Domestic Animal Management Plan

2026—2029

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Bass Coast Community Vision 2041

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment, and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.

Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council's Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken in developing the Domestic Animal Management Plan, ensuring it reflects fairness, inclusivity and the diverse needs of our community.

BASS COAST

Bass Coast Shire Council

76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC 3995
PO Box 118 Wonthaggi, VIC 3995

1300 BCOAST (226 278) or
(03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (if you are deaf and/or find it hard hearing or speaking with people who use a phone) on on 133 677.

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/pets

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Mayor and Councillors Message

In Bass Coast, we know just how much our pets mean to us. They are our walking companions, our early morning alarm clocks, and our comfort after a tough day. Pets bring joy, connection and routine to our lives—and in doing so, they contribute meaningfully to our physical and emotional wellbeing.

Owning a pet, however, comes with responsibilities. It means not only caring for their health and safety but also making sure they live in harmony with our neighbours, our public spaces and our precious natural environment. Responsible pet ownership is essential to ensuring that the benefits of pet companionship are shared across the community.

Living in such a unique and beautiful place also brings responsibility. Our coastline, bushland and open spaces are home to diverse and sensitive wildlife. Protecting these natural places—while supporting pet owners to enjoy life with their four-legged friend—is what this Domestic Animal Management Plan is all about.

This Domestic Animal Management Plan sets out how Council will work with our community over the next four years to ensure that pets and people continue to thrive together. It's a comprehensive and balanced approach—one that recognises that domestic animals are a valued part of many households, and that their care and management is vital to community safety, liveability, and environmental protection.

From dog-friendly spaces and education campaigns, to partnerships with vets and rescue groups, this Plan outlines the steps we'll take to promote responsible pet ownership across Bass Coast. It also highlights our commitment to animal welfare, to reducing nuisance, and to creating environments where all community members—on two legs or four—can feel safe and supported.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Plan. Your feedback and ideas have helped shape a future where the benefits of pet ownership can be fully realised—for people, pets and the place we share.

Cr Rochelle Halstead, Mayor

Pictured above with Sanny

> This Domestic Animal Management Plan sets out how Council will work with our community over the next four years to ensure that pets and people continue to thrive together.

Introduction

Purpose

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is a four-year Plan that provides a strategic approach to promoting and encouraging responsible pet ownership, the welfare of dogs and cats, and the protection of the community and environment from nuisance dogs and cats.

This DAMP sets a framework to support the health and wellbeing benefits of animal ownership across the Shire, while balancing community amenity and natural resource protection. This document explains how Council currently manages programs and sets out actions to improve and grow the ways in which Council delivers domestic animal management programs.

These objectives and guidelines aim to create a place where pets and the community can live and thrive together, without adversely impacting on the environment or community amenity.

Vision Statement

Through the consultation process to develop the DAMP, key stakeholders collaborated to articulate a shared Vision for domestic animal management across the Shire. Bass Coast is a community in which responsible pet ownership is a core community value, and the health and wellbeing benefits of animal ownership go alongside the enjoyment and protection of the natural environment.

Vision:

"To support a thriving, healthy community where responsible pet ownership and environmental stewardship go hand in hand—ensuring safe, shared spaces that protect biodiversity while enriching the lives of people and their animals."

Statutory Requirement

Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act), every Victorian local government must prepare a DAMP every four years, outlining how it will manage dogs and cats within its municipal boundaries.

Every Council must review its DAMP annually and publish an evaluation of its implementation in its Annual Report. The Plan must:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and regulations.
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers.
- Outline programs, services and strategies to:
  - Promote and encourage responsible ownership of dogs and cats.
  - Ensure that people comply with the Act, regulations and legislation.
  - Minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.
  - Address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.
  - Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats.
  - Minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.
  - Effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with Act and regulations.
  - Provide for review of existing orders and Local Laws made under the Act.
  - Provide for review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats.

Strategic Alignment

Supporting pet owners to care for their pets, access ample, appropriate venues to exercise and socialise their animals, and be responsible pet owners enhances the safety and wellbeing of the wider community. The DAMP is an endorsed major initiative in the Bass Coast Shire Council Plan and the Health, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan.

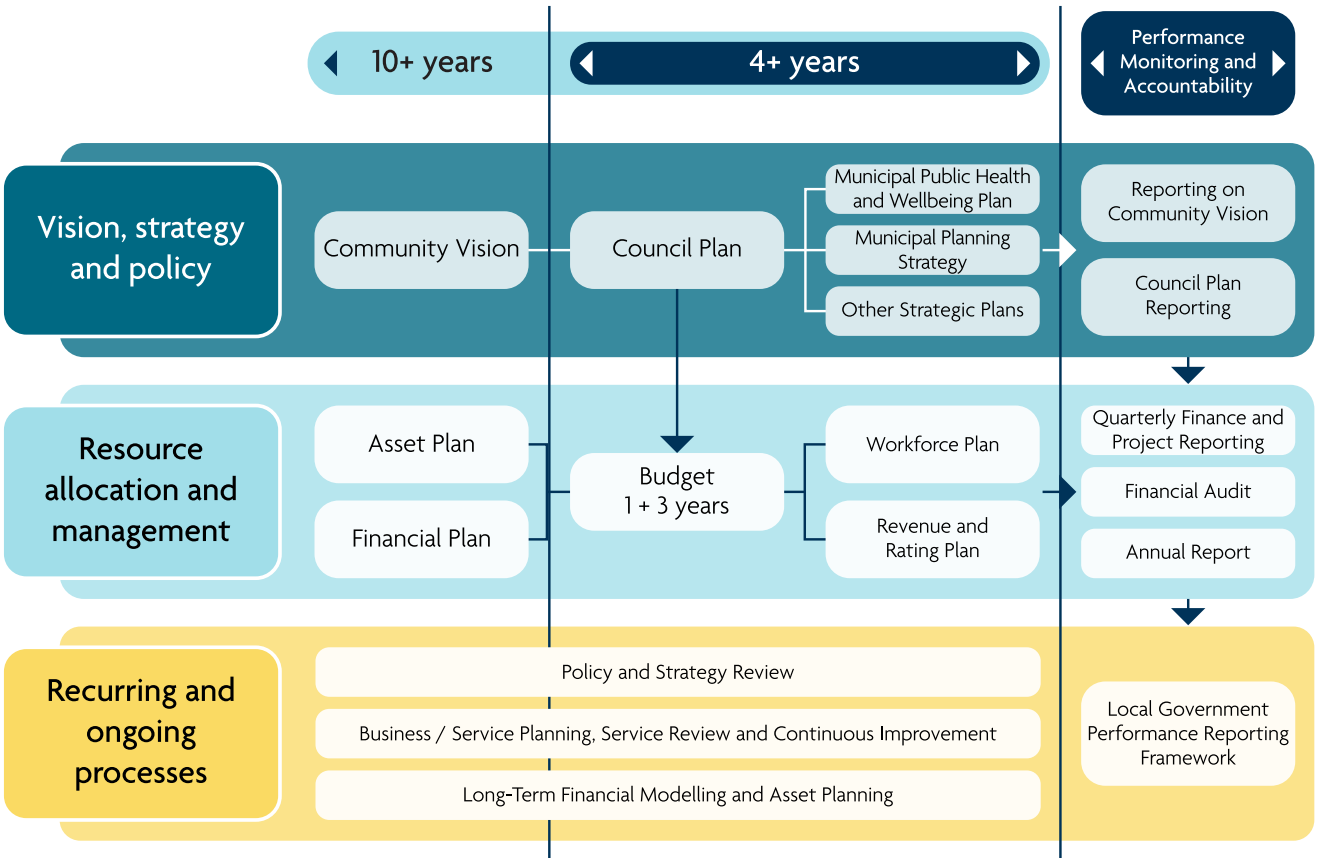
Below: A year 1 action of this DAMP is to develop a Dogs in Public Places Guidelines. This document will be used for decision making around all dog regulations that are Government Gazetted by Council, including regulations on beaches.

Process

This new DAMP builds on the current DAMP that has successfully guided the delivery of animal management services across Bass Coast.

It was developed in consultation with Council's Community Safety Team, and informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking. It seeks to uplift and support the health and wellbeing benefits of responsible pet ownership, enhance compliance and environmental protection and balance community and stakeholder needs, whilst ensuring compliance with requirements of the Act.

Bass Coast Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



Successful initiatives from 2021-2025

The 2021-25 DAMP realised several successful initiatives including:

- Successful roll out of 24/7 cat containment across Bass Coast to reduce euthanasia rates, support welfare of domestic cats and protect the environment. This included the establishment of a cat containment working group, design and roll out of a communication and education campaign, and development of supporting processes.
- Completed an upgrade of the Pound including acoustic treatments, updated enclosures, installation of generators and improvements to drainage and security.
- Established partnerships with local vets, so that concession card holders can access subsidised microchipping and desexing.
- Installed dog waste dispensers at all off lead beaches across Bass Coast.
- Uplift and simplification of signage to support compliance across the Shire.
- Established the Dog Off Leash working group to provide guidance and recommendations on improving dog off leash areas.
- Improvements to Wonthaggi fenced dog park.
- Continued to work with Land Managers, Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) and Parks Victoria (PV) to investigate opportunities to create consistent rules regarding off leash times on beaches.
- Significant increase in the number of registered pets in Bass Coast.
- Increased authorised officer presence on beaches from December to April, including joint beach patrols and education with Parks Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks.
- Reviewed and updated our systems and processes.
- Developed and delivered communication and education activities across all Council platforms, targeted towards promoting responsible pet ownership, including:
  - Sharing our Shores summer education campaign in partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park.
  - Attendance at local markets and events.

Summary Actions for 2026-2029

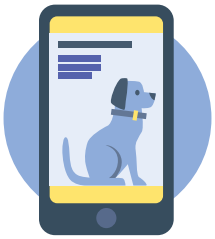
The table below provides a summary of actions for 2026-2029.
Further details are provided in the body of the DAMP.

OBJECTIVE 1

Ensure that Authorised Officers have the knowledge and skills required to effectively administer their role

- Support Authorised Officers to further develop their skills as part of the annual performance development process.
- Authorised Officers to be trained in and authorised under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*.
- Authorised Officers participate in state- wide forums and working groups
- Develop a framework to support officers in managing high complexity matters.

OBJECTIVE 2



Promote responsible pet ownership through effective communication

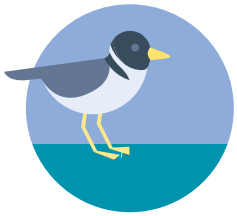
- Review and implement multi-channel communication plan utilising a variety of media such as social media, print, post and website information.
- Audit and update website information.
- Uplift messaging to promote health and wellbeing benefits of responsible dog ownership.
- Partner with land managers, dog trainers, business, tourism and community groups to develop and deliver campaigns that deliver consistent messaging on responsible pet ownership to residents and visitors.

OBJECTIVE 3

Promote responsible pet ownership through educational activities

- Investigate opportunities to introduce QR codes to Council signage, that point to information on responsible pet ownership.
- Partner with land managers, dog trainers, business, tourism and community groups to develop and implement education programs and enhanced signage content that provides consistent, positive messaging on the benefits to the environment and pets of responsible pet ownership.
- Investigate and implement materials for Officer vehicles to promote animal registration - such as magnets, car signs or decals.
- Utilise variable message sign to promote responsible pet ownership.

OBJECTIVE 4



Decrease feral animals, protect wildlife, raise awareness and educate domestic animal owners on the impacts and implications of pets near conservation areas

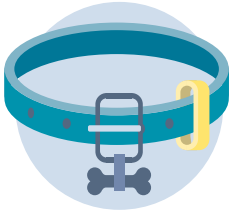
- Continue to support Phillip Island Nature Park (PINP), Parks Victoria and other committees of management in promoting conservation and wildlife preservation including hooded plovers and wombats.
- Continue to engage directly with key stakeholders and create opportunities for information to be shared across the Shire.
- Partner with key stakeholders, including volunteer groups, to target areas of high sensitivity for local education and signage uplift.

OBJECTIVE 5

Increase Council's capacity to improve welfare of dogs and cats

- Investigate ways to continually improve Council's Pound facilities.
- Partner with other animal management services and facilities to support domestic animal management across Bass Coast. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with vets and rescue groups.
- Partner with local foster care networks to build their capacity and impact.
- Establish an emergency management document detailing arrangements and partnerships to support animals during an emergency and ensure their welfare and safe housing.
- Partner with Pets of the Homeless to help keep vulnerable people and their pets together by alleviating the burden of providing essential pet care during times of hardship.

OBJECTIVE 6



Animals are microchipped, desexed, registered and wearing tags

- Conduct targeted education and promotional activities ahead of annual April 10 pet registration renewal.
- Investigate the feasibility of introducing discounted fees for first year of registration and dogs and cats under 12 months old that are not yet desexed.
- Undertake activities to better identify pet registration non-compliances.· Continue registration checks in the field. Continue Central Animal Records (CAR) microchip audits · Follow up reported lost animals for registration.
- Partner with shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders to promote Council registration and updating of microchip details.
- Improve targeted promotion of the subsidised desexing and microchipping program available through Council partnership with local vets (for holders of a Health Care Card, Aged Pension etc).
- Introduce Council registration and microchipping days.

OBJECTIVE 7

Increase visibility of Council officers at beaches and other priority locations

- Review seasonal roster and patrol schedule, and resource appropriately to increase patrol activity to include year-round beach patrols, education and enforcement activities during peak periods.
- Continue the partnership with land managers to extend Council Officer presence to include their beaches through joint beach patrols.

OBJECTIVE 8

Effective education and enforcement activities

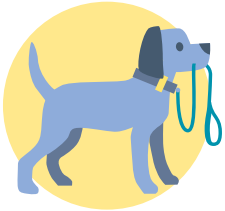
- Deliver a flexible staffing model designed to increase Officer capacity to respond quickly to compliance issues identified as high priority).
- Review and improve processes for enforcement regarding animal management including barking dog nuisance, dog attacks, dogs off leash and cat containment.
- Develop a 'Barking Dog Kit' with information and resources to support the community to resolve barking dog concerns.
- Review and improve information available regarding reducing nuisance and promoting dog friendly spaces. Including dog off leash and dog prohibited area maps, picking up after your dog, barking dog information, dog attack reporting and prevention information, online resources.
- Review and improve the way Council collects, measures and reports on domestic animal requests (including identification of 'hotspots'). Investigate feasibility of implementing Snap, Send, Solve as part of this initiative.
- Provide body corporates and Short Stay Rental Accommodation properties information on preventing dog and cat nuisance.
- Continue to promote, implement and enforce the 24-hour cat confinement order across Bass Coast Shire.

OBJECTIVE 9

Continue to deliver best practice in management of dog attacks and declared dogs

- Continue to develop and improve processes to improve the way Council manages, investigates and prosecutes dog attacks to maintain best practice.
- Review and improve information to support dog attack reporting and prevention. Promote early reporting of minor incidents to prevent escalation and major incidents.
- Analyse dog attack data and target hot spots for additional proactive patrols to actively enforce against and minimise dog attacks in the community.
- Conduct annual and proactive dog property inspections for compliance with the Domestic Animal Act (including but not limited to security of fencing, animal housing and signage).
- Continue to identify and declare dogs dangerous and menacing when required.
- Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

OBJECTIVE 10



Develop a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas

- Develop a Dogs in Public Places Guidelines (leash free and dog prohibited areas) that provides a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Council managed land.
- Identify and deliver a fenced dog park on the mainland of Bass Coast. Signage changes to reflect any changes made to regulations.
- Identify and deliver a suitable location for a fenced dog park on Phillip Island. Signage changes to reflect any changes made to regulations.
- Undertake a signage review and audit of dog controls.
- Continue to partner with the Dog Off Leash Working Group, including bi-annual meetings to discuss community matters that relate to the management of dogs in Bass Coast Shire.

OBJECTIVE 11

Domestic animal businesses will be identified, registered and compliant with relevant code of practice

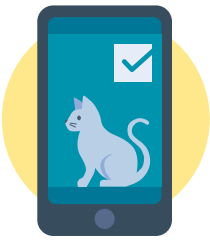
- Monitor for businesses that should be registered Domestic Animal Businesses by reviewing advertisements, social media, local notice boards, etc and ensure they are compliant with legislation.
- Annual audit of registered domestic animal businesses in Bass Coast for compliance.

OBJECTIVE 12

Seek funding opportunities to support domestic animal management programs

- Investigate opportunities for external funding towards the development of domestic animal management programs.
- Investigate and monitor opportunities to access external funding to support enhanced delivery of dog-friendly facilities, including fenced dog parks.

OBJECTIVE 13



Leverage new technology to continuously improve Council services

- Investigate and incorporate new technologies to provide improvements in Council's Domestic Animal Management services and communications materials.

Our consultation

How we consulted

The community consultation approach included two rounds:

- Consultation to inform development of the DAMP; and
- Consultation to gather feedback on the draft DAMP.

Round 1 consultation

The purpose of the first round was to better understand views in relation to dog and cat issues in the community. These consultation activities were available from 9 May to 9 June 2025.

Consultation tools were made available via Council's online platform – Engage Bass Coast.

- Online survey – provide feedback and suggestions on a series of dog and cat matters.
- Upload a written submission.
- Email DAMP@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Other ways that people could have their say:

- Hard copy survey - available upon request.
- Write to Bass Coast Shire, PO Box 118 Wonthaggi 3995
- Talk with us at one of our pop-up sessions.

A workshop was also held with key stakeholders that have a passion for the management of domestic animals Bass Coast (e.g. land managers, conservation groups, vets, domestic animal business, Dog Off Leash Working Group etc.) to hear their thoughts to inform development of the draft DAMP. Workshops with Community Safety staff and subject matter experts were also held to support development of the draft DAMP

The consultation was promoted via Council's communication channels, including Engage Bass Coast, social media, e-newsletters, media releases and posters with QR codes displayed at Council venues.

Key external stakeholders (e.g. domestic animal businesses, veterinary clinics, rescue groups, shelters, animal groups, environmental groups and land managers) were directly emailed an invitation link to participate in the community consultation activities.

We heard from 823, people with feedback used to help develop a draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029, ahead of a second round of community consultation.

Round 2 consultation – feedback on the draft DAMP

To seek feedback on the draft DAMP, we conducted a community survey between 21 August and 14 September 2025.

487 people visited the Engage Bass Coast website; 137 people completed a survey and three made written submissions.

What we heard

Key themes

The key themes identified from the consultation outcomes are outlined below:

- Consensus that non-compliance by a minority impacts majority of community members and responsible pet owners. Provide definition of 'responsible pet ownership'.
- Ensure environmental stewardship and protection of natural assets. Concerns that current measures (signage/education) are insufficient in some areas.
- Deliver dog off-leash areas at selected parks and foreshores.
- Review seasonal and time restrictions for dogs on beaches.
- Provide dog waste bags at selected parks and foreshores.
- Design fenced dog parks inclusive of equipment and facilities.
- Focus on moving from consultation to delivery (especially in relation to fenced dog parks).
- Improve signage to explain responsible pet requirements, including leash restrictions.
- Provide a holistic, Shire-wide framework for scoping new dog parks and setting foreshore regulations.
- Increase Council officer visibility on beaches and other key locations.
- Provide effective communications, education and enforcement to promote responsible pet ownership across the Shire.
- Partner with local dog trainers/clubs, tourism and business associations, vets and community groups; co-deliver campaigns.
- Foregrounding the mental health, social connection, and the visitor economy benefits of responsible pet ownership and dog-friendly facilities.
- Support for ongoing strong cat management: containment, enforcement, education, desexing assistance.
- Concerns with feral and roaming cats impacting wildlife; requests for continued trap programs.
- Importance of collecting and reuniting found animals.
- Multiple views: many dog owners seek more facilities and flexibility; others call for tighter restrictions to protect wildlife and public amenity.
- Broad agreement on clearer rules, better signage, more enforcement, and balanced, evidence-based shared-space management.

Support for:

- Improvements made to Wonthaggi dog park.
- The proposed fenced dog park in Inverloch and the need for a fenced dog park in Philip Island
- The development of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines to set a consistent future-focussed framework for establishing new inland dog parks and setting beach regulations to achieve a balance between recreational dog use and wildlife protection
- Audit and uplift in signage across the Shire, with a focus on environmentally sensitive areas
- Communications and education campaigns in partnerships with local community groups that promote environmental stewardship and health and wellbeing benefits of responsible pet ownership
- Maximising Council resources and services that promote responsible pet ownership, including provision of dog waste bags.

About Bass Coast

Community

Bass Coast Shire is located on the traditional lands of the Bunurong people. A predominantly coastal municipality, Bass Coast boasts a stunning and diverse natural environment—from rugged coastlines and iconic beaches to rich farmland and bushland.

With a collection of over 30 vibrant townships and rural communities, each with its own unique identity and history, Bass Coast offers a mix of coastal and country living. Just 130 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, it is one of the fastest growing regional areas in Victoria. Bordered by Bass Strait to the south and neighbouring Cardinia and South Gippsland shires, Bass Coast is both accessible and deeply connected to its natural surrounds.

Home to over 43,000 permanent residents, the population increases significantly during holiday periods. Visitors are drawn by major events, coastal escapes, outdoor adventure, and cultural experiences, from surfing and cycling to local markets, the arts, wine and food, and nature-based tourism. Bass Coast offers a blend of rural, residential and holiday living, set against a backdrop of beaches, rolling hills, and wide-open skies.

The region is also home to the award-winning cultural venue Berninneit at the heart of Phillip Island in Cowes, and The Union Theatre in Wonthaggi, a venue deeply connected to the area's rich history of coal mining and social change. These facilities reflect a strong community commitment to creativity, storytelling and cultural connection.

Bass Coast continues to grow as a place where people come to live, work, invest and visit—attracted by its lifestyle, natural beauty, strong community spirit, and future-focused approach.

Dogs and cats in Bass Coast

The following table provides a snapshot of dogs and cats across Bass Coast. Further details are provided in the body of the DAMP.

Snapshot Data	2020-21	2024-25
Human population	37,445	43,557
Geographic area of municipality	864 km2	
Community Safety Officers (FTE)	5	5
Registered dogs	7,385	7,915
Registered cats	2,004	1,820
Dog and cat related requests	2,678	2,366
Registered declared dogs (dangerous, menacing or restricted breed)	10	17
Dog attack or rush	144	128
Number of registered Domestic Animal Businesses	7	8
Keeping of animals / excess animals permits issued	8	10
Number of infringements	73	185
Number of successful prosecutions	83	10
Dogs impounded	160	147
Cats impounded	176	121
Cat cage request	92	108

The future

Bass Coast's population is forecast to grow to 47,408 by 2036. Increased resident population and visitors to Bass Coast has a flow on effect on the number of pets in our Shire. This impacts the number of animal registrations, dogs being walked in public open spaces, cats needing to be contained to properties, dogs potentially barking, and much more.

Liveable environments, and sharing our lives with pets, create a foundation for good health and wellbeing for everyone. This includes well-designed places that have safe access to quality open spaces, amenities and services.

As the Bass Coast environment is its economy, the protection and preservation of natural wildlife and habitat is important to the Bass Coast community. The DAMP outlines how Council will implement initiatives to increase community awareness and reduce impacts of dogs and cats on the environment.

Although mandatory cat desexing and 24-hour cat containment regulations are already in place, unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and an environmental problem without adequate management. Council will focus on continued promotion of responsible cat ownership.

Our services – what we do

The table below provides a summary of Council's domestic animal management programs and services.

Program Area	Services
Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership	→ Council website information, including links to other agencies → Social media posts – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram → Media releases and articles in local newspapers → Provide a range of educational materials and brochures to the community → 'Where can I walk my dog?' maps → Signage in parks, reserves and foreshore areas detailing dog controls
Overpopulation and High Euthanasia	→ Subsidised desexing and microchipping program through local vets. → Council's Wonthaggi Pound facility houses animals for eight days that are found wandering. After eight days, animals are transferred to the RSPCA for rehoming or adoption
Registration and Identification	→ Annual registration renewal and follow up → Lifetime registration tags → Online registration forms and payment options → Registration information packs for newly registered dogs and cats.
Nuisance	→ Nuisance complaints - response → Online help information → Lodge nuisance requests online → Council-loaned cat cages to confine nuisance cats → Collection of found animals → Routine patrols of parks and foreshore areas → Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with particular focus on foreshore areas → Partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park to extend our presence to include their beaches
Dog Attacks	→ Dog attack complaint – immediate response → Dangerous dog complaint (where threat is not imminent) – response within 48 hours
Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs	→ Annual inspections of dangerous/restricted dogs for compliance → Prosecute non-compliant owners → Investigation of complaints
Domestic Animal Businesses	→ Inspect and process new Domestic Animal Business applications. → Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with the Act and issue annual registration certificates → Investigation of breaches / complaints
Animal Welfare / Cruelty	→ Liaise with and report animal welfare / cruelty matters to the RSPCA for action
Customer Service	→ Officers provide services 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday → An after hours service is provided 24/7 by rostered officers to respond to urgent requests. We do not pick up contained dogs after 8pm, we ask people to hold the animal and collect the following day → Lodge animal requests online → Payment facilities online → Online forms
Dogs in Public Places	→ Delivery of facilities for active recreation with dogs, including inland fenced dog parks → Establishing consistent rules and regulations for dog access on Council managed land

Local laws, orders and other regulations

In addition to The Act, Council enforces the provisions of the Bass Coast Shire Local Law No 1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2022 and Council orders.

Registration and identification

Dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with Council, microchipped and wear a registration tag when outside of an owner's premises

Keeping dogs and cats

The maximum number of dogs and cats allowed in residences less than 5000m2 is two dogs and two cats.

However, if you live on a property 5000m2 or greater, you may have up to three dogs and four cats. If you wish to keep more than the maximum number, you must apply for an Excess Animal Permit.

Exemptions are provided for dogs and cats under 12 weeks of age.

Animal accommodation

Owners are required to ensure that animal accommodation is well located, clean and minimises nuisance.

Adequate fencing

Owners must ensure that the land is adequately fenced to prevent animals from escaping.

Animal excrement

People are required to both carry a bag and remove their animals' excrement when left in a public place.

Dog containment order

Dog containment order for repeat offenders of 'dog at large'.

Desexing cats

Newly registered cats over the age of three months must be desexed. Cats exempt from desexing include:

- A cat that is owned by a person or body that conducts a domestic animal business under which cats are bred, and the cat is used for breeding purposes in connection with that business; and
- A cat that is owned by a person who is a current member of an applicable organisation, and the cat is registered with that organisation.

24-hour cat containment order

A Council Order is in place where cats must be always confined to the owner's premises.

Dogs on / off leash

In Bass Coast, Dogs must always be on leash in public places, unless otherwise signed in a designated 'off leash area'.

Dog prohibited areas

Council Orders are in place prohibiting dogs in certain reserves and foreshore areas.

Training of authorised officers

Council's authorised officers interact with and support community every day in Bass Coast Shire to provide engagement, education, support end enforcement actions, and aim to be a highly visible and trusted facet of community life. Council's animal management services are delivered through the Community Safety Team by building relationships within the community and key partners; and through providing advice, support and regulatory services. Council employs 5 full time Community Safety Officers who during 2024-25 responded to 2,366 animal management requests.

Community Safety Officers work in designated zones or areas and in addition to animal management undertake a range of service delivery including Local Laws.

Animal management services are provided from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday. An emergency 24/7 after-hours telephone service operates via the Council's main telephone number. One on-call rostered Community Safety Officer responds to urgent requests. We do not pick up contained dogs after 8pm, we ask people to hold the animal and collect the following day.

What we currently do

- Community Safety Officers are to hold or be working towards Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation – or have appropriate other relevant qualifications and experience.
- New staff are required to complete Council induction on policies and procedures. On the job training and ongoing coaching is provided.
- Staff are encouraged to represent Bass Coast on industry bodies and committees where appropriate.
- Internal procedures and processes are regularly reviewed and updated.
- We maintain a training register, detailing all the qualifications and training courses completed by each team member. We undertake annual performance reviews to identify further training and development opportunities with targeted training provided.
- Team members currently receive on average 20 hours animal management training per year.

OBJECTIVE 1:
Ensure that Authorised Officers have the knowledge and skills required to effectively administer their role

1	Activity	When	Evaluation
1.1	Support Authorised Officers to further develop their skills as part of the annual performance development process. Including but not limited to: → Microchipping → Animal handling → Impacts of dogs and cats on wildlife → Conflict resolution → Personal defence → OH&S, including staff wellbeing → Investigations (e.g. animal noise, dog attacks) → 4WD and vehicle recovery	Ongoing	Completion of training via Council's Professional Development Plan processes.
1.2	Authorised Officers to be trained in and authorised under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (POCTA Act)	Ongoing	POCTA training and authorisation complete.
1.3	Authorised Officers participate in state-wide forums and working groups	Ongoing	Representation in forums and working groups
1.4	Develop a framework to support officers in managing high complexity matters. Including but is not limited to: → Training → Protocols → Service referral partnerships	2027	Framework developed and implemented.

Promote and encourage responsible pet ownership

Responsible pet ownership is the care of domestic animals that ensures animal welfare, public safety and amenity, and protection of wildlife. It includes registration and microchipping, desexing, secure confinement, effective control in public places, prevention of nuisance (e.g., barking, roaming, waste), provision of food, water, shelter, enrichment and veterinary care, compliance with local laws and orders (including cat containment and dog access rules), and proactive measures to minimise impacts on neighbours and the environment.

We promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats through a range of communication and education initiatives. We understand the increasing demand for Council services to be delivered online, and for engagement through social media and other digital means. However, we also acknowledge the power behind face-to-face interactions and that successful education and communication campaigns require a multi channelled approach.

The majority of pet owners in Bass Coast Shire are responsible and respectful, with responsible ownership practices and care for the environment supporting quality of life and health and wellbeing benefits across our community. This DAMP aims to build off of the positive partnerships and practice in community, and address key areas of non-compliance through a range of interventions.

Community consultation outcomes have identified initiatives to promote responsible pet ownership as an important factor in contributing to dogs and cats being registered, microchipped and desexed with owners complying with regulations and signage. Communication and education campaigns with clear and simple messaging are delivered to support responsible pet ownership, as well as increasing awareness of 24-hour cat containment requirements and dog off-leash and dog prohibited areas. This will be further emphasised through the development of a Dogs in Public Places Guidelines.

What we currently do

- Council website information, including links to other agencies.
- Social media posts – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Media releases and articles in local newspapers.
- Provide a range of educational materials and brochures to the community.
- 'Where can I walk my dog?' maps.
- Signage in parks, reserves and foreshores detailing dog controls.
- 'Kids as Catalyst' – education program with schools on issues relating to animal management.
- Increased face to face education, including 'Pop-ups' at events (e.g. Phillip Island National Park open days, local markets.

OBJECTIVE 2:
Promote responsible pet ownership through effective communication

2	Activity	When	Evaluation
2.1	Review and implement multi-channel communication plan utilising a variety of media such as social media, print, post and website information, including: → Promoting community benefits of pet registration, microchipping, desexing, and cat confinement – including through the use of positive community testimonials. → Prevention of dog attacks, including encouraging report of aggressive behaviours or dogs escaping. → Increasing awareness of Council's animal management services. → Values-driven messaging promoting responsible animal management, compliance with off-leash regulations and picking up after dogs. → Containing cats to owners' property. → Targeted campaigns to engage visitors to the Shire with compliance messaging, including integrating into promotion of pet-friendly tourism. → Environmental importance of responsible pet ownership.	2026 ongoing	Communication plan implemented annually and reviewed.
2.2	Audit and update website information.	2026 ongoing	Website reviewed and updated annually.

2.3	Uplift messaging to promote health and wellbeing benefits of responsible dog ownership.	2026 ongoing	Implemented, with messaging aligned to communication plan.
2.4	Partner with land managers, dog trainers, business, tourism and community groups to develop and deliver campaigns that deliver consistent messaging on responsible pet ownership to residents and visitors.	2026 ongoing	Implemented, with messaging aligned to communication plan.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Promote responsible pet ownership through educational activities.

3	Activity	When	Evaluation
3.1	Investigate opportunities to introduce QR codes to Council signage, that point to information on responsible pet ownership.	2028	Review completed.
3.2	Partner with land managers, dog trainers, business, tourism and community groups to develop and implement education programs and enhanced signage content that provides consistent, positive messaging on the benefits to the environment and pets of responsible pet ownership.	2028	Signage messaging developed and implemented.
3.3	Investigate and implement materials for Officer vehicles to promote animal registration - such as magnets, car signs or decals.	2028	Enhancements scoped and implemented.
3.4	Utilise variable message sign to promote responsible pet ownership.	2026 ongoing	Implemented.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Decrease feral animals, protect wildlife, raise awareness and educate domestic animal owners on the impacts and implications of pets near conservation areas.

4	Activity	When	Evaluation
4.1	Continue to support Phillip Island Nature Park (PINP), Parks Victoria and other committees of management in promoting conservation and wildlife preservation.	Ongoing	Meet with PINP and Parks Vic regularly and assist in promoting their key messages through Council communications channels.
4.2	Continue to engage directly with key stakeholders and create opportunities for information to be shared across the Shire.	Ongoing	Key stakeholders engaged.
4.3	Partner with key stakeholders, including volunteer groups, to target areas of high sensitivity for local education and signage uplift.	Ongoing	Delivery of signage and local education campaigns.

Overpopulation and high euthanasia

Impoundments occur when pets escape from their properties or are abandoned or surrendered by owners. Community Safety Officers work hard to reunite animals with their owners at first point, without taking them to the Pound. Council's priority is to achieve positive community and animal welfare outcomes wherever possible.

Community Safety Officers manage and run Council's Wonthaggi Pound facility. Council's Pound is a safe environment where animals found wandering can be housed for up to eight days. The Pound is audited regularly, and cleaned daily, including on weekends.

Officers have 24/7 access and are 'on call' to attend to animals in our care.

The Pound is not open to the public for adoptions, instead Council has a Section 84Y agreement with the RSPCA. After a minimum of eight days of being held in our Pound facility, animals are transferred to RSPCA's care for rehoming or adoption. We also work with a number of rescue groups (Section 84Y holders) to rehome as many animals as possible.

Improvements to the Pound were completed in 2024 including acoustic treatments, updated enclosure facility, generator installation and general improvements to drainage and security.

Dog and cat impoundments have remained fairly constant since the last DAMP was developed and have not seen the spikes in surrendered animals attributable to unwanted COVID-19 purchases and cost of living crisis that has been evident across a number of other Councils.

Supporting the community to microchip and desex their animals is seen as a key to increasing the numbers of registered animals. Council promotes the return of lost pets as the primary reason to register and microchip animals. It is Council's aim to further reduce the euthanasia rates and overpopulation levels by working with the community to reduce the number of non-desexed animals in the municipality with a particular emphasis on cats.

Council continues to work with the community and partners Phillip Island Nature Park and Parks Victoria in relation to feral cats to try and reduce their populations. Council will increase education and awareness regarding semi owned cats (cats that are being fed by holiday homeowners and visitors) and the benefits of desexing and containment for cats in Bass Coast.

Community outcomes highlighted Council's service of collecting and reuniting found animals with their owners as important to the community, and the welfare of animals. In addition, recent implementation of the 24/7 cat containment order has been generally well-supported.

Impoundments	2020-21	2024-25
Dogs impounded	**160**	**147**
Dogs reclaimed by owner	138 (86%)	106 (72%)
Dogs rehoused	17 (11%)	25 (17%)
Dogs euthanised	4 (2%)	16 (11%)
Pending outcome	*1 (<1%)*	*Nil*
Cats impounded	**176**	**121**
Cats reclaimed by owner	28 (16%)	29 (24%)
Cats rehoused	81 (46%)	64 (53%)
Cats euthanised	33 (19%)	26 (21%)
Pending outcome	*34 (19%)*	*Nil*
Deceased (sick and passed away in Pound)	*Nil*	*2 (2%)*
Surrendered pets	**31 dogs and cats**	**34 dogs and cats**

What we currently do

- Maintain the Wonthaggi Pound facility where impounded animals are cared for and housed temporarily.
- Section 84Y agreement with RSPCA for rehoming and adoption.
- When people approach us to adopt an animal in our Pound, we assist them to adopt via RSPCA once the animal is transferred there.
- Council-loaned cat cage system to confine nuisance cats.
- Liaise with and report animal welfare / cruelty matters to the RSPCA for action.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on property without a permit.
- Conduct investigations in response to customer requests.
- Enforcement actions include official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecutions.
- Cats are required to be desexed before registration.
- 24-hour cat confinement order where cats are required to be always contained to owners' premises.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Increase Council's capacity to improve welfare of dogs and cats

5	Activity	When	Evaluation
5.1	Investigate ways to continually improve Council's Pound facilities.	Ongoing	Pound facilities continue to meet legislative requirements and are fit for purpose for community needs.
5.2	Partner with other animal management services and facilities to support domestic animal management across Bass Coast. Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with vets and rescue groups.	Ongoing	Formal and informal partnerships established and strengthened.
5.3	Partner with local foster care networks to build their capacity and impact.	Ongoing	Greater collaboration between foster carers and potential new volunteers and increase in foster care outcomes.
5.4	Establish an emergency management document detailing arrangements and partnerships to support animals during an emergency and ensure their welfare and safe housing.	2027	Plan developed and endorsed.
5.5	Partner with Pets of the Homeless to help keep vulnerable people and their pets together by alleviating the burden of providing essential pet care during times of hardship.	2028	Partnership implemented.

Registration and identification

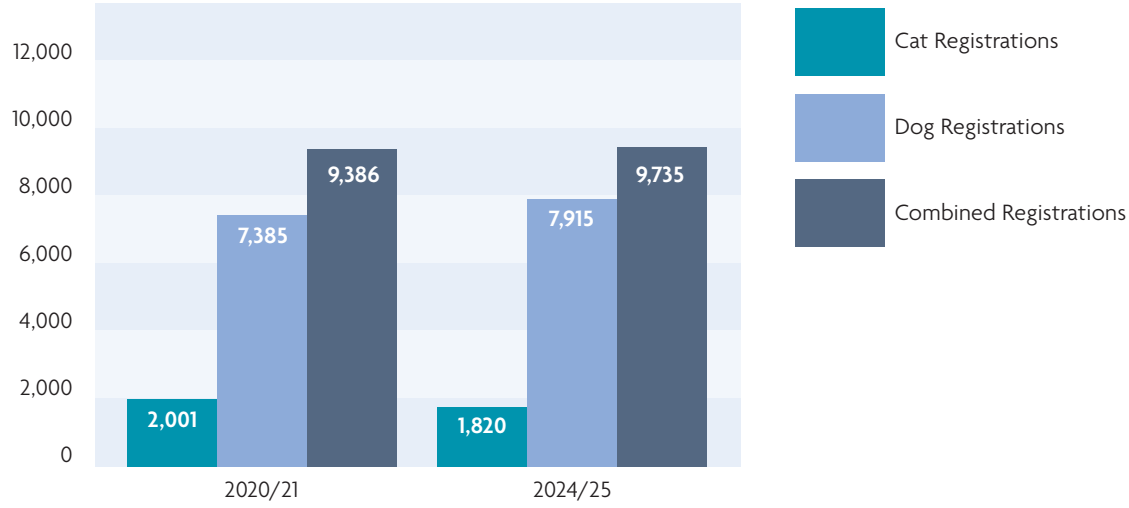
All dogs and cats three months and over must be microchipped and registered with Council, and wear a registration tag when outside an owner's property. Cats are required to be desexed before registration. Registrations must be renewed annually by 10 April. As well as being a legal requirement, an animal found with current registration and microchip has a much higher chance of being reunited with its owner.

There has been a small increase in registrations, showing a possible trend towards increased pet ownership, partly due to COVID-19 'pet purchases'. The increase in registrations may also be attributed to increased resident population combined with comprehensive communication and education initiatives.

What we currently do

- Annual registration renewal and follow up.
- Lifetime registration tags.
- Online registration forms and payment options.
- Registration door knock activities.
- Registration checks during patrols.
- Subsidised desexing and microchipping program through Council partnership with local vets (for holders of a Health Care Card, Aged Pension etc).
- Animals in the Pound must be registered prior to release, and cats must be desexed.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

Dog and Cat Registrations



OBJECTIVE 6:

Animals are microchipped, desexed, registered and wearing tags.

6	Activity	When	Evaluation
6.1	Conduct targeted education and promotional activities ahead of annual April 10 pet registration renewal.	2026 ongoing	Promotional activities undertaken annually.
6.2	Investigate the feasibility of introducing discounted fees for: → First year of registration. → Dogs and cats under 12 months old that are not yet desexed.	2028	Completion of review.
6.3	Undertake activities to better identify pet registration non-compliances: → Continue registration checks in the field. → Continue Central Animal Records (CAR) microchip audits → Follow up reported lost animals for registration.	Ongoing	Pet registration levels.
6.4	Partner with shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders to promote Council registration and updating of microchip details.	Annual	Shelters, vets, body corporates and breeders engaged and sharing messaging.
6.5	Improve targeted promotion of the subsidised desexing and microchipping program available through Council partnership with local vets (for holders of a Health Care Card, Aged Pension etc).	2026	Promotional activities undertaken.
6.6	Introduce Council registration and microchipping days.	2027 ongoing	Registration and microchipping days held annually.

Nuisance

We will encourage people to manage their pets in a way that protects the health and welfare of the animal, maximises the companion benefits of their pet and minimises potential for nuisance or harm to others.

In 2024/25 Community Safety Officers responded to 2,366 domestic animal requests. The most frequent animal management requests are detailed below.

Barking dogs and found animal (pick up required) are the most prevalent request types and areas of greater concern in the community. Lost animals and straying animals are the other leading request.

Council Orders are in place designating parks, reserves and foreshore areas where owners are able to exercise their dogs off leash. There are also Orders in place prohibiting dogs and cats in certain areas. Some of these areas are season and time dependent.

Community Safety Officers monitor problem beaches in their areas over the winter months and provide reactive response to complaints. Over the summer period beaches are actively patrolled by rostered Officers. Patrols take place every day and slowly reduce as the peak period subsides.

We have developed a partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park to extend our presence on their beaches.

Cats are required to be always confined to owners' premises. Unowned and feral cats will continue to be both a nuisance for the community and a negative environmental impact without adequate management into the future. Council will focus on responsible cat ownership.

During Hooded Plover breeding season Council's Community Safety Officers work with Council's Coast and Bushland team to complete beach patrols to make sure pet owners, particularly dog owners, are keeping their dogs on a leash when not in designated off leash areas.

Although regular patrols are undertaken, community education and voluntary compliance are critical as only a small portion of public open space areas can be patrolled at a time.

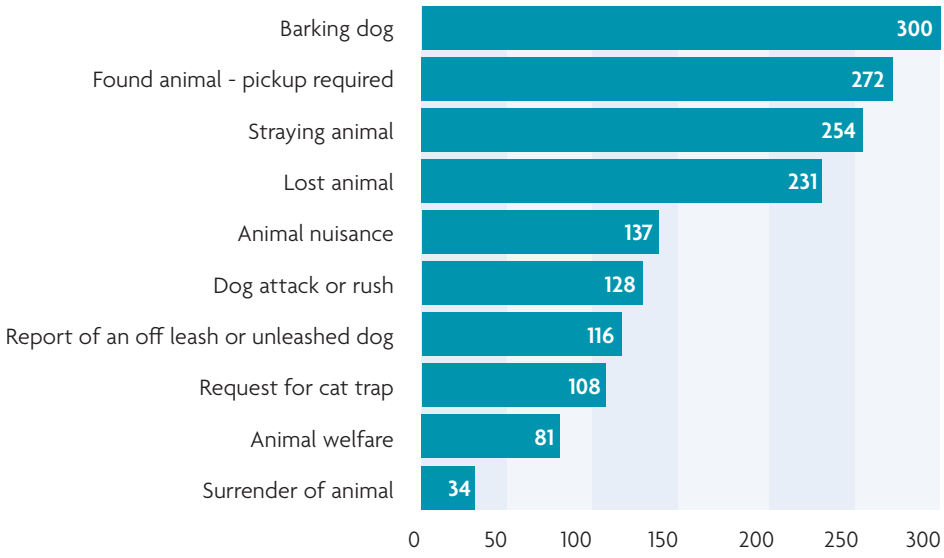
Consultation outcomes highlighted frequently noticed behaviours in the community, including:

- Dogs off-leash with their owners in areas where they shouldn't be.
- People not watching their dogs in off-leash areas.
- People not picking up their dog's waste.
- Barking dogs.

Community suggestions to encourage responsible pet ownership, included:

- Increased proactive patrols and enforcement.
- Dog leash regulations that better balance the needs of different user groups and protect wildlife.
- Improved signage.
- Communication and education initiatives.

Frequent Animal Management Requests 2024/25



What we currently do

- Routine patrols of parks and foreshore areas.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with particular focus on foreshore areas.
- Partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park to extend our presence to include their beaches through joint beach patrols.
- Signage in parks, reserves and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- Dog waste bags at off leash beaches.
- Partnership with land managers and Dog Off Leash working group on dog controls.
- Cat cages are available for the public to use to contain nuisance cats.
- Collection of found animals.
- Barking dog process.
- Online help information.
- Enforce Local Law provisions governing the number of animals that can be kept on a property without a permit.
- Enforce Council Orders and regulations such as the 24-hour cat confinement Order.
- A 48-hour response to nuisance complaints.
- Investigation of complaints.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.

OBJECTIVE 7:

Increase visibility of Council officers at beaches and other priority locations.

7	Activity	When	Evaluation
7.1	Review seasonal roster and patrol schedule, and resource appropriately to increase patrol activity to include year-round beach patrols, education and enforcement activities during peak periods.	Ongoing	Increased patrols and officer presence, including year-round beach patrols.
7.2	Continue the partnership with land managers to extend Council Officer presence to include their beaches through joint beach patrols.	Ongoing	Increased patrols and officer presence.

OBJECTIVE 8:

Effective education and enforcement activities.

8	Activity	When	Evaluation
8.1	Deliver a flexible staffing model designed to increase Officer capacity to respond quickly to compliance issues identified as high priority (such as dogs off lead).	2026	Workforce capacity review delivered, and changes implemented.
8.2	Review and improve processes for enforcement regarding animal management including barking dog nuisance, dog attacks, dogs off leash and cat containment.	Ongoing	Nuisance processes revised and improved.
8.3	Develop a 'Barking Dog Kit' with information and resources to support the community to resolve barking dog concerns.	2026	Barking Dog Kit developed.
8.4	Review and improve information available for regarding reducing nuisance and promoting dog friendly spaces, including: → Dog off leash and dog prohibited area maps → Picking up after your dog. → Barking dog information. → Dog attack reporting and prevention information. → Online resources.	2026	Information revised and improved.
8.5	Review and improve the way Council collects, measures and reports on domestic animal requests (including research and identification of 'hot spots' to scope resourcing and further initiatives). Investigate feasibility of implementing Snap, Send, Solve as part of this initiative.	2027	Review completed and any improvements implemented.
8.6	Provide body corporates and Short Stay Rental Accommodation properties information on preventing dog and cat nuisance.	Ongoing	Reduced complaint numbers regarding dog and cat nuisance in these properties.
8.7	Continue to promote, implement and enforce the 24-hour cat confinement Order across Bass Coast Shire.	Ongoing	Compliance with cat containment order and ongoing reduction of cat-related nuisance. Continued availability of cat cages.

Dog attacks and dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Dog attacks

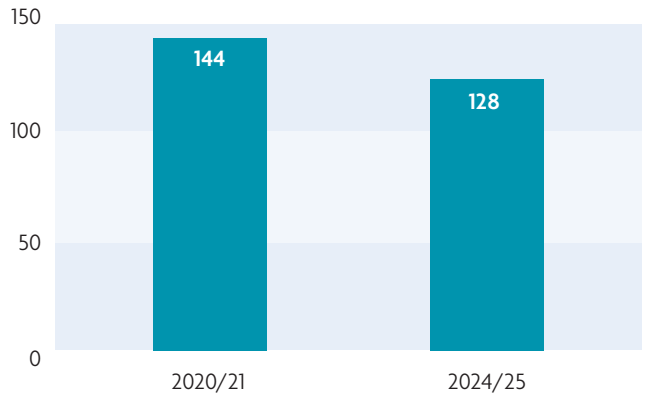
Serious dog attacks remain a concern and Council continuously looks for ways to minimise dog attacks on people and animals.

In 2024/25, Community Safety Officers investigated 128 reports of alleged dog attacks or dog rushes.

Dog attack and dog rush figures have decreased slightly since 2020-21, potentially partly due to the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns in Victoria and increased dog population as well as increased dog walking in the community during this time.

An increase in the number of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken for dogs was highlighted in community consultation outcomes. Other items raised to increase safety and wellbeing, included: dogs being kept on a lead and under the control of their owners at all times; reviewing times dogs are allowed on beaches with more consistent rules around off-leash times; and the provision of increased fenced off-leash areas at parks and beaches with improved signage.

Dog Attack or Rush



Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Council strives to minimise the risk to the community from menacing, dangerous or restricted breed dogs. In 2025, Bass Coast Shire has 17 declared dogs.

Our pet registration forms require owners to declare if their dog is a restricted breed, has been declared menacing or is a dangerous dog.

Officers respond promptly to investigate reports involving declared dogs.

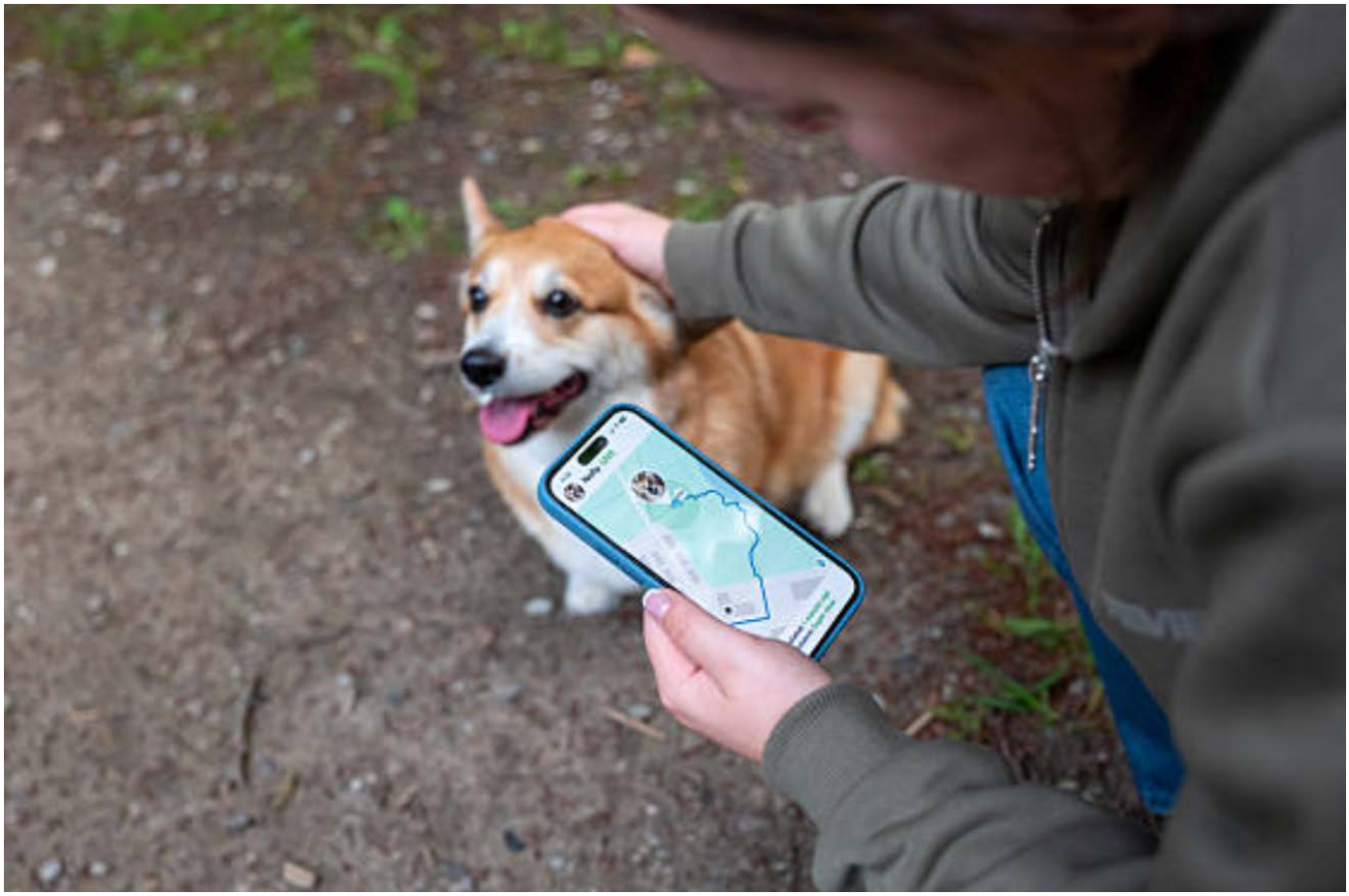
What we currently do

- An immediate response to reports of dog attacks.
- Dangerous dog complaint (where the threat is not imminent), response within 48 hours.
- Signage in parks, reserves and foreshore areas detailing dog controls.
- Routine patrols of parks and foreshore areas.
- Extended patrols during peak / summer periods - with particular focus on foreshore areas.
- Partnership with Phillip Island Nature Park to extend our presence to include their beaches.
- Investigation of complaints.
- Enforcement activities including official warnings, infringements, notices to comply and court prosecution.
- Declare dogs dangerous or menacing.
- Supply and distribution of literature and pamphlets regarding keeping dangerous dogs.
- Annual inspections of dangerous/restricted dogs for compliance.
- Ensure all dogs declared by Council are recorded on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry.

OBJECTIVE 9:

Continue to deliver best practice in management of dog attacks and declared dogs.

9	Activity	When	Evaluation
9.1	Continue to develop and improve processes to improve the way Council manages, investigates and prosecutes dog attacks to maintain best practice.	2026 ongoing	Review completed. Process improvements implemented where required.
9.2	Review and improve information to support dog attack reporting and prevention. Promote early reporting of minor incidents to prevent escalation and major incidents.	2026 ongoing	Delivery of communications and education materials through multiple channels (also see action 2.1).
9.3	Analyse dog attack data and target hot spots for additional proactive patrols to actively enforce against and minimise dog attacks in the community.	2026 ongoing	Additional targeted patrols implemented.
9.4	Conduct annual declared dog property inspections for compliance with the Domestic Animal Act (including but not limited to security of fencing, animal housing and signage).	Annually	Inspections undertaken.
9.5	Continue to identify and declare animals dangerous and menacing when required.	Ongoing	Dogs who are repeatedly involved in non-compliance are declared.
9.6	Review Council procedures in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.	Ongoing	Audits completed at a minimum annually.



Dogs in Public Places

Access to ample, appropriate spaces for dog owners to exercise their pets supports community wellbeing and safety across the Shire. Likewise, holistic planning for on- and off-leash areas ensures that key environmental and biodiversity assets are preserved while continuing to support the pet owners and their pets to thrive in the municipality.

A year 1 action of this DAMP is to develop a Dogs in Public Places Guidelines.

This document will outline Council's position on the provision, distribution and management of dog facilities in public open spaces. It is to be used to guide decisions on the planning for all dog off-leash and dog-free areas. Development of the guidelines is part of a broader effort to ensure a positive experience for all users of public open spaces.

Key aspects of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines

Consideration for all users	The guidelines will seek to balance the needs of dog owners with the needs of other residents and visitors, including those who may not be comfortable with dogs.
Demand analysis	The guidelines will consider the demand for off-leash areas in different parts of Bass Coast.
Site analysis	The guidelines include criteria for assessing the suitability of different locations for off-leash areas, considering factors such as size, access, safety, environmental and cultural sensitivities, and potential impacts on other users.
Restrictions	The guidelines will address existing restrictions, such as those related to playgrounds and beaches.
Fenced dog spaces	The guidelines will consider the development of fenced dog off-leash areas.
Dog-free spaces	The guidelines will explore options for designating more dog-free public open spaces.
Community engagement	We will engage with the community to hear their thoughts on the draft guidelines.

OBJECTIVE 10:

Develop a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas across Bass Coast

10	Activity	When	Evaluation
10.1	Develop a Dogs in Public Places Guidelines (leash free and dog prohibited areas) that provides a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Shire-Managed land.	2026	Guidelines endorsed by Council.
10.2	Identify and deliver a fenced dog park on the mainland (Inverloch) of Bass Coast Shire. Signage changes to reflect any changes made to regulations.	2026	Identify and deliver a fenced dog park delivered.
10.3	Identify and deliver a suitable location for a fenced dog park on Phillip Island. Signage changes to reflect any changes made to regulations.	2027	Fenced dog park identified and delivered.
10.4	Undertake a signage review and audit of dog controls and consider models for values-driven positive messaging in signage that promotes compliance.	Annually	Annual audit report.
10.5	Continue to partner with the Dog Off Leash Working Group, including bi-annual meetings to discuss community matters that relate to the management of dogs in Bass Coast Shire.	2026 ongoing	Ongoing partnership. Bi-annual meetings.

Domestic animal businesses

Council works in partnership with domestic animal businesses to make sure businesses are registered and complying with relevant regulations.

Bass Coast Shire has 8 registered domestic animal businesses.

Community Safety Officers inspect these facilities annually to ensure compliance prior to registration renewal.

Council has the ability to issue notices to comply, warnings, infringements, or to prosecute businesses that fail to comply with work plans and the relevant Code of Practice.

We actively seek to identify, investigate and prosecute any illegal Domestic Animal Businesses operating in Bass Coast.

What we currently do

- Supply and distribution of information regarding domestic animal businesses and relevant codes of practice.
- Inspect and process new Domestic Animal Business applications.
- Annual inspections undertaken in accordance with The Act; and issue annual registration certificates.
- Actively seek to identify unregistered Domestic Animal Businesses.
- Investigation of breaches / complaints.
- Council issues warnings, infringements, notices to comply or to prosecutes businesses that fail to comply with work plans and the relevant Code of Practice.

OBJECTIVE 11:

Domestic animal businesses will be identified, registered and compliant with relevant code of practice

11	Activity	When	Evaluation
11.1	Monitor for businesses that should be registered Domestic Animal Businesses by reviewing advertisements, social media, local notice boards, etc and ensure they are compliant with legislation.	Ongoing	Review undertaken annually.
11.2	Annual audit of registered domestic animal businesses in Bass Coast for compliance.	Ongoing	Annual audits completed.

Other matters

Actions in this section address The Act by providing for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the municipality.

OBJECTIVE 12

Seek funding opportunities to support domestic animal management programs and objectives

12	Activity	When	Evaluation
12.1	Investigate opportunities for external funding towards the development of domestic animal management programs.	Ongoing	Grant opportunities identified and where appropriate, applications submitted.
12.2	Investigate and monitor opportunities to access external funding to support enhanced delivery of dog-friendly facilities, including fenced dog parks.	Ongoing	Grant opportunities identified and where appropriate, applications submitted.

OBJECTIVE 13

Leverage new technology to continuously improve Council services

13	Activity	When	Evaluation
13.1	Investigate and incorporate new technologies to provide improvements in Council's Domestic Animal Management services and communications materials.	Ongoing	Review undertaken and new technologies implemented.

Review and evaluation

Section 68A(3) of the Act requires that

Every Council must—

(a) review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan;

(b) provide the Secretary with a copy of the Plan and any amendments to the plan; and

(c) publish an evaluation of its implementation of the Plan in its annual report.

Performance monitoring and evaluation process

Council will monitor performance of the objectives that are detailed throughout the DAMP by reporting annually through the Council's established reporting systems, in accordance with the requirements of The Act and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

A new DAMP will be completed on or before 30 October 2029.

Document Information

Type	Council Plan
Mayor	(Governance to insert signature and name post adoption)
Date Adopted	Council Meeting date month year (Governance to complete date month year post adoption)
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Wellbeing & Culture
Version Number	X

Endnote

1. ABS population forecast.

BASS COAST