RURAL CITY LIVING

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

IMPORTANT DATES

Open for written feedback	19 March 2025
Provide your written feedback by	23 April 2025
Hearing of written and verbal feedback	TBC - week of 5-9 May 2025

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Control of Dogs Bylaw and Policy Consultation – Statement of Proposal

We are reviewing our Control of Dogs Policy & Bylaw. These are rules made by the Gore District Council under the Local Government Act 2002. The objective of the policy is to enable people to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership and provide for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners, while minimising danger, distress and nuisance to the community. The purpose of the bylaw is to support and give effect to our Control of Dogs Policy. The Council last reviewed this policy and bylaw in 2013, and they are now due for review. We have made a few changes and need your feedback so we can make a policy and bylaw that reflect the views of the community.

Control of Dogs Policy & Bylaw

Section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 requires local authorities to adopt a Policy in respect of dogs in the district. The current Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw was adopted in May 2013, following a review of the 2008 Control of Dogs Policy and Bylaw.

Section 159 of the Local Government Act 2022 states that a local authority must review a bylaw no later than 10 years after it was last reviewed. Section 160A states that a bylaw not reviewed as required (by section 159) is revoked on the date that is 2 years after the last date on which the bylaw should have been reviewed under that section.

A review of the Control of Dogs Bylaw is therefore due by May 2025. As part of this process, the existing Policy must also be reviewed in line with section 10AA of the Dog Control Act which states that a local authority must review its policy if the bylaw implementing the policy requires review.

1. Our proposal

The Control of Dogs Policy & Bylaw remains largely unchanged however we have made a few updates to make sure the policy and bylaw are easy to understand by the community and easy to implement for council staff.

2. Summary of key changes

- The inclusion of a statement in both the bylaw and the policy which explicitly states that the prohibition of dogs in certain places does not apply to disability assist dogs.

- The inclusion of maps for added clarity in Schedule A of the bylaw, outlining areas that are designated dog exercise, leash control or prohibited areas.
- Minor editorial and formatting improvements have been made to make the policy easier to understand.

4. Draft policy and bylaw

A draft of the proposed policy and bylaw is included in this statement of proposal.

5. How you can have your say

Tell us what you think before 23 April 2025 by:

- filling out the online feedback form on our website:

  https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/dog-control-policy-and-bylaw
- emailing your feedback to communications@goredc.govt.nz
- dropping your feedback form at the Council Office at 29 Bowler Avenue in Gore, or either of the district libraries in Gore or Mataura
- posting your submission to: Governance Team, Gore District Council, PO Box 8, Gore 9740

Please include your name and email address if you want to speak in support of your submission at a Hearings Committee meeting so we can contact you to arrange a time for you to present.

Privacy statement

Your name and feedback will be in public documents. All other personal details will remain private. The Privacy Act 2020 applies when we collect personal details. Any details that are collected will only be used for the purposes stated. You have the right to access and correct any personal information we hold.