

Shoalhaven City Council

Strategic Companion Animals Management Plan 2004-2007

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1 Shoalhaven Profile

Shoalhaven City Council covers an area of 4660 sq km (approximately 120 kilometres long by 80 kilometres wide). The current population estimate is 88,000 with a peak holiday population of 320,000. Shoalhaven has 49 towns and villages. Nowra / Bomaderry area is the main urban centre with approximately 30,000 people.

Much of the city (69%) is in public ownership (Crown Land - 10%, State Forest - 11%, National Park - 48%). These are sensitive environments and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has indicated that, given the wide diversity of habitats, the Shoalhaven has the potential for more threatened species than any other NSW local government area.

Traditional industries of dairy, timber and fishing are giving way to the growth industries of tourism, building and service sectors.

2 Glossary of Terms

CA	Companion Animal/s
CAR	NSW Companion Animals Register
CAA	NSW Companion Animals Act 1998
CAAP	Companion Animals Advisory Panel
CAAN	Companion Animals Awareness Network
CAIN	Companion Animals Internal Network
CP	Contribution Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
NANA	Native Animal Network Association
OLA	Off-Leash Area
PA	Principal Activity
RPO	Responsible Pet Owner
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SCAMP	Strategic Companion Animals Management Plan
SCCMP	Shoalhaven City Council Management Plan 2002-2005

3 Definitions

Assistance Animal - means an animal referred to in Section 5, Companion Animals Act 1998 and Section 9, Disability Discrimination Act 1992 - guide dogs, hearing assistance dogs and any other animal trained to assist a person to alleviate the effect of a disability.

4 Introduction

Companion Animals (CA) are an integral part of our community, culture and society. Treating them with kindness and respect reflects our compassion for living things. Ownership of CA is to be considered a privilege and comes with responsibilities in relation to the CA, the community and the environment.

5 Why We Need a Plan

Nearly two-thirds of Australian households own a pet. A plan created specifically for CA management creates the opportunity to research and implement current best practice and utilise numerous ideas, products and services. This will provide pet owners with support, education, regulation and facilities to accommodate CA while considering the needs of the broader community and the environment.

6 Aim of Plan

This Plan has been prepared to identify and strengthen all areas of CA management in the Shoalhaven. It uses a balanced, commonsense approach based on education, coordination, service and facility provision, law enforcement, proven methodology and visionary attitudes. Ecologically sustainable development has been considered and is reflected throughout the Principal Activities.

7 Scope of Plan

This Plan provides guidelines and directions for CA management given the way they affect our lives. It recognises their contribution to our well-being and the need to ensure their well-being. It considers amenity, safety, health, animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. It also considers the requirements of non-pet owners and the environment.

It is acknowledged that native animals, other domestic animals, livestock, feral animals and exotic and pest species are linked to CA issues and will be included in the objectives of this Plan. These issues are the responsibility of all landowners and respective agencies.

Local Government, as a point of first contact for virtually all city-related matters, is a logical choice to coordinate and provide networking opportunities. Council offers direct and broad community contact and has a strong administrative link with the community. Council also traverses territorial and agency issues by defining its precinct as Shoalhaven City's Local Government boundary. This concept would streamline communication and procedures with other government agencies whose geographical areas of responsibility are fragmented.

This Plan provides an opportunity to highlight matters which may be of concern and are not being addressed satisfactorily or are being addressed but could benefit from the networking and associated outcomes of this Plan.

8 Council's Role in Animal Management

In Shoalhaven City Council's Management Plan (SCCMP) 2002-2005, Task 1.3.3.3 is "to meet Council's on-going obligations under CAA". In **Cityplan**, an objective under "Leadership and Direction" is "to develop strong leadership and decisively guide the best future for Shoalhaven by establishing innovative processes to integrate longer term objectives with day to day operations".

A Strategic Companion Animals Management Plan (SCAMP) allows Council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act (CAA) by determining relevant objectives and priorities with a clear program of implementation over the next three to five years. Council's role is to manage CA issues and encourage responsible pet ownership (RPO) via education and service and facility provision rather than promote or discourage CA ownership.

A CA Internal Network (CAIN) will be formed prior to the adoption of the Plan with representatives from each Group and/or Section within Council involved with CA management. The role of the CAIN will be to direct and facilitate the implementation of the SCAMP. Representatives on the CAIN will have varied levels of involvement and responsibility from developing and implementing actions of the Plan through to providing a resource to assist with aspects of the Plan.

9 Interested Parties and Our Community

Community ownership of management plans is strengthened by involvement of interested parties and community consultation. A CA Advisory Panel (CAAP) is to be formed prior to the adoption of the Plan and will play an integral part in bringing the SCAMP to fruition by imparting their knowledge and providing advice and assistance to Council. A CA Awareness Network (CAAN) will stem from the CAIN and CAAP and will provide a necessary link within the community. SCAMP will create opportunities for community input and encourage feedback.

10 Benefits to Council and Community

Information gained from Councils who have undertaken a SCAMP indicate benefits:

- Reduction in number of complaints received due to well-managed responses by staff generating increased community awareness with more responsibility taken by pet owners;
- Provides guidance, procedures and opportunity to all groups who are involved with animal management issues;
- Provides a means to consolidate and integrate CA issues into several Council strategies;
- Allows for a fresh approach and new ideas to be implemented with experience and assistance from Councils who have trialed initiatives;
- Community education programs used more effectively to solve problems with pet owners who may lack knowledge and awareness of their actions;
- Provides a network to link community with animal welfare issues.

11 Companion Animals Act 1998 and Associated Legislation

Legislation directly associated with CA management:

- NSW Companion Animals Act 1998;
- NSW Impounding Act 1993;
- NSW Local Government Act 1993;
- ACT Domestic Animals Act 2000;
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA) replaced the NSW Dog Act 1966 and provides a legal identity for cats. Following community consultation, the three key issues addressed in the Act include environment conservation, community amenity and animal welfare. For too long, reactive enforcement has been the mainstay of CA management.

Community education is pivotal to enforcement – especially in relation to public safety and responsible pet ownership. Enforcement provisions were strengthened to deal with problems such as dangerous dogs. Stronger legislation is still required to enable Animal Management Officers to

better manage cat-related concerns. Mandatory desexing for CA needs to be considered with exemption for registered breeders.

Council and the community must undertake regular reviews to assess the effectiveness of the CAA and lobby the State Government accordingly.

12 Companion Animals Vision

Define and sustain lifestyle for pet owners, non-pet owners and CA in harmony with native animals and the environment.

13 Companion Animals Mission Statement

To manage CA issues effectively and generate voluntary compliance, encourage best practice in animal welfare, and maintain harmony between pet owners, non-pet owners and the environment in accordance with the legislation.

14 Human-Animal Bond

Humans bond with animals on a variety of levels, whether it be passively observing a bird in nature or actively enjoying the company of a CA. Our capacity to appreciate diversity may be enhanced by relating to a range of native and domestic animals increasing our well-being and sense of connection.

15 Community Amenity

Community amenity is an important consideration in the development and implementation of this Plan and will be discussed within the Principal Activities as it relates to the management of CA.

Amenity includes:

- Public safety and dog attacks;
- Disease transmission;
- CA faeces;
- Barking dogs;
- Off-leash areas, prohibited areas and walking tracks;
- Urban and rural residential design;
- Feral and exotic animals.

16 Objectives

- Improve community awareness of all aspects of animal management by providing education programs and distributing information; (PA1)
- Provide quality customer service for all CA owners by improving communication and creating a mechanism to link problems to solutions; (PA2)
- Provide an innovative and visionary function by identifying and implementing ideas to increase services, facilities and recreational options for pet owners with consideration to non-pet owners and the environment; (PA2)
- Improve animal welfare by raising community awareness; providing facilities, services and information about responsible pet ownership and environmental enrichment; (PA3)
- Detect and monitor animal welfare concerns and take appropriate action; (PA3)
- Conserve and protect the environment by minimising CA impact on biological diversity; (PA4)
- Manage finances efficiently to enhance CA issues; (PA5)
- Ensure SCAMP is implemented, monitored and reviewed with input from CAIN, CAAP, CAAN and the community. (PA6)

17 Principal Activities

Six Principal Activities (PA) have been developed to achieve the objectives of the SCAMP. These Principal Activities provide information for each objective and are also identified in the Action Plan. Reference should be made to both the Principal Activities and the Action Plan, which together form the basis for implementation of the Plan.

17.1 Principal Activity 1 – Community Education

One of **Cityplan's** Objectives, "Involving Others", is relevant to CA education programs. The responses listed in **Cityplan** (below) can help educate the community and assist local interested parties take responsibility for educating their members.

- Make better use of the media to provide information to the community;
- Newsletters and more individual notification on specific issues;
- Continued liaison with community groups;
- Community meetings on important local issues;
- Encourage community involvement in development of strategies and policies.

Despite the CAA being in force for almost five years, there remains confusion about a CA owner's responsibility. There are many ways of distributing educational information to improve community awareness about RPO.

The Shoalhaven demographic is vast requiring several educational tools to encompass all CA owners and deliver the RPO message to the community. Enforcement information is a necessary education component.

The Department of Local Government, Councils and other agencies related to animal management should consider combining resources to develop a generic approach to education, delivering consistent messages to all communities.

17.1.1 Education Courses for Interested Parties

Institutions such as TAFE and Nowra / Ulladulla Community College should be approached to establish CA-related courses to assist in educating people involved in this field. Interested parties within the community with relevant training in animal behaviour, animal welfare, etc. could be coopted in conjunction with these institutions to provide this service. Other means available are through local obedience groups and trainers. Colleges and interested parties could be assisted to promote the courses.

17.1.2 Education for Community and Schools Ongoing

Ongoing programs to provide education for schools and community groups may include:

- Human-animal bond with all animals;
- Community amenity;
- Public safety, dog attacks, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds;
- Barking dogs;
- Roaming dogs;
- Desexing and unwanted litters;
- CA defecation;
- Disease transmission;
- Identification / registration and associated responsibilities;
- Service and facility provision;
- Information packs;
- Responsible pet ownership;
- Appropriate pet selection;
- Early socialisation and regular obedience training;
- Basic health, welfare and dietary requirements;
- Environmental enrichment;
- Pet-friendly urban and rural design and secure confinement;
- Off-leash areas, prohibited areas and walking tracks;
- Interaction between CA and native animals;
- Feral cats and dogs;
- Environment protection;
- Disaster preparedness;
- Statistics from service providers;
- Legislative requirements.

Interested parties can deliver some educational programs to assist Council, e.g. obedience demonstrations, cat breeder talk or animal welfare talk. Fundraising is a good opportunity to educate the community about responsible pet ownership.

17.1.3 Education Targeting Specific Issues

Providing information to target groups can have a direct impact on animal management concerns by implementing additional / alternative practices, products and / or services.

Target groups may include:

- Architects, builders, developers and real estates (re: urban / rural residential design);
- Bed-and-breakfasts and other tourist hospitality services (re: pet accommodation and associated responsibilities for service providers and visitors to the area, e.g. interaction with other domestic animals, livestock and wildlife);
- Authorised identifiers (re: notification requirements);
- CA owners (re: identification / registration requirements);
- New pet owners;
- Non-pet owners;
- Suburbs / streets in the City with ongoing CA issues, e.g. roaming dogs, unwanted litters;
- Wollongong Community Justice Centre (WCJC) (re: neighbourhood dispute / resolution information, assistance and education);
- Animal behaviour seminars with focus on child safety around dogs;
- Indigenous community and dog ownership;
- Agencies and organisations related to disaster preparedness.

17.1.4 Education Targeting Seasonal Issues

Analysis of statistics and communication with interested parties, including local residents, is required to determine seasonal trends and target issues in specific locations including:

- Breeding season for cats and dogs and associated dumping of unwanted litters;
- Desexing and roaming issues;
- Barking dogs and associated boredom and environmental enrichment;
- Shore bird breeding season and roaming / off-leash dogs.

17.1.5 Education and Service Provision Days within Community

Holding community education days during the year, including the peak tourism season, to highlight the importance of CA issues. These days are supported by the community and are a proactive way of delivering the RPO message.

Activities may include:

- Identification (microchip) and registration;
- Desexing programs and initiatives;
- Animal welfare and responsible pet ownership;
- Obedience training, agility programs and displays;
- CA interaction with wildlife;
- General information, advice and literature;
- Products and services available.

17.1.6 Urban Dog Education Package

Council has purchased an information kit, "Urban Dog", that includes 24 information brochures, divided into three major categories: Lifestyle Decisions; Caring For Your Dog; and Rights And Responsibilities; media releases that coincide with education programs and a School Education Kit.

17.1.7 Information Packs

Packs containing educational brochures developed by Council, NSW Department of Local Government (DLG) and other interest groups can be offered to the community in various ways e.g. distributed by Council officers and interested parties and made available at community education days, annual local shows, animal event days and markets and stored at the animal shelter and community and business outlets.

17.1.8 Events Calendar and Services and Products Directory

The Shoalhaven Community Calendar of Events is produced quarterly as a joint project of Shoalhaven City Council Visitors Centre and radio stations 2ST and Power FM 94.9. This calendar may be utilised for promotion of animal events.

Council has animal groups within Shoalhaven listed on its website under the community directory. This may be upgraded to include pet events such as Million Paws Walk and World Animal Day.

To improve community distribution, a Pet Events Calendar and Services and Products Directory, sponsored by advertising from interested parties, may be produced annually to allow CA owners access to animal events, services and products in their area, e.g. cat and dog shows and obedience trials, dog training clubs, puppy preschools, dog walking services, boarding kennels, catteries and various products to assist with CA education, health and welfare. Information on existing with native animals could also be included.

17.2 Principal Activity 2 – Service and Facility Provision

We have come to expect a certain standard of service provision as being integral to our well-being, such as education, health, housing and others. Society's capacity to provide adequate services to even the least privileged demonstrates our commitment to social and economic equity. (SOE 1999-2000)

17.2.1 Companion Animals Internal Network (CAIN)

Cityplan promotes effective government. To fully embrace economic opportunities, enhance community and lifestyle and encourage environmental protection, Council as an organisation needs to be responsive and flexible:

- Council values the vital role of staff and is committed to ensure they are motivated, trained and equipped to strive for planned outcomes;
- Council systems will continually be advanced in the quest for quality and affordable customer service.

A CA Internal Network will assist with integration of CA planning into all relevant areas of Council's management planning. The CAIN will also facilitate communication and coordinate CA issues within the community linking problems to solutions.

17.2.2 Companion Animals Advisory Panel (CAAP)

Cityplan affirms that "meeting the needs of the area requires a concerted effort from all interested parties including other levels of government, business, interest groups and the community".

At its 25 June 2002 meeting Council resolved to support the formation of a CA Advisory Panel involving relevant agencies and interested community parties to assist with the SCAMP. The purpose of the CAAP will be to provide advice and assistance to Council on CA management strategies and the implementation of the SCAMP.

17.2.3 Companion Animals Awareness Network (CAAN)

Cityplan states that "Council will work with the community and other agencies to pool ideas, resources and further engender local pride".

An effective CA Awareness Network, coordinated by the CAIN with assistance from the CAAP, is essential to encourage networking, provide education and distribute information within the community.

The CAAN will include:

- Local Government;
- Government agencies;
- Community groups and non-government organisations;
- Media;
- Interested individuals.

Networking between Councils can reduce the CA management burden. Combining resources for information gathering, advertising and education programs will help defray costs and address a wider marketing area. Several Councils have already combined to form 'Councils United for Pets (CUPS)' who meet regularly to problem solve and generate new ideas.

Establishing regular communication and a strong working relationship between Council and other government agencies involved with CA issues will enable resources to be combined to achieve common goals.

The media, community groups and non-government organisations that generate newsletters and hold regular meetings are an effective communication resource. Procedures are required to ensure all these avenues are utilised.

There are community members with expertise who would be willing to assist Council in achieving its CA management objectives. This network can extend to seeking the service of volunteers to assist with programs and activities.

Promotion, services and educational information to research for inclusion in the CAAN may include:

- Advertising programs;
- Media releases;
- Articles in community newsletters;

- Utilising the Arts to promote CA, e.g. art exhibition, theatre;
- Pets-as-therapy for elderly and disabled, and for persons dealing with or recuperating from injury or illness;
- Pet grooming / feeding and dog walking to assist those in need;
- Education within community including RPO, (e.g. appropriate pet selection, dietary requirements, socialisation skills, obedience training, get-togethers for CA owners);
- Coordinate children and elderly with CA socialisation days as part of school or holiday activities and retirement villages and hospitals;
- CA-minding service or day-care centre (Animal Welfare Advisory Council is developing guidelines for this service);
- Foster a CA;
- Agility programs;
- Conduct surveys;
- Assist with event / agility / obedience / education days.

17.2.4 Information Technology Section

17.2.4.1 Electronic Access to Council Information

A goal within SCCMP 2002-2005 under Electronic Access to Council Information (1.3.2.15) is to "provide the community with better electronic access to Council Information". Regularly-updated CA information and links to other related sites on Council's website is an advantage to staff and community.

17.2.4.2 Call Centre

The Call Centre provides a 24-hour service for incoming action requests. Staff assist with coordination of response during after hours.

17.2.5 Corporate and Community Services Group

17.2.5.1 Counter Services Unit

Counter Services at Nowra and Ulladulla deal with various aspects of the Companion Animals Register (CAR) – entering and retrieving information, processing Identification and Registration forms and handling CAR inquiries, referring more-specialised CAR inquiries and action requests to the Animal Management Unit.

17.2.5.2 Ranger Services Section – Animal Management Unit

Ranger Services Animal Management Unit administers and enforces Acts and Regulations under various Legislation and Council Policies to ensure community compliance. These include the Companion Animals Act 1998, Impounding Act 1993 and Local Government Act 1993. Council has a contract with Jervis Bay Territory Administration to patrol Jervis Bay and enforce legislation under the Domestic Animals Act 2000.

Animal Management Officers responded to 2283 action requests in 2002 / 2003 reporting period. 98 infringements were issued for CA related offences.

Duties undertaken by Animal Management Officers throughout the Shoalhaven include:

- Dog attacks on people, other domestic animals and wildlife;
- Cat attacks on wildlife;
- Roaming / nuisance dogs and cats;
- Collection of stray and surrendered CA;
- Patrol off-leash, prohibited and public areas to detect and deter offenders;
- Dogs defecating in public places;
- Maintain the CAR.

Other animal management duties include:

- Attend to livestock on roads;
- Attend to animal welfare issues;
- Feral animal management;
- Rescue of injured / at-risk native animals.

Related roles include:

- Community education;
- Customer service;
- Public relations;
- Proactive community consultant;
- Animal husbandry.

➤ **Enforcement Programs**

Law enforcement programs must be implemented to target specific concerns within the community such as dog / cat attacks, dogs roaming, identification and registration matters, coinciding with seasonal occurrences when appropriate. Each resident contact must be treated as an educational opportunity, where Council can continue to improve its service to the community.

o **Dog Attacks and Roaming Dogs**

One of **Cityplan's** objectives is "to promote and develop effective and equitable services, especially in the area of health and safety to improve the quality of life for all residents".

It is estimated that annually more than 100,000 Australians are bitten by dogs with varying degrees of severity. Up to 14,000 seek treatment in public hospitals and an estimated 1,400 of those patients have injuries serious enough to warrant hospitalisation. Two-thirds of all bites involve the family or neighbour's dog and 60% of these bites occur on young children. (Delta Society Australia Ltd)

Recent research in Victoria showed 58% of dog attacks in public places occurred on the footpath or road bordering the property, due to the dogs displaying aggression (possibly territorial) towards passers-by. Only 9% of dog aggression incidents in public places occurred in parks or reserves. (Van der Kuyt, 2001)

Each dog attack has the potential to impact on families involved. Risk management contributing to a safer community includes comprehensive investigation of dog attack incidents, community education about animal behaviour and diet, training and confining dogs to yards and enforcement of CAA provisions.

282 dog attacks and 1,392 roaming / stray dogs were reported to Council in the 2002 / 2003 reporting period. 12.98 % and 57.27% of animal management action requests for this period.

Dog attacks on kangaroos and wallabies continue to occur with injuries often resulting in the death of the native animal.

o **Dangerous Dogs and Restricted Breeds.**

Animal Management Officers must pursue compliance requirements to ensure Council is fulfilling its duty of care to community safety. Consideration is required to determine whether CA owners should be charged for this community service. Council has 46 dogs listed under the category of restricted breed and 14 dogs in total have been declared dangerous.

o **Companion Animals Defecation**

Removal and disposal of dog faeces on public land by dog owners is mandatory under Section 20 of the CAA. It is important for environmental, health and amenity reasons. A person's overall enjoyment and impression of a public place can be reduced by previous users being inconsiderate. If CA faeces are allowed to get into the water system before being appropriately processed, impact of this foreign material on our natural environment can be dramatic.

Public education is necessary to reinforce the need for dog owners to collect and remove dog faeces and to reinforce community ownership and respect of public places and the need for environmental protection.

There is no legal requirement to remove cat faeces. If a particular cat is repeatedly causing a problem on private land a Nuisance Cat Order can be issued to an owner.

➤ **Companion Animals Register**

The Companion Animals Register (CAR) is a state-wide register used by NSW Councils and was developed to record owner and CA details to assist with CAA administration. The CAR provides a database for Council to communicate with pet owners. The database records both parts of the two-step process: CA identification (microchip) and registration. The microchip number is the key component for searching the database. Deficiencies exist with the CAR search and data entry system.

Customer Service staff have reported community uncertainty about identification and registration under the CAA despite it being enacted almost five years ago. There is also confusion between the national microchip databases and the CAR. Voluntary registers existing nationally include The Australian Animal Register (AAR), Central Animal Records, The National Pet Register (Lost Dogs Home and Cat Shelter) and Petsafe. While these registers provide a good service to pet owners they create confusion with so many versions. Access to all versions would be an advantage.

There is a problem with owners not updating particulars with Council such as change of address, change of CA ownership or CA deceased. This limits the capacity for lost animals to be returned to owners.

The Urban Animal Management Advisory Group developed a Draft Microchip Policy that addresses each step of CA microchip identification. The four components (the microchip, scanner network, implantation procedure, microchip register) need to be linked and subject to reliability checks. (McBride 2001)

o **Permanent Microchip Identification**

Under the CAA all CA sold or given away must be identified by a permanent microchip when ownership transfers or by 12 weeks of age (cats owned before 1.7.1999 must be identified by either microchipping or collar and tag). Authorised identifiers must send the Permanent Identification Forms to Council to enter on the NSW CAR within 3 days.

An aim of the CAA, and advantages of microchip identification, is identified roaming dogs and cats can be "Returned to Owner" bearing in mind cats can only be seized if committing an offence. This reduces stress for the animal when impounded and ensures the Animal Management Officer can offer the owner appropriate pet education and if necessary undertake enforcement action.

o **State-Wide Lifetime Registration**

Under the CAA, all CA must be lifetime registered by six months of age (cats owned before 1.7.1999 are exempt). The advantage of state-wide lifetime registration is owners can move between Local Government areas without incurring any further registration costs. The system makes it easier to track declared dangerous dogs. The cost differential between registration fees for an entire CA compared to a desexed CA is designed to encourage desexing at an early age. Dogs must wear a tag inscribed with the name of the dog and address or telephone number of the owner.

The change over from annual to lifetime registration precipitated a Companion Animals Advisory Board (CAAB) education program and letters from Council advising owners but there remains a significant number of dogs that have not been transferred to lifetime registration within Shoalhaven City. Estimates of dogs not identified or registered vary between authors – up to 50% of the dog population. In the cat population, this figure may be up to 90%.

Since the inception of lifetime registration in July 1999 to August 2003, in the Shoalhaven the number of dogs identified and registered totals 11,583. Dogs identified and not registered totals 2,002. Cats identified and registered totals 1,101. Cats identified and not registered totals 815.

17.2.5.3 West Nowra Animal Shelter and Pound Facility

Animal shelters evoke emotion in the community, but are necessary as a central site for the collection of lost / stray CA. Shelters must meet best practice standards in animal welfare. Council owns the West Nowra Animal Shelter with the service contracted out.

When a CA is impounded it must be identified and registered before being released / sold. CA sold from the shelter must be desexed within 7 days after release. West Nowra shelter provides discounted desexing for these animals.

A Draft Code of Practice for the Accommodation or Shelter of Animals has been developed by the Department of Primary Industries / Agriculture, Animal Welfare Unit under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979. In accordance with this Code, Council is reviewing the animal shelter facilities and procedures to identify measures and undertake improvements to maintain the safety and welfare of animals, staff and visitors.

17.2.5.4 Southern Animal Shelter and Pound Facility

The southern pound closed in December 2002 as no quotes were submitted for the contract upon expiration. This matter needs to be addressed to identify shortfalls in service to the community with solutions considered.

17.2.6 Development & Environmental Services Group

17.2.6.1 Environmental Health

Council's Environmental Health Services handles barking dog problems under NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the CAA 1998 and Orders under the Local Government Act 1993.

➤ Barking Dogs

Environmental Health Officers (EHO) estimate that 25% of multiple / continuing complaints involve barking dogs and often involve unresolved neighbourhood disputes. As with most Councils, excessive time can be spent on this difficult issue. Proceeding to a Nuisance Dog Order under the CAA or a Noise Abatement Order under the POEO Act and the court process is time consuming and often the complainant is unwilling to commit to this level of involvement.

422 barking dog action requests were received from 323 different properties in the 2002 / 2003 reporting period. These accounted for 64.7% of all noise action requests and 27.8% of all environmental health action requests during this period. Noisy dogs are a significant community problem and can result in anxiety, depression and neighbourhood disputes.

Barking is a symptom of various problems, e.g. territorial behaviour, boredom, playing, teasing, separation anxiety, visual stimuli / distractions. Information and education in relation to RPO, training, diet, improved housing design and environmental enrichment needs to be provided to CA owners to assist with solutions. Each resident contact must be treated as an educational opportunity, where Council can continue to improve its service to the community.

17.2.6.2 Planning Controls

The statutory planning framework offers Council the opportunity to provide for the effective management of CA. In some cases Council has adopted development guidelines such as the Policy for Keeping of Dogs in the CalyMEA Street / Albatross Road area (Nowra). A Policy for the Keeping of Cats and Dogs in the City of Shoalhaven was drafted in 2000 but has not yet been adopted. On 22 August 2000 Council resolved to act in accordance with the Policy for Keeping of Dogs in the CalyMEA Street / Albatross Road area on certain issues. Refer to Min 00.1063, points d) and e).

Rather than a prescriptive policy approach, Council usually imposes development approval conditions for the keeping of CA on a case-by-case basis for new developments. CA management controls must be considered where private landholders live next to National Parks, State Forests, Crown Land and, in some cases, Council Reserves where threatened species, wetlands or wildlife corridors exist.

It is appropriate for Council to impose conditions controlling CA where necessary and develop / adopt a policy to this effect: "Cats And Dogs - Impacts On Native Fauna". Additional and complimentary environment protection strategies and education programs would assist with the effective management of CA for existing dwellings.

Information on the destruction of wildlife by domestic cats is readily available. Many residents are distressed by this activity. Progressive thinking by Council and the community is required to acknowledge this reality. A community standard needs to be set to protect wildlife while recognising the benefits of cats as companion animals. Containment of cats must be considered to protect both the cat and the wildlife. This may be in the form of a voluntary curfew based on education or Council may prepare a draft local policy in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. The Green Paper relating to the CA Legislation discussed the issue of cat curfews in some detail.

Where, in the opinion of Council, an individual owns too many CA, affecting health, safety, amenity or animal welfare, rather than create a blanket policy that may discriminate against responsible pet owners, under Section 124, Order 18 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council may, in specific circumstances limit the number of animals kept at any one property. Order 21 can be utilised in circumstances where premises are not being kept in a safe or healthy condition and the keeping of animals is a contributing factor. Govt Circular No. 0139 relates.

Fireworks terrify some dogs causing owners and agencies involved with animal management a great deal of distress for days after an event as dogs escape, hide and roam, at times incurring injuries as a result. Procedures are required to ensure that the local community is notified of firework displays so that pet owners can take necessary steps to protect their animals.

17.2.6.3 Urban and Rural Residential Design

Good design recommendations for internal and external pet-friendly housing will assist with reduction of barking, environmental enrichment, safety for pets and containment of dogs and cats to prevent roaming and associated consequences. Wildlife needs to be considered.

17.2.7 Planning Group

The statutory planning framework offers Council the opportunity to provide for the effective management of CA by considering their needs when developing Development Control Plans, Contribution Plans, Local Environmental Plans and policies under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Local Government Act 1993. When preparing these statutory instruments, Council must also consider a number of other issues such as native flora and fauna and other planning instruments such as Regional Environmental Plans, State Environmental Plans and other relevant policies.

17.2.8 Community and Operations Group

17.2.8.1 Recreation and Leisure Section

➤ Off-Leash Areas

Under NSW CAA 1998, Council is required to provide one Off-Leash Area (OLA) for dogs to exercise. There are more than 770 reserves in Shoalhaven with 300 of these maintained regularly. After extensive community consultation in 1999-2000, 13 OLA were determined. The aim was to provide areas for dogs to exercise, play and swim where there was the greatest dog-owning population without having too much impact on wildlife, beach goers or other community members.

OLA and parks accessible to dog owners should be strategically positioned throughout the City and ensure that the wide range of park sizes, facilities, opportunities and environments are addressed. They also need to be diverse in character and topography offering dogs many safe areas to explore. Access for people with disabilities must also be considered.

➤ Prohibited Areas

In accordance with CAA, dogs are prohibited in specific areas such as school grounds, child-care centres, children's playing apparatus and food preparation / consumption areas. Other areas include public bathing areas, wildlife protection areas, recreation areas and shopping areas which require signage for enforcement purposes. This does not apply to an assistance animal or police dog. Refer to Section 14 of the CAA for more detail on prohibited areas. Refer to Section 9 of the CAA for more detail on assistance animals.

Council has declared additional prohibited areas due to their environmental significance and / or to recognise that non-pet owners need public space that excludes dogs. These areas are due for a review to ascertain their relevance and consider other options.

Cats are prohibited in wildlife protection areas and within 10 metres of food preparation areas.

➤ Shoalhaven Walking Tracks Strategy

CA are allowed on some tracks overseen by Council. Tracks where CA are prohibited are environmentally sensitive and even the presence of CA strictly maintained on leash (aroma of predator) could upset the delicate natural balance. A review of walking tracks is required to determine which tracks are available to CA and whether other tracks would be suitable, including access for people with disabilities, and distribute this information throughout the community.

➤ Signage

Vandalism and theft of signs that indicate Off-Leash Areas or Prohibited Areas for CA continues. This issue can be included in the education program to help people understand the need for signs and the reasons for areas being declared off-leash and prohibited. Investigation of improved methods of securing signs needs to be undertaken. This matter could be considered for inclusion in Council's Signage Strategy for the City of Shoalhaven - Part 3, Public Information.

➤ **Bins for Dog Faeces**

As part of Council's street and park litter bin strategy, it is advisable to have regular bins available on popular walkways to provide responsible dog owners with the facility to dispose of the dog's faeces in accordance with the regulations.

➤ **Dung beetles**

Dung beetles have been bred to dispose of CA faeces. The beetles bury animal droppings in underground tunnels reducing nutrient run-off, aerating the soil, reducing fly populations and reducing health risk to people and animals. Release of dung beetles either adjoining natural areas or in high use OLA has had variable results in other Local Government areas.

17.2.8.2 Community Services Section

Community Services Management Plans and Directories are platforms to determine how CA information can be incorporated into promotion and information strategies. Topics that relate to community services are access and equity, assistance with CA management concepts relating to community services and issues relating to the indigenous community.

➤ **Access and Equity**

In SCCMP 2002-2005, under 4.2 "Improving Community Facilities and Services" the lifestyle objective is "to foster a diversity of educational, cultural, social and leisure activities to enrich the lifestyle of residents and visitors". Under "Community Information" the task is to "facilitate community access to information and knowledge of local community services".

Access & Equity Activities (Section 30 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999) – Council is committed to develop a Community Plan every five years to assist Council to consider community needs and provide or advocate for appropriate and accessible services and facilities.

Shoalhaven has a significantly higher-than-average proportion of senior residents and Aboriginal people and a significantly lower-than-average proportion of young people compared to the Illawarra Region and the State average. (SCC Population Profile 2001). Matters relating to CA management and the elderly, disabled, youth, children and general community include pets-as-therapy, assistance animals, and assisting the elderly, injured, unwell and disabled with care of their animals.

➤ **Indigenous Community**

Cityplan values and respects all groups and cultures while promoting a cooperative approach to addressing community needs.

There is a strong Aboriginal heritage in the coastal region of Shoalhaven. 3.3% of Shoalhaven residents are Aboriginal (excludes Wreck Bay) compared to 1.7% for Illawarra and NSW. (SCCMP 2002-2005)

CA are an integral part of Aboriginal culture. Companionship, protection, early warning, hunting and scavenging are CA tasks within an Aboriginal community. Dogs represent a deep connection with ancestors and community members often take on responsibility for a departed person's animal/s with great respect. Ongoing communication between Aboriginal communities and Council is required regarding the management of CA within their community.

17.2.8.3 Tourism Section

The Shoalhaven, after Sydney, is the states most visited area with 2.8 million visitors per year and direct expenditure of \$250 million in 1997/8 (SCCMP 2002-2005). The Tourism Management Plan and Master Plan are platforms to determine how CA information can be incorporated into marketing and information strategies.

Identifying pet accommodation at tourist parks, bed and breakfasts, resorts, hotels / motels and other tourist accommodation is required to enable information distribution, encourage best practice and maintain Council's contact with tourist operators.

17.2.8.4 Holiday Haven Tourist Parks

Council operates 12 Holiday Haven Tourist Parks as a commercial operation, enabling a strong relationship between Shoalhaven Tourism and Local Government. Under Council resolution pets are not permitted to stay within these Tourist Parks. A review of this policy may be undertaken to consider guidelines for allowing pets, providing a service to visitors who own CA. A questionnaire to all NSW Council Tourist Park Operators has been circulated to ascertain current practices and generate interest in new methodology.

17.2.8.5 Library Service

In SCCMP 2002-2005, a strategy is to "provide the community with extensive, accurate and accessible educational, recreational and cultural resources – provision of a library service that is accessible, innovative and relevant to the community served". There are more than 300 different dog and cat books in Council's libraries – an excellent resource for CA educational material.

17.2.8.6 Buildings and Facilities Provided for the Community

Council provides many buildings and facilities for the community. Policies or guidelines and appropriate signage to suit various CA requirements are necessary. Assistance animals are permitted entry into these premises when used bona fide by an owner with a disability. Community buildings in general prohibit CA. Bathing areas are prohibited to CA, however, provisions to tether the CA outside the premises would benefit owners. The Worrigeer Cemetery does not allow CA into the office, providing an area to tether the animal outside. CA can enter the cemetery grounds with their owners providing they are on lead and any dog droppings are picked up. It is acknowledged that owners gain comfort from their pets.

17.2.9 City Services Group

17.2.9.1 Emergency Services

➤ Disaster Planning - Emergency Preparedness

In SCCMP 2002-2005, one of the Local Emergency Management Committee's Tasks is to "Coordinate arrangements for the preparation, response to and recovery from emergencies within the Shoalhaven areas" (2.3.1.6). One of the performance tasks for this is to "coordinate regular

reviews of DISPLAN to ensure planning is adequate for CA and provide community education, dependant on funding". This is relevant in light of bushfire crises regularly experienced in the Shoalhaven. The Department of Primary Industries / Agriculture is the primary response for all animals in a declared emergency. The Ambulance Service of NSW is the primary response for rescue of animals.

Animal welfare is often forgotten in crisis situations. Contingency planning is critical if Emergency Evacuation Centres are to be prepared for the influx of people and their animals. Evacuation and handling procedures should be examined in detail to ensure all contingencies are investigated: person-made (gas explosion, vehicle accident, chemical spill) or natural disasters (flood, bushfire, storm) or introduced exotic diseases.

Agencies and interested parties that are involved in DISPLAN should maintain regular contact and review procedures. Veterinarians have an important role to play in these events and should participate in discussions. Coordinating with animal boarding kennels and pet shops needs to be reviewed after the tragic loss of 40 CA in the firestorm that swept through and destroyed the Weston-Woden Veterinary Hospital in Canberra in December 2002.

17.2.9.2 Natural Resources and Floodplain Unit

City Services Natural Resources and Floodplain Management (NRFP) Unit has a broad range of responsibilities. Two principle themes have emerged across various natural resource management plans:

- Water cycle management incorporating water quality, drainage, flooding and estuary entrance management;
- Biodiversity conservation including flora and fauna conservation, habitat connectivity and public access to natural areas.

These themes link directly to SCAMP strategies in relation to the management of natural processes in key natural areas affecting companion animals, native animals and feral and exotic species.

17.3 Principal Activity 3 – Animal Welfare

17.3.1 Responsible Pet Ownership

Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) has been the catch cry of the urban animal management movement since its formation. It is a role similar to parenting children. All animal shelter operators brace for the holiday influx when the pet owner's commitment is stretched beyond their ability to cope. Targeted education programs about each of these prime issues in relation to specific local annual trends is required.

17.3.1.1 Appropriate pet selection

Selecting the type of animal, breed and sex to suit the owner's lifestyle and circumstances is the essential first step in pet ownership. Problems can be avoided by ensuring an informed choice is made initially.

17.3.1.2 Basic Health and Welfare Principles

Regular exercise, sound nutrition and the provision of shelter and water are crucial to maintain optimum health. Statistics from USA estimate that 25% of dogs and cats in the western world are obese. The majority of CA owners are very caring and understanding of their CA but some are oblivious of their CA basic needs. Health care such as worming and vet checkups must be maintained. Regular worming of pets helps reduce the incidence of CA disease transmission.

Zoonotic diseases transferable to humans from animals include:

- Pet Hookworm and Roundworm infections – Cutaneous Larva Migrans (skin);
- Pet Tapeworm infection – Hydatids – associated with eating sheep offal;
- Dog Bite or Cat Scratch Fever;
- Toxoplasmosis – transmitted by cat faeces.

Covering potential sand or dirt areas used by cats as a toilet will help to minimise the spread of Toxoplasmosis.

17.3.1.3 Identification / Registration and Desexing

Improving an animal's chance of finding its owner is a major animal welfare aim of the CAA. It is also a basic tenet of for RPO – identify and register your animal.

Desexing CA is a critical issue for animal management planning and is in fact an animal welfare issue. Desexing reduces:

- Unwanted litters;
- Roaming in male CA by 60-90%;
- Territorial aggression and noise complaints;
- Potential life threatening complications for CA (e.g. reproductive organ cancer or infection).

Desexing is encouraged under the CAA by having a discounted registration fee for desexed CA (\$35 or \$15 if pensioner, instead of \$100). A high proportion of CA that are impounded for roaming are entire. Once an animal is impounded it must be identified and registered before release. If entire, the higher fee is charged removing the incentive to desex a CA that may continue to be a repeat offender if not desexed.

Council, RSPCA, AWL and Department of Housing can work together on desexing programs, e.g. desexing prior to spring breeding season for cats.

Local veterinarians should be encouraged to provide a discounted desexing fee for these animals.

- Average number of litters a fertile dog can produce: 2 per year;
- Average number of puppies in an average canine litter: 6–10;
- Number of dogs in six years one female dog and her offspring can produce: 67,000 dog;
- Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce: 3 per year;
- Average number of kittens in an average feline litter: 7–10;
- Number of cats in seven years one female cat and her offspring can produce: 420,000 cats. (Humane Society of United States)

17.3.1.4 Secure Confinement and Environmental Enrichment

Secure confinement is another basic animal welfare issue that needs to be reinforced. Confining an animal reduces its risk of serious harm or death by misadventure, e.g. motor vehicle accident, fighting, poisoning or theft. Ideally, legislation should be drafted to include provisions that require that CA owners provide a secure enclosure for CA prior to purchase. 57.27% of action requests received by the Animal Management Unit during the 2002 / 2003 reporting period were in relation to roaming and stray dogs.

Thirty years ago there were many roaming dogs in the streets across Australia. Today dogs are mostly confined to the owner's yard. While this may be safer for the general community it has led to a new animal management problem – boredom and frustration. Effectively, dogs are now in solitary confinement for the majority of their day if the family is at work or school; an environment similar to which zoo animals have to contend with.

Environmental enrichment is the addition of cognitive, dietary, physical, sensory and social stimuli to improve physiological and psychological well-being in confined animals. The aim is to increase the mental and physical challenge in an animal's existence. If the animal is busy, it is less frustrated, less reactive and less of a potential nuisance, e.g. barking and escaping / roaming.

17.3.1.5 Socialisation, Training and Lifetime Commitment

Early socialisation of CA is critical to help dogs to acclimatise to many different stimuli in their local environment, e.g. children, cats, noises, movement. With the advent of Puppy Preschools, there are many controlled gentle socialisation and training programs available.

Dog training is to be encouraged to ensure owners have control of their dogs in public and private settings. There are many obedience and training programs available, e.g. Canine Good Citizen and local obedience clubs. RPO means people accept the sight of a dog with its owner and know they don't have to worry about being chased or harassed because it is "under effective control".

17.3.1.6 Appropriate Attitude, Care and Philosophy

Cultivating attitudes of love and respect towards animals can assist humans to develop socially and emotionally. According to Kersti Seksel, a veterinarian specialist in animal behaviour, "It has now been established that people who abuse animals often - not always - have a history of going on to child abuse or domestic violence".

Organised dog fighting is an illegal activity that does occur. Theft of dogs and the purchase of unwanted dogs deemed suitable for this purpose also occurs. Trading illegally in fur from dogs and cats is also of concern. A strategy to educate and raise public awareness and a protocol to assist community members who may be aware of these activities are required. This will assist authorities in detecting suspected offenders.

With the introduction of the CAA, cats now have official legal status in animal management. Unfortunately cats have been considered to be a disposable commodity for too long. A cat's welfare is just as important as a dog's. Society will take time to adjust but should be encouraged through every possible means, including promoting identification and registration of cats as the responsible thing to do.

Shoalhaven has a higher euthanasia rate and lower release-to-owner rate than the state average for cats. Community education on the value of cats as CA along with emphasis on RPO and the need for desexing is required to help lessen the number surrendered or impounded.

➤ Animal Management and Shelter Statistics

Year	Seized by Officer		Returned to owner by Officer		Taken to Shelter by Officer		Dumped at Shelter by Other		Surrendered by Owner		Released to Owner		Euthanased		Sold	
	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog	Cat	Dog
02/03	66	702	5	226	61	476	268	378	54	159	14	199	332	618	46	200

17.3.2 Other Animal Welfare Issues

There are areas of concern relating to wildlife, livestock and other domestic animals. All landowners / agencies have a responsibility to assist with animal welfare issues. The introduction of the SCAMP, CAIN, CAAP and CAAN offers an opportunity to access the expertise of various organisations involved with animal welfare and conservation. A group can then be created to discuss measures and take action to decrease suffering, monitor species populations and to offer assistance and information to those within the industry. As this matter is extensive and complex it would be appropriate to develop a specific management plan in association with the SCAMP. Think Globally, Act Locally.

Examples where effort is required to assist with animal welfare issues include:

- Urban native animal management;
- Wildlife habitat protection and relocation procedure when trees removed and land cleared;
- Injured and dead animals hit by vehicles (road kill);
- Habitat crossings;
- Effect of bush fires on wildlife populations;
- Plastic bags (initiative taken by Kangaroo Valley and Huskisson Chamber of Commerce);
- Pelicans and other birds with injuries from fishing line and hooks;
- How to live with aggressive native birds (magpie, plover, butcherbird);
- Population increase of birds including seagulls, ibis, currawongs and pelicans;
- Wombats with mange;
- Feeding native animals;
- Fencing and native animal access;
- Fencing and barb wire, injuries to native animals (policy to limit use of barbwire);
- Netting of fruit trees and associated injuries of flying foxes, snakes and birds;
- Flying fox breeding season and procedures for handling injured flying foxes;
- Monitor correct disposal of drugged animal carcasses at waste depots;
- Livestock issues and animal farming;
- Snake issues in residential areas;
- Bee problems;
- Cane toads;
- Organised cock fighting;
- Rabbits, etc unwanted;
- Poultry abandoned.

Native animals are an attractive feature of the Shoalhaven residential and tourist environment with images of native animals used constantly to advertise and promote the Shoalhaven. Information to encourage best practice in relation to existing with native animals could be circulated with CA information.

17.4 Principal Activity 4 – Environment Protection

17.4.1 Biodiversity Conservation

Cityplan acknowledges the value and beauty of our environment by addressing the issue of its protection with a balanced approach to accommodate population growth.

Cityplan states that improved management practices, restoration works and community awareness programs will ensure that protection of our special environment is always maintained at a high level.

Under "Protecting the Environment and Planning for Growth" in the SCCMP 2002-2005, Objective 2.1 states "A Planning Framework for Growth and Conservation – to protect the natural beauty, built environment and heritage of the area, whilst adopting a balanced approach to growth". Strategy 2.1.1 states "Develop an integrated set of strategies on a city wide basis to protect the environment and allow sustainable growth". Integrating CA recommendations into the list of strategies that follow this statement is crucial - Conservation Strategy, Settlement Strategy, Estuary Management Plans, Housing Strategy, State of the Environment Reporting and Coastal Management Plans.

In the SCCMP 2002-2005 in the next Objective 2.2 Environmental Quality, working with the community and government agencies to refine and develop Council's environmental monitoring system is highlighted. Environmental Monitoring Systems are then chosen as a specific task.

Cityplan encourages opportunities for rural living to be made available where this is in keeping with the area's natural attributes. Balance between growth and natural environment; CA and native animals is achievable. Managing change is the key to environment conservation.

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms and Shoalhaven City supports a large number of animal species including 50 species of mammals, 300 birds, 50 reptiles, and 25 frog species. (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service & Shoalhaven Catchment Management Committee 2000). 80 species of native fauna and 35 species of flora within the Shoalhaven have been listed on the schedule of the Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSCA) as being vulnerable / endangered. The State of Environment Report carries a full list of Threatened Animal Species. A recovery plan sets out guidelines to address the survival of a native species of plant or animal under threat. (NSW NPWS 2000)

17.4.2 Feral and Exotic Animals

In Generic Community Land Plan of Management Natural Areas July 2001 (File 20861), a core objective is to minimise the impacts of pets and feral animals on natural areas (B1, B3, W1, W3, WC1). One Performance Target mentioned was – "Reduced number of reports of feral animals and damage to habitat each year".

All landowners / agencies have a responsibility to assist with feral / exotic animal issues. The introduction of the SCAMP, CAIN, CAAP and CAAN offers an opportunity to access the expertise of various organisations involved with feral / exotic animals and conservation. A group can then be created to discuss measures and take action to decrease feral and exotic populations. As this matter is extensive and complex it would be appropriate to develop a specific management plan in association with the SCAMP. Think Globally, Act Locally.

It has been recognised that illegal rubbish dumping is an issue requiring a concerted effort. Local and State Government Agencies have established a Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad to address this problem. As feral and exotic animals present equal concern to the environment a similar program could be considered to manage feral dogs, cats, foxes, pigs, goats, rabbits, deer, Indian Mynas, sparrows, starlings, pigeons and vermin.

CA have direct detrimental effects on conservation and biodiversity when dumped, breed unwanted litters, exhibit feral behaviour and prey on native animals.

Council will operate the Northern Shoalhaven Biodiversity Protection Program between 2004 and 2006. This project, funded by the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, will target the control of feral and exotic animals, in particular foxes, on natural areas and private lands. Protection of domestic dogs has been taken into consideration by limiting the baiting period (2 fortnights in the year) with extensive advertising through pet outlets.

Aims of the program are:

- Extend the areas currently fox baited by National Parks and Rural Lands Protection Board;
- Train and assist landowners in effective control strategies that minimise the impact on non-targeted species (native and domestic animals);
- Provide education to communities on how to protect and enhance biodiversity locally.

17.4.2.1 Feral Cat Predation and Communities

Predation by the Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) as of 24 March 2000 is a Key Threatening Process under Schedule 3 of the TSC Act. This is because it is carnivorous; can shift from domestic to stray to feral; prefers mammals less than 220 grams and birds less than 200 grams. Feral cat predation can also impact seriously on non-threatened species rendering them threatened.

Feral cat communities are a problem within the Shoalhaven residing in built up areas such as Sanctuary Point and Bomaderry (Mark Sobierajski). As they continue to populate it is only a matter of time before their numbers increase within reserves and national parks. Authorised agency trapping programs can address this problem.

Any cat seized or trapped must be returned to the owner or delivered to an authorised officer or impound facility. Complications arise due to the difficulty in determining whether a cat is domestic or feral especially given the high percentage of cats not identified or registered. Under Section 32 of CAA a person may lawfully seize a cat if that action is reasonable or necessary for the protection of any person or animal, other than vermin, from injury or death.

17.4.2.2 Feral Dog Predation and Communities

Wild dogs are increasing in Shoalhaven and have an impact on livestock and native animals such as Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Red-Necked and Swamp Wallabies. Areas of concern include Currumbene State Forest, Jervis Bay National Park, Lake Wollumboola, and Tomerong / Wandandian area (Mark Sobierajski). A concerted effort is required to address this problem.

17.4.3 South Coast Shorebird Recovery Team

The South Coast Shorebird Recovery Team was established in 1999. It is a network of community and government agencies coordinated by NSW NPWS to conduct extensive surveys and monitoring and protection of resident and migratory shorebirds that forage and roost within the extensive shoreline habitat of Shoalhaven during the summer months (October-January).

There are 5 species of shorebirds nesting in the Shoalhaven. The Little Tern and Hooded Plover (both listed as Endangered) and the Sooty Oystercatcher and the Pied Oystercatcher (both listed as vulnerable). These species are listed on Schedule 1 of the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The fifth species is the Red-capped Plover.

Location of nesting sites (often only a simple scrape on the sand) and the level of threat posed at each site is determined and habitat protection, management actions and public awareness campaigns are implemented. Major threatening processes include CA, feral animals and Crows. Community volunteers are crucial to monitoring and "wardening" of these nesting sites. Temporary protective fencing is erected along with "dogs prohibited" signs to minimise disturbance from beach-goers / roaming dogs. Regular patrols from Animal Management Officers to detect and deter dogs off-lead or roaming is required.

17.4.4 Jervis Bay Marine Park

Under the Marine Parks Act 1997, the Objective is "to conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive system of marine parks – habitat protection zone". In addition to restrictions imposed by the Shoalhaven City Council and / or National Parks and Wildlife Service it is prohibited to take CA into these areas:

- Rock platform at Green Point;
- Within Currumbene Creek Mudflat Sanctuary Zone;
- Sand spit at the southern end Callala Beach.

CA are permitted within any zone of the marine park if they are assisting a disabled person, are a police dog, remain confined to a vessel or if the owner has been given consent of the Marine Parks Authority. (Overview of the zoning plan - Jervis Bay Marine Park June 2002)

17.5 Principal Activity 5 – Financial Management

17.5.1 Income and Expenditure

CA Management has always been a costly exercise for Local Government. The main requirement is to maintain an efficient and mobile animal management service for the community.

Council receives approximately 35% of the funds required to operate the Animal Management Unit from registration, fees and infringements. The balance of the funding is provided from Council's general revenue. The registration system is partly "user pays". Funding for barking dogs and management of off-leash areas and associated signage is provided from Council's general revenue. As more data is available to determine CA problems better education and enforcement programs will deliver more efficient use of resources.

17.5.2 Donations

Council endorses animal welfare principles. One is by annual financial donations under Section 356 Local Government Act to assist with Operational Costs for the Native Animal Network Association (NANA) (\$1700) and the local RSPCA (\$1000). In 1999 Council provided funding of \$5000 and staff to coordinate and erect approximately 100 injured animal information signs throughout the City. Donation to Animal Welfare League also needs to be considered as this voluntary organisation plays an important role in the Shoalhaven.

17.5.3 Fundraising

Fundraising within the community may be undertaken to assist with providing funds for services, facilities and equipment. This is also a good opportunity to provide education.

17.5.4 Funding

Funding is available from the Department of Local Government and from other organisations. Funding must be pursued when the opportunity arises.

17.6 Principal Activity 6 – Monitor and Review

All plans need to have in-built monitoring and review mechanisms. Interested parties and statistics can be of assistance in this regard. Management flexibility allows for constant review and the implementing of necessary adjustments.

17.6.1 Interested Parties

Interested parties involved with monitoring and review include the Companion Animals Internal Network (CAIN), Companion Animals Advisory Panel (CAAP), Companion Animals Awareness Network (CAAN) and the Community Consultation process.

17.6.2 Statistics

The collection and analysis of statistical data helps to maintain a realistic view of any strategic plan and can shape and redirect vision and key issues. Data / statistics to analyse periodically include Animal Management Action Requests, Animal Shelter statistics, NSW CAR statistics, Environmental Health Cams, Infringements Issued, Council Microchip Days, Desexing Days, Education Days, Surveys undertaken and CA finances.

18 Appendix

➤ CA Advisory Panel Members

Animal Welfare League - President
RSPCA - Nowra Branch Secretary
Shoalhaven Branch of Australian Veterinary Association - Member
Nowra District Kennel Club - President Shoalhaven Dog Training Club
Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club - Vice President
NPWS - Area Manager, Nowra
Native Animal Network Association - Vice President and non-pet owner
Independent Community Representative - Cattery owner
Independent Community Representative - Dog trainer and dog owner

➤ Agencies and Organisations Involved with Animal Management

Ambulance Service of NSW
Australian Companion Animal Council
Australian Institute of Local Government Rangers
Australian Veterinary Association
Animal Welfare League
Cat Protection Society
Council's United for Pets
Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources
Department of Lands
Department of Local Government
Department of Primary Industries / Agriculture / Forestry
Landcare / Coast Care
Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW
Local Government Councils
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Native Animal Network Association & other wildlife rescue agencies
NSW Canine Council
NSW Companion Animals Advisory Board
NSW Police Service
Petcare Information Advisory Service
Pet Industry Association
RSPCA
Rural Lands Protection Board
Shoalhaven Hunting Club
Vet Nurses Association
Urban Animal Management Advisory Group

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➤ **Action Plan**

Attached. Cross reference Management Plan with Action Plan for Implementation.

Strategic Companion Animals Management Plan (SCAMP) Action Plan 2004 - 2007

The Action Plan has been developed to achieve the objectives of the SCAMP and correlates with the 6 Principal Activities. The Sub-Activity headings are the same as those used in the Principal Activities and provide the basis for the strategies and tasks which will guide the implementation of the SCAMP.

Glossary of Terms

CA	Companion Animal/s
CAAN	Companion Animals Awareness Network
CAAP	Companion Animals Advisory Panel
CAIN	Companion Animals Internal Network
CP	Contribution Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
NANA	Native Animal Network Association
OLA	Off-Leash Area
RPO	Responsible Pet Owner
RSPCA	Royal Society Protection Cruelty Animals
SCAMP	Strategic Companion Animals Management Plan

17.1 Education – Principal Activity 1			
Objective			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve community awareness of all aspects of animal management by providing education programs and distributing information. 			
Sub-Activity	Strategy	Task	
17.1.1 Education Courses for Interested Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve education opportunities for interested parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with TAFE, Nowra Community College & CA trainers/behaviouralists, obedience clubs to discuss training needs • Identify modules required • Identify interested parties to receive training • Provide assistance to promote the courses 	

<p>17.1.2 Education for Community and Schools Ongoing</p>	<p>➤ Undertake ongoing education programs for community groups and schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore education programs available • Develop education programs and information packs to suit community groups and schools • Identify groups to receive and interested parties to provide education • Develop annual schedule to provide education delivery • Develop mobile and static displays and other education delivery tools /styles 	
<p>17.1.3 Education Targeting Specific Issues</p>	<p>➤ Target education programs for specific issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore education programs available • Develop education programs and information packs to suit specific groups and individuals • Identify groups to receive and interested parties to provide education • Develop annual schedule to provide education that corresponds with specific issues and education / event days • Develop mobile and static displays and other education delivery tools / styles 	
<p>17.1.4 Education Targeting Seasonal Issues</p>	<p>➤ Target education programs to suit seasonal occurrences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify locations and timeframes where problems occur • Explore education programs available • Develop education programs and information packs to suit specific groups and individuals • Identify groups to receive and interested parties to provide education • Develop annual schedule to provide education that corresponds with seasonal occurrences and education / event days • Develop mobile and static displays and other education delivery tools / styles 	

<p>17.1.5 Education and Service Provision Days within Community</p>	<p>➤ Undertake community education and service provision days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore education programs available • Develop program and information packs • Identify interested parties to participate • Determine dates for Education and Service Provision days • Identify target markets • Market and advertise event • Develop mobile and static displays and other education delivery tools / styles 	
<p>17.1.6 Urban Dog Education Package</p>	<p>➤ Implement Urban Dog Education Package.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify outlets where brochures and other information can be made freely available to community • Distribute educational information to improve community awareness • Include Urban Dog Program for primary schools into educational program 	
<p>17.1.7 Information Packs</p>	<p>➤ Create information packs to distribute.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, create and distribute information packs 	
<p>17.1.8 Events Calendar and Services and Products Directory</p>	<p>➤ Utilise avenues available to promote animal events and services and products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include animal events in Shoalhaven events calendar • Update Council's website with animal event information • Consider merits of creating a specific events calendar and pet services and products directory on an annual basis • Investigate sponsorship from businesses within the industry to finance directory 	

17.2 Services & Facilities – Principal Activity 2

Objectives

- Provide quality customer service for all CA owners by improving communication and creating a mechanism to link problems to solutions;
- Provide an innovative and visionary function by identifying and implementing ideas to increase services, facilities and recreational options for pet owners with consideration to non-pet owners and the environment.

Sub-Activity	Strategy	Task
<p>17.2.1 Companion Animals Internal Network (CAIN)</p>	<p>➤ Create an internal network to manage CA issues as they relate to relevant Groups and Sections of Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify members • Include CA management philosophy and objectives in relevant Council plans, reports, brochures, community services, education programs and information distribution processes • Establish regular communication between staff members to discuss and review procedures within Council to maintain quality service provision • Establish regular communication to discuss implementation of SCAMP and input into CAAP from CAIN members • Provide a coordinative function by providing information on services and products available to assist with CA management • Dovetail CA education programs into other Council education programs where relevant
<p>17.2.2 Companion Animals Advisory Panel (CAAP)</p>	<p>➤ Determine and monitor function of CAAP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish terms of reference for CAAP • Establish CAAP • Develop aims and objectives of CAAP • Establish program and invite relevant speakers from CAIN and CAAN • CAAP members to actively seek feedback from the group they represent

<p>17.2.3 Companion Animals Awareness Network (CAAN)</p>	<p>➤ Establish a CAAN to assist with education, distribute information within the community and provide feedback to Council on CA management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop aims and objectives of CAAN • Create and utilise CAAN in accordance with aims and objectives • Form 'Councils United for Pets' with adjacent Councils • Network with other Councils to combine resources for education and service and facility provision, minimising costs and broadening market • Establish regular communication and a strong working relationship with SCC and other government agencies • Liaise with DLG in regards to guidance with consistent procedures and information and education initiatives and associated advertising • Correspond with lifestyle TV programs, etc about issues of concern and about how they can assist to get RPO message out in relation to problems experienced by law enforcement officers and other interested parties • Utilise newspapers to target key issues in conjunction with seasonal, specific and general education plans • Invite media to CAAP meetings, community event days and relevant campaigns • Liaise with pet shops / outlets to discuss issues relating to sale of CA • Initiate networking with community groups to combine resources for common goals, e.g. utilise newsletters and meetings to distribute CA information • Consider seeking services of volunteers from broader community to assist with CA activities 	
<p>17.2.4 Information Technology</p>			
<p>17.2.4.1 Electronic Access to Council Information</p>	<p>➤ Provide quality information on Council's website and intranet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain animal management information on Council's website including animal management, animal shelter, barking dogs, off-leash and prohibited areas and community directory • Include educational links to related CA, native animal and environmental sites 	
<p>17.2.4.2 Call Centre Unit</p>	<p>➤ Provide quality customer Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with interested parties to resolve problems and ensure quality customer service 	

17.2.5 Corporate and Finance Services Group			
17.2.5.1 Counter Services Unit	➤ Provide quality customer service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with interested parties to resolve problems and ensure quality customer service 	
17.2.5.2 Ranger Services Section - Animal Management Unit	➤ Review and monitor strategies to ensure quality customer service, meet legislative requirements, improve animal welfare and reduce CA problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide coordinative function for SCAMP overall • Provide coordinative function by maintaining a network within community to connect problems to solutions • Coordinate information / newsletter to be forwarded to CA owners via mailing list, CAIN, CAAP and CAAN • Distribute educational information throughout community • Animal management officers trained in delivery of education programs • Consider issues relating to containment of cats including creating draft Local Policy dealing with cat curfews. 	
➤ Enforcement Programs	➤ Target enforcement and education programs to pursue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine, develop and implement enforcement and education programs required 	

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<p>o Dog Attacks and Roaming Dogs</p>	<p>compliance requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a dog attack investigation kit and pursue dog attacks to enforcement stage where possible • Review dog attack statistics to monitor effectiveness of strategies and assist with future strategies • Identify causes of behaviour problems to incorporate into education program, e.g. obedience, socialisation and diet • Target dogs roaming and dog defecation on public land by enforcement and education programs 	
<p>o Dangerous Dogs and Restricted Breeds</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake inspections of premises containing restricted breeds and dangerous dogs to ensure compliance • Ensure details of owners are up to date in CAR • Consider introduction of fee to inspect premises of restricted breeds 	
<p>o CA Defecation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target dog defecation on public land by enforcement and education programs • Target CA defecation in general by education programs 	
<p>➤ Companion Animals Register</p> <p>o Permanent Microchip Identification</p> <p>o State-Wide Lifetime Registration</p>	<p>➤ Undertake education and enforcement to ensure CA are identified and registered in accordance with the legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspond with DLG in regard to deficiencies with CA Register • Send reminders each quarter (including Council desexing and identification/registration education information) to CA older than 6 months who are identified but not registered. Utilise this point of contact to distribute educational information • Investigate possibility of amnesty on identification and registration • Conduct patrols of local markets, residential areas where 'for sale' signs are erected, etc to detect and deter the sale of dogs and cats that are not identified (microchip) • Negotiate with local newspapers to place intermittent or regular ads in their 'for sale' section stating it is illegal to sell or re-home non-identified CA • Negotiate with local radio stations to notify owners selling CA at 'swap-time' that it is illegal to sell or re-home non-identified CA in the same light as sale of vehicles • Create procedure where vets can notify Council of death of CA when owner too distressed • Investigate how to flag residents who own CA contrary to conditions of consent via CAR and GIS and notify compliance officer accordingly 	

<p>17.2.5.3 West Nowra Animal Shelter & Pound Facility</p>	<p>➤ Review management of shelter and identify where changes and new ideas will benefit animal management and welfare and ensure quality customer service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Shelter to attain standards for the draft Code of Practice for the Accommodation or Shelter of Animals • Undertake upgrade of facility, improving conditions for CA temporarily in Council’s care and increasing safety for staff, public and animals • Explore and implement proven innovative methods available in CA management for shelters • Explore avenues available for community assistance, e.g. RSPCA, AWL, Greencorp • Include animals for sale and lost on web site • Distribute educational information to public • Negotiate with local newspapers to reintroduce "pet of the week" article 	
<p>17.2.5.4 Southern Animal Shelter and Pound Facility</p>	<p>➤ Review closure of southern animal pound to determine future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess service provision in southern district and identify current problems and options including holding yards at Ulladulla Council Administration Centre and Depot through to commercial boarding kennels and shelter combined • Investigate possibility of RSPCA shelter, boarding kennel or veterinary clinic to act in capacity of shelter in southern region 	

17.2.6 Development and Environmental Services Group

<p>17.2.6.1 Environmental Health</p> <p>➤ Barking Dogs</p>	<p>➤ Review and monitor strategies to ensure quality customer service, meet legislative requirements, improve animal welfare and reduce noise pollution by reducing barking dog problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and undertake educational program • Distribute educational information to manage CA for existing dwellings relating to environmental enrichment and containment • Create barking dog information kit • Explore, promote and implement proven innovative methods available in CA management for barking dogs • Develop and implement procedure to inform Animal Management of non identified CA • Identify locations and seasonal occurrences when barking is most prevalent in a calendar year • Analyse statistics to determine future strategies 	
<p>17.2.6.2 Planning Controls</p>	<p>➤ Utilise planning controls to assist with management of CA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate controls for CA management in DCPs and policies where appropriate. • Utilise conditions of development consents in new developments to protect environment • Consider approval processes for cat enclosures / parks • Consider further development of a Draft 'Policy - Cats and Dogs: Impacts on Native Fauna' • Examine procedures associated with Min 00.1063 (d) & (e), adopted from draft Policy Keeping of Cats and Dogs in the City of Shoalhaven, in relation to Policy for Keeping of Dogs in the Calymea Street / Albatross Road area • Consider a policy on 'Fireworks' which will include notification requirements for events involving fireworks 	

<p>17.2.6.3 Urban and Rural Residential Design</p>	<p>➤ Encourage inclusion of pet-friendly design in housing and yards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and distribute good design criteria and associated educational material for pet-friendly housing to maximise environmental enrichment and provide for safety and confinement of CA 	
<p>17.2.7 Planning Group</p>	<p>➤ Encourage inclusion of CA in Planning Strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate provisions for CA management via strategies, in DCPs, LEPs, Contribution Plans (CP's), and policies where appropriate • Consider impact of CA on native animals when preparing LEP's, DCP's, CP's and policies. 	
<p>17.2.8 Community and Operations Group</p>			
<p>17.2.8.1 Recreation and Leisure</p>			
<p>➤ Off-Leash Areas</p>	<p>➤ Upgrade and enhance OLA to ensure quality customer service, foster the human-animal bond and provide environmental enrichment for CA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review off-leash areas to ensure adequate provision of bins, signs and fencing to meet recommended best practice • Review off-leash areas annually to ascertain usage, safety and amenity • Consider off-leash areas that may be suitable to enhance by diversifying character and topography and including strategic plantings and positioning of mounds or walkways. • Include areas accessible to people with disabilities • Include in relevant education program • Distribute educational information 	

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<p>➤ Prohibited Areas</p>	<p>➤ Review prohibited areas to ascertain relevance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review prohibited areas to ascertain appropriateness of locations with consideration to amenity, environment and service provision • Include in relevant education program • Include in relevant literature 	
<p>➤ Shoalhaven Walking Tracks Strategy</p>	<p>➤ Undertake promotion of CA walking tracks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dovetail CA education into Walking Tracks Strategy • Determine whether other walking tracks are suitable for CA use • Include a range of walking tracks accessible to people with disabilities through to athletes • Include in relevant education program • Include in relevant literature 	
<p>➤ Signage</p>	<p>➤ Minimise theft and vandalism of signs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect and replace or repair signs on a regular basis • Investigate improved methods of securing signs • Consider this matter for inclusion in Council's Signage Strategy for the City of Shoalhaven - Part 3, Public Information. • Include in relevant education program 	
<p>➤ Bins for Dog Faeces</p> <p>➤ Dung Beetles</p>	<p>➤ Utilise proven techniques to minimise impact on amenity and environment of faecal matter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure bins are available at high use areas • Research success rates with other Councils undertaking dung beetle releases • Identify high use areas and if deemed appropriate investigate possibility of trial release of dung beetles in high use dog area 	

17.2.8.2 Community Services Section			
<p>➤ Access and Equity</p>	<p>➤ Include CA information in community services plans and procedures ensuring access and equity are maintained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how CA information can be incorporated into promotion and information strategies via Community Services Management Plan and Community Services Directories • Ensure whole community has access to education programs and provision of facilities and services • Ensure CA information is available in a range of formats and distributed widely • Utilise Community Services as a resource to assist with projects involving the elderly, disabled, youth, children and general community 	
<p>➤ Indigenous Community</p>	<p>➤ Liaise with indigenous community to assist them with CA issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop CA education strategy in cooperation with Aboriginal community • Ensure services and information is available to Aboriginal community 	
<p>17.2.8.3 Tourism Section</p>	<p>➤ Include education and information distribution within tourism industry about CA management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how CA information can be incorporated into Tourism Management Plan, Master Plan and other avenues • Determine CA accommodation currently available • Provide information to proprietors of visitor's accommodation and visitors to assist with CA issues • Review Pets on Holiday in the Shoalhaven brochure to ensure it is aligned with SCAMP objectives 	

<p>17.2.8.4 Holiday Haven Tourist Parks</p>	<p>➤ Consider pet-friendly accommodation and associated information distribution for visitors at Holiday Haven Tourist Parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss possibility of including CA accommodation and associated facilities at some Holiday Haven Tourist Parks • Provide information to proprietor to assist with maximising service to CA owners • Provide educative information to inform proprietor and visitors who bring CA to assist with CA issues • Ensure guidelines are in place where CA are allowed into premises 	
<p>17.2.8.5 Library Service</p>	<p>➤ Provide quality educational information at Council's libraries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure current educational information, behaviour modification and animal welfare literature is available to public • Survey bark buster video to ascertain benefits • Investigate what other educational information is available and beneficial to house at libraries 	
<p>17.2.8.6 Buildings and Facilities Provided for the Community</p>	<p>➤ Ensure policy and provisions for pets are in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include CA management issues in relevant policies pertaining to community buildings • Ensure provision of signs and prohibiting dogs from community buildings/centres are in place • Ensure dogs are provided for outside of premises in same light as bike racks and car parks • Ensure guidelines are in place where CA are allowed into premises 	

17.2.9 City Services Group			
<p>17.2.9.1 Emergency Services</p> <p>➤ Disaster Planning - Emergency Preparedness</p>	<p>➤ Review DISPLAN to ensure planning is adequate for CA, other pets, livestock and native animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with relevant agencies to review and update disaster planning procedure for animals • Undertake annual review of disaster planning procedure for animals • Include in relevant education program 	
<p>17.2.9.2 Natural Resources and Floodplain</p>	<p>➤ Include CA and other animal issues in Natural Resources and Floodplain strategies where relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key issues as they relate to CA • Identify key issues as they relate to feral, exotic, native and other animals for sub plans - feral and exotic species and other animal welfare issues 	

17.3 Animal Welfare – Principal Activity 3

Objectives

- Improve animal welfare by raising community awareness; providing facilities, services and information about responsible pet ownership and environmental enrichment;
- Detect and monitor animal welfare concerns and take appropriate action.

Sub-Activity	Strategy	Task	
17.3.1 Responsible Pet Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage RPO by providing education and information throughout the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore services, products and facilities to determine what is available to assist with RPO • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
17.3.1.1 Appropriate pet selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage appropriate pet selection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
17.3.1.2 Basic Health and Welfare Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inform pet owners about basic health and welfare principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	

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<p>17.3.1.3 Identification / Registration and Desexing</p>	<p>➤ Facilitate process of identification / registration and desexing via programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise regular programs within community • Create procedure / policy for identification / registration / desexing programs • Provide cheap chipping days throughout the year combined with educational initiatives • Consider strategy to encourage vets to offer discount desexing for impounded CA released to owner • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
<p>17.3.1.4 Secure Confinement and Environmental Enrichment</p>	<p>➤ Encourage provision of secure confinement and environmental enrichment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore services, products and facilities to determine what is available to assist with secure confinement and environmental enrichment • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
<p>17.3.1.5 Socialisation, Training and Lifetime Commitment</p>	<p>➤ Encourage pet owners to make a strong commitment to their animal's well being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
<p>17.3.1.6 Appropriate Attitude, Care and Philosophy</p>	<p>➤ Provide opportunities to cultivate correct attitude towards animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider strategy and protocol to assist with cruelty to animals and associated future behaviour • Consider strategy and protocol to assist with illegal dog fighting & fur trade • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	

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<p>➤ Animal Management and Shelter Statistics</p>	<p>➤ Monitor statistics to determine strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse statistics to indicate performance and consider future strategies • Include in relevant education program • Distribute information 	
<p>17.3.2 Other Animal Welfare Issues</p>	<p>➤ Undertake research and take action to assist with animal issues that require a coordinated effort from all land-owners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify issues of concern in relation to native animals, livestock and other domestic animals • Develop a management plan in association with the SCAMP • Liaise with interested parties to create strategies and take action to assist with animal welfare and conservation • Include in relevant education program • Provide information to residents and visitors to assist with appropriate interaction with native animals 	
<p>17.4 Environmental Protection – Principal Activity 4</p>			
<p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conserve and protect the environment by minimising CA impact on biological diversity; 			
<p>Sub-Activity</p>	<p>Strategy</p>	<p>Task</p>	
<p>17.4.1 Biodiversity Conservation</p>	<p>➤ Encourage best practice in relation to CA and their impact on the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate CA issues in relevant Council plans and reports • Include in relevant education program • Dovetail CA education programs into other Council education programs where relevant 	

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<p>17.4.2 Feral and Exotic Animals</p>	<p>➤ Minimise feral and exotic animal population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a management plan in association with the SCAMP • Investigate the possibility of a joint program for feral and exotic animal eradication in the same light as the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad. • Work with other government agencies, landowners and licensed organisations/volunteers to reduce feral and exotic animal populations in the Shoalhaven • Include in relevant education program 	
<p>17.4.2.1 Feral Cat Predation and Communities</p>	<p>➤ Minimise feral cat communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify feral cat locations/communities including waste depots • Liaise with local residents for assistance • Work with other government agencies, landowners and licensed /organisations volunteers to reduce feral cat populations in the Shoalhaven • Include in relevant education program 	
<p>17.4.2.2 Feral Dog Predation and Communities</p>	<p>➤ Minimise feral dog communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify feral dog locations/communities • Liaise with local residents for assistance • Work with other government agencies, landowners and licensed organisations/volunteers to reduce feral dog populations in the Shoalhaven • Include in relevant education program 	
<p>17.4.3 South Coast Shorebird Recovery Team</p>	<p>➤ Assist team with education and enforcement strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC to network with community and other government agencies by linking focussed community education and enforcement campaigns to this community project and by encouraging feedback about CA wandering in these areas 	
<p>17.4.4 Jervis Bay Marine Park</p>	<p>➤ Assist team with education and enforcement strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC to network with community and other government agencies by linking focussed community education and enforcement campaigns to this community project and by encouraging feedback about CA wandering in these areas 	

17.5 Financial Management – Principal Activity 5

Objective

- Manage finances efficiently to enhance CA issues.

Sub-Activity	Strategy	Task
17.5.1 Income and Expenditure	➤ Monitor income and expenditure to ensure efficient use of resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Council collects all income provided for under the Companion Animals Act • Review expenditure to ensure that the maximum benefit is derived from the available funds
17.5.2 Donations	➤ Obtain donations to assist with CA management and native animal issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain donations from Council for NANA, RSPCA and AWL • Explore other ways of obtaining donations
17.5.3 Fundraising	➤ Obtain additional finance via fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify fundraising projects • Identify interested parties to undertake fundraising projects • Approach Council to consider matching money raised by community
17.5.4 Funding	➤ Pursue funding opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine project to undertake and develop application • Submit proposal to DLG in an effort to secure funding • Enlist with other Councils to undertake joint ventures to secure funding • Apply for funding / grants when opportunity presents e.g. Voiceless grant

17.6 Monitor & Review – Principal Activity 6

Objective

- Ensure SCAMP is implemented, monitored and reviewed with input from CAIN, CAAP, CAAN and the community.

Sub-Activity	Strategy	Task
<p>17.6.1 Interested Parties</p> <p>17.6.2 Statistics</p>	<p>➤ Monitor and review function of interested parties, statistics and performance targets of SCAMP to determine success and future strategies and to provide feedback to Council, DLG and the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and review function and processes of CAIN, CAAP, CAAN and community consultation process • Review panel terms of reference and membership every two years • Hold regular meetings with interested parties to discuss and review implementation of SCAMP • Analyse statistics to indicate performance and consider future strategies • CAAP members to seek feedback from the group they represent • Seek feedback from CAAN • Assess benefits and shortfalls of outcomes • Make recommendations to Council • Provide feedback to Department of Local Government in general terms and in relation to deficiencies with legislation