

## **Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Hearings Panel MINUTES**

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**Date:** Wednesday 12 March 2025  
**Time:** 9.31 am  
**Venue:** Council Chambers, Level 2, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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**Present**

Chairperson	Councillor Victoria Henstock
Members	Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
	Councillor Kelly Barber
	Councillor Tyrone Fields
	Councillor Aaron Keown

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The agenda was dealt with in the following order.

## 1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

### Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00001

That the apologies from Deputy Mayor Cotter and Councillor Keown for partial absence be accepted.

Deputy Mayor/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

## 2. Election of Chairperson Te Whakatū Poumua

### Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00002

It was decided that Councillor Henstock be appointed Chairperson of the Hearings Panel.

Deputy Mayor/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

## 3. Declarations of Interest Ngā Whakapuaki Aronga

Deputy Mayor Cotter and Councillors Henstock and Keown requested that it be recorded they are dog owners.

Deputy Mayor Cotter left the meeting at 9.59 am and returned at 10.01 am during consideration of Item 4.

## 4. Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Summary and analysis of submissions

Council Officers Teena Crocker, Senior Policy Analyst, Lionel Bridger, Manager Animal Services, and Krystle Anderson, Senior Engagement Advisor, joined the table to present the Officers report.

Following presentation of the Officers report, Items 4, 5, and 6 were block resolved by the Hearings Panel.

### Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00003

#### Officer Recommendations accepted without change

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the information in the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Summary and analysis of submissions Report.

Councillor Keown/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

#### Attachments

- A Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Staff presentation to Hearings Panel 

## **5. Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Staff advice to support deliberations**

**Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00004**

### **Officer Recommendations accepted without change**

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the information in the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Staff advice to support deliberations Report.
2. Considers the matters raised in submissions and the advice provided in the attachments to this report and directs staff on how it wishes to proceed.

Councillor Keown/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

## **6. Volumes of Submissions**

**Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00005**

### **Officer Recommendations accepted without change**

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Accepts the written submissions, including any late submissions, received on the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Councillor Keown/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

### **The meeting adjourned at 10.00 am and reconvened at 10.05 am.**

Councillor Keown left the meeting at 10.30 am during consideration of Item 7.

Deputy Mayor Cotter left the meeting at 10.42 am and returned at 10.48 am during consideration of Item 7.

### **The meeting adjourned at 10.58 am and reconvened at 11.23 am.**

Councillor Keown returned to the meeting at 12.30 pm during consideration of Item 7.

Councillor Barber left the meeting at 12.32 pm and returned at 12.35pm during consideration of Item 7.

### **The meeting adjourned at 12.38 pm and reconvened at 1.31 pm.**

### **The meeting adjourned at 2.43 pm and reconvened at 3.05 pm.**

Councillor Barber left the meeting at 3.22 pm and returned at 3.27 pm during consideration of item 7.

**The meeting adjourned at 3.59 pm until 9.30 am on Thursday 13 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

## 7. Hearing of Verbal Submissions Ngā Tāpaetanga – 12 March 2025

The following submitters spoke to the Hearings Panel on 12 March 2025.

**Paul McMahon** (Chair) for Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board (submission number 30716)

**Marie Pollisco** (Chair) and **Helen Broughton** (Deputy Chair) for Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board (submission number 30969)

**Emma Norrish** (Chair) for Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board (submission number 30706)

**Annie Jones** (submission number 30972)

**David Benson** (submission number 31287)

**Cathy Lum-Webb** for Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board (submission number 30948)

**Nicki Jacobs** (submission number 30872)

**Margaret, Anthony** and **Kate McGowan** (submission number 29768)

**Jackie Howard** and **Selena Coombe** for The Styx Living Laboratory Trust (submission number 30977)

**Ana Kickhefer** (submission number 29363)

**Susan Kirkwood** (submission number 30825)

**Maria Cavanagh** (submission number 30698)

**Karolin Potter** and **Sonya Hodder** for the Spreydon Neighbourhood Network (submission number 30984)

**Anne Dingwall** (submission number 31254)

**Dr Alison Vaughan** for SPCA New Zealand by audio-visual link (submission number 31101)

**Sara Douglas** for Waggytails on Whitfield by audio-visual link (submission number 30216)

**Darren Sandford** for Worcester Terraces Body Corporate (submission number 30696)

**Mary O'Connor** (submission number 31075)

**Shane Goodwin** (submission number 30627)

**Jo Fearn** (submission number 29101)

**Lisa Sturm** (submission number 31129)

**Jamie Small** (submission number 30857)

**Sheena Ross** (submission number 30345)

**Maria Adamski** (submission number 31046)

**Justin Ryan, Nicole Cusiel & Theresa Ka** for Head to Tail Limited (submission number 30963)

**Lisa Sturm** for Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (submission number 31144)

**David Palmer** (submission number 30236)

**Ashley Campbell** (submission number 30203)

**Pam Richardson** by audio-visual link (submission number 31119)

**Tanya Jenkins, Joe Davies and Nuk Korako** for Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust (submission number 30668)

**Tim Newman** (submission number 30053)

**Dennis Nuberg** (submission number 30908)

**Victoria Smith** by audio-visual link (submission number 29608)

**Anya Gartner** (submission number 29484)

**Bono F Beeler** for Speaking Dog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark (submission number 29226)

**Colleen Phillip and Ben Jassin** for Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch (submission number 31055)

### Attachments

- A Nicki Jacobs - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- B The Styx Living Laboratory Trust - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- C Spreydon Neighbourhood Network - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- D Anne Dingwall - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- E Mary O'Connor - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- F Jo Fearn - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- G Maria Adamski - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- H David Palmer - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- I Ashley Campbell - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 
- J Pam Richardson - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇨](#) 

**The meeting reconvened at 9.33 am on Thursday, 13 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10.42 am and reconvened at 10.59 am during consideration of item 7.**

**The meeting adjourned at 12.00 pm and reconvened at 12.25 pm during consideration of item 7.**

## 7. Hearing of Verbal Submissions Ngā Tāpaetanga – 13 March 2025

The following submitters spoke to the Hearings Panel on 13 March 2025.

**Amanda Bell** (submission number 31143)

**Kathleen Crisley** for Kathleen Crisley, Sandra Savinen, Tim Kershaw, Brilly Auriemma-Hallett and Evelien Baas (submission numbers 31111, 31108, 31106, 306337 and 30944)

**Ross McFarlane** (submission number 30991)

**Adriana Verstappen** (submission number 29881)

**Andy Ralf** (submission number 30752)

**Matthew Ross** (submission number 31083)

**Annebel de Kort** (submission number 30387)

**Anabella Rivas** on behalf of Anabella Rivas, Javier Pobeda, Otto Schuhmacher and Pablo Daverio (submission numbers 30905 & 31005)

**Linda Keall** (submission number 28866)

**Malcolm Long** for Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network (submission number 30950)


**Ange Nicol** (submission number 31016)

**Jan Kees Kirpensteijn** (submission number 31123)

**Jan McKay** (submission number 30995)

**Keir Leslie** (Deputy Chair) for Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board (submission number 31141)

### Attachments

- A Amanda Bell - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 
- B Kathleen Crisley, Sandra Savinen, Tim Kershaw, Brilly Auriemma-Hallett and Evelien Baas - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 
- C Ross McFarlane - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 
- D Andy Ralf - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 
- E Anabella Rivas, Javier Pobeda, Otto Schuhmacher and Pablo Daverio - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 
- F Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network - Presentation to Hearings Panel [⇒](#) 

**The meeting adjourned at 1.33 pm until 12.00 pm on Friday 14 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

**The meeting reconvened at 12.04 pm on Friday, 14 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

Councillor Barber left the meeting at 1.09pm and returned at 1.11pm during consideration of Item 8.

**The meeting adjourned at 1.29 pm and reconvened at 1.54 pm during consideration of Item 8.**

Councillor Barber left the meeting at 2.43 pm and returned at 2.45 pm during consideration of Item 8.

**The meeting adjourned at 3.17 pm and reconvened at 3.27 pm during consideration of Item 8.**

**The meeting adjourned at 3.32 pm until 11.00 am on Thursday 27 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

**The meeting reconvened at 11.01 am on Thursday, 27 March 2025 in Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**

Councillors Henstock and Keown were apologies. Deputy Mayor Cotter assumed the chair.

**The meeting adjourned at 11.04 am until 9.30 am on Friday 9 May 2025 in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street.**

**The meeting reconvened at 9.30 am on Friday 9 May 2025 in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street.**

Councillors Henstock and Keown were not present. Deputy Mayor Cotter assumed the chair.

**The meeting adjourned at 9.32 am until 1.00 pm on Thursday 5 June 2025 in the Council Chambers, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch.**



## **8. Consideration and Deliberation Ngā Whaiwhakaaro me Ngā Taukume o Ngā Kōrero**

The Hearings Panel considered and deliberated on the written and verbal submissions received and additional information provided by submitters and Council Officers.

The following Council Officers returned to the table to respond to questions raised by the Hearings Panel:

- Teena Crocker – Senior Policy Analyst
- Lionel Bridger – Manager Animal Services
- Krystle Anderson – Senior Engagement Advisor
- Andrew Campbell – Associate Legal Counsel
- Zane Lazare – Team Leader Residential Red Zone
- Paul Devlin – Manager Regional Parks
- Al Hardy – Manager Community Parks
- Andrew Crossland – Ecologist
- Robbie Hewson – Head Ranger Coastal and Plains

### **Attachments**

- A Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Staff deliberations presentation to Hearings Panel 
- B Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Parks Staff presentation to Hearings Panel 

**The meeting reconvened at 1.03pm on Thursday 5 June 2025 in Meeting Room 2.08, Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street.**

Councillor Keown joined the meeting at 1.12 pm during consideration of item 8.

Councillor Barber left the meeting at 2.18 pm and returned to the meeting at 2.20 pm during consideration of item 8.

Councillor Keown left the meeting at 2.20 pm and returned to the meeting at 2.25 pm during consideration of item 8.




## **8. Continued Consideration and Deliberation Ngā Whaiwhakaaro me Ngā Taukume o Ngā Kōrero**

The hearing was adjourned for a period while staff compiled advice requested by the Panel. The Panel were provided with 2 staff memos prior to the final meeting. The memos are attached below at A and B.

The following Council Officers returned to the table to respond to questions raised by the Hearings Panel:

- Teena Crocker – Senior Policy Analyst
- Lionel Bridger – Manager Animal Services
- Paul Devlin – Manager Regional Parks
- Dave Little – Manager Residential Red Zone
- Tracey Weston – Head of Regulatory Compliance
- Andrew Campbell – Associate Legal Counsel

### **Attachments**

- A Memo - Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Hearings Panel - advice requested by the Panel [⇒](#) 
- B Memo - Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Hearings Panel - marked-up policy and bylaw changes and draft recommendations [⇒](#) 
- C Presentation for Deliberations Thursday 5 June 2025 [⇒](#) 

**The meeting adjourned at 2.41 pm and reconvened at 3.23 pm during consideration of item 9.**



## 9. Hearings Panel Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu o Te Tira Tauaki

1. The Panel accepted the draft recommendations provided by staff (see Item 8, Attachment B *Memo - Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Hearings Panel - marked-up policy and bylaw changes and draft recommendations*)
2. The Panel agreed to include “other than former roads closed to motor vehicles” to recommendation 1.1.viii. regarding the dog control status of Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.
3. The Panel amended recommendation 5.a. from:
  - “that staff investigate increasing dog registration fees through the next annual plan process to better fund Animal Management services for the purposes of monitoring, education and enforcement” to:
  - “that staff review animal management services to ensure alignment with the revised policy and bylaw so that dog registration fees are adequate to respond to the new regulations (including compliance monitoring, education and enforcement activities) ahead of the next annual plan process”
4. The Panel amended recommendation 5.h. from:
  - “that staff investigate options for a dog park in the Central City” to:
  - “that staff investigate options for a dog park, dog exercise area or other fenced area where dogs can be exercised off leash in the Central City, to encourage and support inner-city living”
5. The Panel agreed to include recommendations 5i, 5j and 5k, to address matters raised by submitters regarding dog fouling, dog owner behaviour and education and limited dog exercise areas in Diamond Harbour.

### Hearings Panel Resolved BLHP/2025/00006

#### Part A

That the Council:

1. Approves the tracked changes version of the Dog Control Policy 2025 (**Attachment A**) including the following changes made as a result of submissions and staff advice:
  - a. Adding a date when the policy comes into force (3 November 2025);
  - b. Amending section 3.1.1 to align with the bylaw and make it clear that if a dog is unable to consistently and quickly respond to commands, it must be leashed in public places, whether a leash is required or not;
  - c. Adding an explanatory note to section 6.1.3, to note that the prohibition does not apply to organised Council events designed for dogs at Council swimming or paddling pools;
  - d. Amending the summary of general leashed areas in section 6.2 to reflect a title change;
  - e. Amending section 6.2.2 so that the title is “On all paths in greenspace areas” and replacing the text to align with the bylaw wording;
  - f. Amending 6.2.6 to explain that leashing on sports fields applies to the active playing area (and within five metres of it), but does not apply in other areas or at other times;

- g. Adding a new section (9.7) to provide advice on protecting dog paws during the heat;
- h. Adding an explanatory note to section 9.8 to enable the Animal Services Manager to waive certain requirements for approved events designed for dogs or the inclusion of dogs;
- i. Amending entries in Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Policy 2025 in the following ways:
  - i. Amending the dog control status of **HMNZS Steadfast (Lyttelton)** from “Leashed” to “Leashed/Under effective control” and amending the description in relation to required dog controls to require leashing only during events;
  - ii. Adding a dog control status and definition for **Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve (Governor’s Bay)** requiring that dogs are leashed in the eastern area to protect grazing stock;
  - iii. Amending the dog control status of **The Groynes** from “leashed” to “leashed/under effective control” and amending the description in relation to required dog controls to enable dogs unleashed access to the river and track alongside the dog park;
  - iv. Amending the description of Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park to **Kaputahi Confluence Conservation Park**;
  - v. Amending the comments of the description of **Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end and dog park)** to enable leashed dogs access on specified paths;
  - vi. Amending the dog control status of the **Styx Mill Conservation Reserve - west end** to allow dogs to be off leash on the open field area near the dog park;
  - vii. Amending the comment of the description of the **Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary** by including the words “roost” and “moult”;
  - viii. Amending the dog control status of the **Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor** from “prohibited / leashed / under effective control” to “leashed / under effective control”, and amending the comment to require leashing everywhere except in mown grass areas, other than former roads closed to motor vehicles and to add clarifications about former roads and access to the river from mown areas;
  - ix. Simplifying the entry title for the **Central City** and amending the comment of the description by deleting the proposed removal of the leashing requirement for Latimer Square and Rauora Park (to retain leashing), and excluding the Avon Loop from the Central City entry so that it is covered by the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor entry (meaning dogs may be under effective control in mown areas, but must be leashed elsewhere);
  - x. Amending the entry title of **Te Kuru Wetlands** by adding the words “including Milns, Eastman, Sutherlands and Hoon Hay basins”.
  - xi. Adding a new section to clarify that dogs are prohibited in specified reserves managed by the Council but not within the Council’s district.

2. Approves the tracked change version of the Dog Control Bylaw 2025 at **Attachment B**, including the following changes made as a result of submissions and staff advice:
  - a. Amending **clause 1** to specify the date the bylaw comes into force (3 November 2025);
  - b. Adding definitions to **clause 4** for “formed track”, “greenspace areas” and “path” to support the clause requiring leashing on paths in greenspace areas;
  - c. Adding an explanatory note after **clause 5(4)** to clarify that the maximum limit on the number of dogs a person can take into a public place also applies at dog parks and in dog exercise areas;
  - d. Adding an explanatory note after **clause 8(C)** so that the prohibition does not apply to organised Council events designed for dogs at Council swimming or paddling pools;
  - e. Amending the title of **clause 9(B)** to “All paths in greenspace areas”, and amending the clause to remove the reference to “short leash” and replace “footpaths, shared paths, and formed tracks” with “all paths” to simplify the clause;
  - f. Replacing the explanatory note to **clause 9(B)** to provide clarification about the application of the clause;
  - g. Amending **clause 9(F)** so that the requirement to leash dogs on sports fields applies only to the active playing area (and within five metres of it) while games or practice sessions are underway, and clarifying that dogs may be under effective control outside of the area and at other times;
3. Determines that the Dog Control Bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the issue of dog control, is the most appropriate form of bylaw and does not give rise to any New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 implications, pursuant to section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002.
4. Approves that staff are otherwise authorised to correct any typographical errors and to make minor changes to the policy and bylaw, including but not limited to updating policy numbers and ensuring consistency between the policy and bylaw.
5. Recommends that Council consider the following noting recommendations from the Hearings Panel:
  - a. That staff review animal management services to ensure alignment with the revised policy and bylaw so that dog registration fees are adequate to respond to the new regulations (including compliance monitoring, education and enforcement activities) ahead of the next annual plan process.
  - b. That staff update or install new signage to support the implementation of the replacement policy and bylaw;
  - c. That staff update and improve the online map that reflects the dog controls in schedule 1 of the Dog Control Policy so that it is up-to-date and clear;
  - d. That staff explore opportunities to encourage dog owners to undertake training for their dogs to better improve dog control in public places;
  - e. That information about the replacement Dog Control Policy and Bylaw and other helpful online information is sent to dog owners as part of the dog registration process;
  - f. That staff develop an online application for the dog limit exemption process;

- g. That staff explore whether there are any opportunities to install rubbish bins in key locations to support dog owners picking up after their dogs;
- h. That staff investigate options for a dog park, dog exercise area or other fenced area where dogs can be exercised off leash in the Central City, to encourage and support inner-city living;
- i. That staff investigate options for a dog exercise area in Diamond Harbour;
- j. That staff investigate implementing an innovative communications pilot programme (including signage) to support behaviour change and education for dog owners and;
- k. That staff investigate ways to improve education and owner responsibility around dog fouling.

Deputy Mayor/Councillor Barber

**Carried**

**Attachments**

A Draft Dog Control Policy 2025 

B Draft Dog Control Bylaw 2025 

**Meeting concluded on 5 June 2025 at 3.49 pm.**

**CONFIRMED THIS <Enter date as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc> DAY OF <Enter MONTH YYYY>**