

Keeping of Animals Policy

Engagement summary



Central
Coast
Council

Summary

The Keeping of Animals Policy is being reviewed to ensure it reflects current expectations, environmental considerations and legislative requirements.

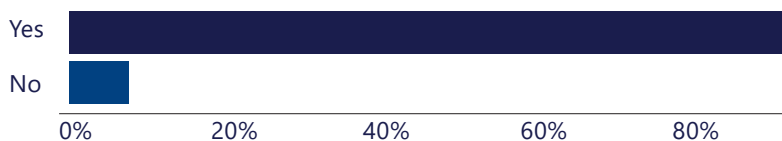
Providing clear guidance on the types and numbers of animals that may be kept on residential and semi-rural properties, helping to prevent nuisance issues such as noise, odour and waste.

The review includes minor wording updates, legislative alignment and removal of outdated references, without changing the core intent of the policy.

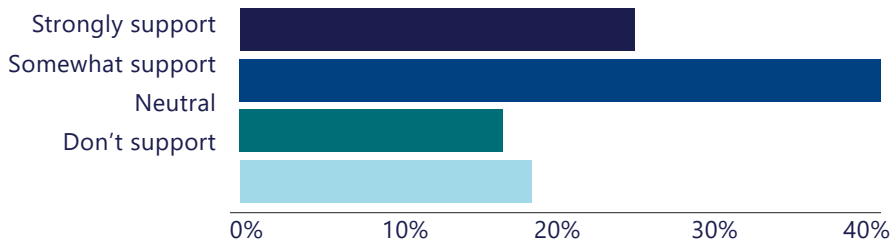
Public exhibition for the Policy was open from Tuesday 21 October 2025 to Tuesday 18 November 2025.

Engagement Results

Have you read the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy?



Do you support the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy?



How you connected



Your Voice Our Coast
2,662 views



The Keeping of Animals
Policy was downloaded
481 times



A total of **109** survey
submissions and **3** email
submissions received



Facebook – **11,600**
people were reached,
generating **49** reactions



Instagram - **632** people
were reached, generating
24 reactions



1 email campaign
sent - Delivered to **376**
recipients with **35** opens



eNews - Delivered to
20,264 recipients with
289 clicks on the story



Coast Connect print -
Delivered to **62,000+**
readers

Key Themes

Participants were asked for their feedback on the policy, of which 109 people provided feedback which has been collated into themes. The below graph indicates how many times each theme was mentioned in total.



Noise Concerns

13

Concerns around noise issues and animal waste management.



Cats and Dogs

9

¹Request that cats and dogs should be covered in the policy

8

Mention of indoor cat policy preference

An updated policy on keeping cats and dogs in residential areas needs to be considered. Cats can be a significant threat to wildlife.

I support keeping cats inside or outside in a contained area where they don't have access to native wildlife. Also, dogs should not be able to hunt native wildlife in backyards.

The policy needs to require cat owners to keep cats contained to their property. This is essential to save our wildlife.



Animal welfare and responsible pet ownership

9

Support limiting number of animals allowed on properties

6

Mentions of animal waste issues

9

General comments about animal welfare and safety concerns

2

Request to increase limits on number of chickens per property

2

Mentions of rodents and small animals needing to live in larger numbers

I believe the policy is a very good thing to have in place, however I believe the numbers for rabbits/ferrets, rats, mice and Guinea pigs seem on the low side. As very social animals, I can speak to rabbits directly and there are many situations where ownership of more rabbits can improve their quality of life.



Policy suggestions and queries

3

Queries around ability to enforce the policy

6

Some respondents believed the policy was ambiguous in some areas and requested clearer language

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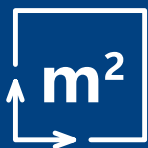
It's great to have a policy but it needs to be enforced.

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The policy is unclear if it applies to small acreages (less than 2ha) that are mainly used for residential purposes.

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Some of the policy reads as slightly ambiguous and leaves pet owners vulnerable to the subjective opinion of neighbours.



Land size classification

6

Suggestions that number of animals should be based on size of property

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I think it could be clearer regarding the residential versus size of land this policy covers. For example, small acreages in residential suburbs.

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While I understand and support Council's intention to maintain neighbourhood amenity and uphold good animal welfare, I am concerned that imposing a fixed numerical limit is not an evidence-based or effective way to achieve these aims.

Council Response

Cats and Dogs

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The community's engagement and interest have been very positive with the key themes aligning well with Council's ongoing interactions with customers and pet owners. The Keeping of Animals Policy applies to a range of animals other than cats and dogs being kept on residential land, as these species fall under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

What's next?

Council will keep the community advised on Council's direction in due course and any updates will be communicated on Council's Your Voice Our Coast page. Please check back in to stay up to date.

Find out more and stay up to date at yourvoiceourcoast.com