



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary  
meeting  
supplementary  
business  
paper

date of meeting: 09 May 2017  
location: council chambers  
time: 6:30 p.m.



**ORDINARY MEETING**

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**ORDINARY MEETING**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**

**NM7**                      **Urgent Review of Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter - (79351, 105109, 138882)**

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**Submitted by:** Councillor Wheeler

**NOTICE OF MOTION:**

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the difficult and often thankless job done by Council Staff and dedicated volunteers at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, frequently under difficult circumstances, and thanks them for their efforts
2. Urgently forms a Working Group comprising relevant staff, two Councillors, and four community representatives including representatives of the Friends of the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter and local rescue organisations
3. Requests the Working Group to undertake the following activities and report the results back to Council:
  - a) Collect statistics and trends including but not limited to the following:
    - handling staff to animal ratio
    - vaccination rates and costs
    - de-sexing rates and costs
    - number of animals taken from each LGA
    - estimated cost for each LGA
    - funds sought and recovered from each LGA
    - number of animals returned to previous owners, number rehomed and number rehomed via rescue group
    - number animals euthanised and number dogs euthanised due to aggressive behaviour
    - volunteer numbers and hours worked.
  - b) Make recommendations to ensure that the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter meets or exceeds best practice guidelines for monitoring, caring for and exercising animals as well as cleaning and security of facilities
  - c) Review the operating hours of the Shelter to best reflect the needs of Hawkesbury families and improve access
  - d) Recommend website content to promote the retrieval and rehoming of animals at the Shelter (including a photo, type of dog/cat, gender, description, location and date of retrieval, date the dog is due for release), and works to improve public education about animal ownership to reduce the number of lost, stray and dumped animals
  - e) Identify / confirm suitable animal care training packages for staff involved in animal handling, with the minimum being a Certificate II in Animal Studies
  - f) Recommend ongoing reporting arrangements to Council and the wider community.

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**BACKGROUND:**

The community has expressed serious and genuine concerns about the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter. The Animal Shelter currently has a high rehoming rate for dogs, but is run down and often overwhelmed by the numbers of animals which require impounding. This causes obvious stress to staff and volunteers, as well as the animals in their care.

Council has recently reviewed its Companion Animal Pricing Policy to make older dogs cheaper, but more needs to be done to improve conditions at the Shelter. Given the current fiscal constraints, it is not possible to pay for an external review (e.g. Therian Report 2015, Campbelltown City Council), so this Notice of Motion proposes that we use the skills of the community to review and monitor the Shelter to ensure its continued improvement while we continue to debate the Shelter's future.

Council currently takes animals from four surrounding LGAs. We need to determine if it is financially and physically viable for us continue to do so. Further, the NSW Department of Primary Industries is due to release a report detailing best practice for pounds. Council should consider this when it is made available, as well as discussing the role of the Shelter in the Regional Strategic Alliance.

The safety and wellbeing of staff and volunteers, and the animals at the Shelter must be our highest priority.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo**



ordinary  
meeting

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