



POLICY REGISTER

WORKING DOGS POLICY

Policy adopted: 28th October 2010 Minute No. 349.10.10

Reviewed: 24th April 2025 Minute No. 121.4.25

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Issue	Prepared/Revised By and Date	Action/Amendment Description	Approved By and Date
1.0	Maryanne Stephens Manager Health and Development Services		Council Minute No. 349.10.10 (28th October 2010)
1.1	Maryanne Stephens Manager Health and Development Services April 2025	Minor amendments	Council Minute No. 121.4.25 (24th April 2025)

A working dog means a dog used primarily for the purpose of droving, tending, working or protecting stock, and includes a dog being trained as a working dog, as defined under the Companion Animals Act 1998

Council's Authorized Officer can request to witness the dog droving, tending, working or protecting stock as proof of the dog being a working dog.

The owner of the dog must supply the details of the property the dog is/will be working at, and the contact details of the owner of the property so Council's Authorized Officer can check such claims.

If the owner cannot prove the claim, the appropriate registration will be required. The location at which the dog is ordinarily kept does not suffice as proof of a working dog.

A working dog does not necessarily have to be a specific breed e.g. kelpie, cattle, as long as it can demonstrate skills that is considered to be sufficient as proof of claim as a working dog.

Hunting dogs and guard dogs are not working dogs under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

A companion animal not otherwise required to be registered under the Act that is taken into the custody of a council (including in a council pound) or an approved animal welfare organisation must be registered under the Act before it is returned to its owner from that custody.

REVIEW

This Policy should be reviewed every 4 years or within 12 months following an election of Council. The Policy may be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative changes occur).