

Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021 – Further Review

We are undertaking a further review of the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021. This process involves public consultation to make sure the bylaw continues to be useful and reflects what the community needs.

Bylaws are rules made by Council under the Local Government Act 2002 (the “Act”). They are created for the purpose of:

- Protecting the public from nuisance;
- Protecting, promoting, and maintaining public health and safety; and
- Minimising the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.

Bylaws are also made to regulate activities such as the keeping of animals and appropriate use of public spaces.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

Do you want to share your views on the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021? The bylaw is now open for further public consultation. The consultation period will open on July 9 and close on August 9.

YOU CAN MAKE A SUBMISSION:

- Online at taupo.govt.nz/consultation
- By email: BylawReview2021@taupo.govt.nz
- Visit any council office in Taupō, Turangi or Mangakino.
- Mail to: Tēmi Allinson, Taupō District Council, Private Bag 2005, Taupō 3377

We'll then contact submitters who wish to speak about their submissions to attend a Council hearing.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the review, please get in touch via email BylawReview2021@taupo.govt.nz or via phone on 07 376 0714.

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTROL OF DOGS BYLAW 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021 is to give effect to the Dog Control Policy 2021 by prescribing minimum standards for the keeping and control of dogs, to ensure the health and safety of any persons, and to protect the public from nuisance.

The bylaw enables Council to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002, and the Dog Control Act 1996. It covers matters such as

- a. minimising danger, distress, and nuisance to the community, including animals and wildlife; and
- b. providing for the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

WHY ARE WE REVIEWING NOW?

This bylaw has been reviewed recently and the operative version came into effect across the district on 1 July 2021.

Following the review, it has been brought to Council's attention that some residents in Acacia Bay were unaware of the review process and as a result did not engage with or provide input to the last public engagement exercise. In particular, they were unaware of the proposal to replace Besley Park with the stormwater gully between Acacia Bay Road and Reeves Road as an off-lead dog exercise area.

Council is of the opinion that the consultation process was comprehensive, and many avenues were explored and taken advantage of to engage with the public. However, ensuring local input into decision making is very important. Council has therefore decided to revisit this matter through another consultation process.

WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

The decision whether to make Besley Park an off-lead dog exercise area or not.

Background

The 2013 version of the bylaw included Besley Park as an off lead / dog exercise area. Council undertook an online pre-consultation survey with the community over September and October 2020 to help assess how well the bylaw was functioning and identify what issues could be addressed as part of the review. One of the suggestions from that survey was a recommendation for us to remove Besley Park from the list of dog exercise areas.

Feedback received from members of the community indicated that the area was a popular area with families and young children and was not an ideal exercise area for dogs running off lead.

After considering the merits of this suggestion, Council included the removal of Besley park as a dog exercise area in the list of proposed changes to the bylaw. This bylaw (and 5 others) opened for public engagement using the Special Consultative Procedure from January 15 to February 15 2021.

Previous Engagement

A total of 65 submissions were received on all bylaws. There were 26 responses received on this particular proposal, of which 15 agreed with its removal, and 9 were against. Following the consultation, a public hearing and deliberations meeting was held on March 24, where it was decided that Besley Park should no longer be a dog exercise area. At its meeting on April 27, Council voted to accept the recommendations on the proposed bylaw and directed that it come into effect on 1 July 2021.

The problem

In May 2021, Council received feedback on behalf of some residents of Acacia Bay who were unaware that a review had been undertaken and had therefore not engaged with the Special Consultative Procedure. In particular, there was concern with the decision to remove Besley Park as an off-lead dog exercise area.

In order to give those members of Acacia Bay particularly affected by the decision a further opportunity to engage on matters of interest to them, Council has decided to undertake further public consultation on this proposal.

Council's position

Besley Park is a popular area with families and young children and is therefore not ideal as an off-lead dog exercise area. This does not constitute a ban on having dogs in the park, but a requirement dogs be on a lead at all times while in the park.

Council has also designated the stormwater gully area between Acacia Bay Road and Reeves Road as an off-lead exercise area for dogs, so that residents can exercise their dogs locally without having to make a car trip to another part of town.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990

Consideration has been given to the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The proposed Control of Dogs Bylaw 2021 will not give rise to any implications under the NZBORA and the limits imposed by this proposed bylaw are appropriate to the purpose of the bylaw. Council is operating within the powers and authority under the relevant legislative Acts.

Existing Dog Exercise Area – Acacia Bay / Reeves Road



Besley Park

