

13 March 2024



Dear 

Local Government Official Information Request – Animal Services at Council

I refer to your official information request received by Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) on 16 February 2024 where you requested information pertaining to animal services at Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

The answers to your questions are set out below:

1. How many Animal Control Officers (ACO's) do you currently employ to look after dog enforcement?

We have 4 Animal Control officers (ACOs) plus an Animal Services Team Leader.

We also have 3 part-time employees on a rostered 7-day basis to manage the 2 animal shelters and release dogs.

We also employ contractors who operate after-hours, and at the weekends, for response to complaints for dog attacks and lost and found dog pick-ups (dogs secured for collection by members of the public, calls received through the Council 24/7 customer service).

2. How are your ACOs funded? Is this through dog registration fees or general rates? Or a mixture?

Animal Services are funded by a mix of registration fees and general rates.

3. How do you generally fund physical assets (i.e. fencing, signage, poo bag stations) at dog exercise areas?

The day-to-day costs associated with assets on Council reserves, which are available as dogs exercise areas are funded from Council Reserves and Facilities budgets.

Council has approved 4 dedicated dog parks through it's last Long Term Plan. These were funded at a capped portion (\$30K per dog park) from dog registration fees. The remaining costs of establishment are funded from a combination of community grants, and reserves. The ongoing costs of these parks are funded through the reserves and facilities budget.

4. How do you fund the depreciation of these physical assets?

The cost of depreciation of the physical assets is within the Reserves and Facilities asset budget and is funded by general rates.

5. If easily available, do you know how much the councils approximately spends on dog exercise areas per annum?

Our first dedicated '*dog park*' was only opened in September 2023, therefore, we do not have an annual cost available for you at this time.

The annual cost of all other areas utilised as '*dog exercise areas*' is not able to be quantified, noting that this is a permissive use of reserves and public places for dog exercising.

6. What is your Revenue and Finance Policy split for animal related activities? (i.e. what percentage is funded from rates and what percentage comes from dog registration fees).

The Revenue and Finance Policy split for animal related activities is:

- 75%-85% funded by registration user fees
- 25%-15% general rates

Yours Sincerely



Alison Curtis

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