dogs impounded by 1%. | Annually  
  Ongoing  
  Ongoing  
  As needed  
  Ongoing |
5.11. STRAY STOCK

Council currently works in conjunction with the Police on any stray stock incidents that are reported or observed. Stray stock incidents are investigated to determine a suitable course of action, dependent on the circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Proposed Strategy</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Promote suitable and secure fencing for all farm animals to ensure that stock remain on the owners property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1. Investigate stray stock incidents, Liaise with the Police if necessary and utilise the Impounding Act 1920. Use of Council’s Order Making Policy where suitable.  
2. Obtain fact sheets on suitable fencing from PIRSA and develop a farm package for distribution as required.  
3. Promote best Practice horse keeping guidelines.  
5. Promotion of recreational horse facilities throughout the district in conjunction with Horses SA. | Farm package developed  
Include guidelines in farm package.  
We anticipate that these strategise will reduce stock wandering to neighbours and on roadsides by 1%.  
Link to Horse SA website from Council website. | As needed  
October 2013  
Ongoing  
October 2013  
December 2013 |
### 6. STATISTICS ON DOG MANAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Total Registered Income</th>
<th>Expiations</th>
<th>Dog Registration Numbers</th>
<th>Business Registration Numbers</th>
<th>Business Registration Income</th>
<th>Dogs Impounded</th>
<th>Dogs Returned To Owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>$53,472</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$12,865</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>$51,260</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4,585</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>$14,860</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>$52,785</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4,801</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>$16,080</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>$57,587</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>4,675</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>$17,797</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>$90,414</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4,542</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>$26,500</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$88,827</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4,395</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>$97,599</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4776</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>$101,398</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5005</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>$29,750</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>$98,304</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4722</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>$28,500</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$89,420</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4457</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>$26,750</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>$104,738.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4672</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>$32,580</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please Note:**

The total ‘Dog Registration Numbers’ include Business Registrations, calculated using an average of 15 dogs per registered business.
7. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

This Plan will be reviewed throughout the next five (5) years by management, together with the Dog Management Officer and the Animal Management Plan Advisory Committee to ensure that the objectives are being met.

8. EPILOGUE

The proposed strategies in this Plan have been developed for the District Council of Mallala. Council would like to recognise the efforts of the Animal Management Plan Advisory Committee members that contributed to this Plan.

Cr Karen McColl (Chairperson), Cr Tom Summerton, Cr Terry Keen, Cr Anne Picard, Sandra Foote, Dr John Katakasi, Mr John Newton, Mr John Spoolder, Mr Brett Hawkesworth, Mr Rudi Fabrici.