

# MINUTES



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MEMBERSHIP: Tony Robinson (Chair), Debbie Gregory, Nick Tupara

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## **MINUTES of the BYLAW SUBMISSIONS PANEL/KĀHUI TĀPAETANGA TURE Ā-ROHE Committee**

**Held in Te Ruma Kaunihera (Council Meeting Room), Awarua, Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 1:00PM.**

PRESENT:

Tony Robinson (Chair), Debbie Gregory, Nick Tupara.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Strategic Planning Manager Charlotte Knight, Senior Policy Advisor Abi Wiseman, Democracy & Support Services Manager Heather Kohn and Committee Secretary Jill Simpson.

**Secretarial Note:** Dr Sarah Olson Companion Animals NZ and Amelia Geary Forest & Bird attended via audio visual link.

### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **3. Leave of Absence**

There were no leaves of absence.

### **4. Acknowledgements and Tributes**

There were no acknowledgements or tributes.

### **5. Public Input and Petitions**

There were no public input or petitions.

### **6. Extraordinary Business**

There was no extraordinary business.

### **7. Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

### **8. Adjourned Business**

There was no adjourned business.

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## 9. Reports of the Chief Executive and Staff for DECISION

### 9.1 23-12 Draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023 - Hearings Report

The following submitters were in attendance or attended via audio visual link and spoke to their submission.

**Barry Foster Apiculture NZ** attended and presented:

Points of clarification:

- Backyard beekeepers need to be registered with Ministry Primary Industry (MPI) as it is important to know where all the hives are and who owns them in case of a disease outbreak. This is a legal obligation under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Most beekeepers do register.
- The issue of bee defecation is usually higher in summer as there are more bees in the hives.
- Having too many hives in an urban area could be an issue. As a rule, bees do quite well in an urban environment mainly because of the diversity of forage.
- Information relating to the number of hives registered within the Gisborne City boundary is held by MPI.
- Generally, the number of boxes in a hive in winter may be 2 with a third being added during summer.
- Flight path should be elevated and away from the edge of the property.

**Dr Sarah Olson, Companion Animals NZ** attended via audio visual link:

Points of clarification:

- Currently there are 5 or 6 Councils who have introduced mandatory microchipping and registration and all but 2 have introduced mandatory desexing of cats. Companion Animals NZ hope that the more Councils that take this on, the more aware people will become, and it will normalise the behaviour of pet owners.
- For those Councils that have adopted mandatory microchipping, desexing and registration it is not enforceable in terms of penalties unless it breaches the Animal Welfare Act. It is more about setting a standard and creating an expectation of what pet owners need to do to have the privilege of owning a pet.
- The cost of desexing cats varies in regions as well as across the different clinics, however it ranges from \$80 - \$100 for male cats to \$150 - \$200 for female cats.
- There are many desexing campaigns around. The SPCA run the Snip & Chip Campaign and have mobile desexing caravans that travel throughout the country.
- Companion Animals NZ allocates approximately \$130k a year for desexing. Often veterinary clinics are subsidising desexing and it is all about doing what we can to have these animals desexed to help control the problem.
- Councils that have adopted the mandatory approach inform the public first and then there is a time lag before it is enforced. Companion Animals NZ work with the Councils and offer free microchipping and registration to people that have bought their animals into the vets.

**Amelia Geary, Forest & Bird NZ** attended via audio visual link:

Amelia acknowledged the presence in the Council Chambers of Grant Vincent, Chair of Forest & Bird Gisborne and Barry Foster.

The Chair commented that all submissions have provoked a train of thought and resulted in an enquiry to staff to see if the current Bylaw can be expanded to include cat management provisions and it seems the Statement of Proposal is broad enough to enable this, however Council may need to go back to the community to consult.

MOVED by Cr Tupara, seconded by Cr Gregory

That the Bylaw Submissions Panel/Kāhui Tāpaetanga Ture ā-Rohe:

1. Receives and hears submissions on the draft Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2023.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1:39 pm.

Tony Robinson

**CHAIR**