



Keeping of Animals in Residential Areas **Policy**

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Purpose

1. This Policy aims to provide minimum standards for the keeping of animals to:
 - a. reduce adverse impacts on adjoining properties
 - b. protect and promote the welfare of animals
 - c. protect the welfare and habitat of wildlife
 - d. minimise the disturbance of or damage to protected vegetation.

Scope

2. The Keeping of Animals Policy (the Policy) applies to any animal(s) kept on residential land within the Central Coast Council local government area.
3. The Policy applies to land used for residential purposes and any property less than 1200m² regardless of the zone under the Local Environment Plan (LEP)
4. The Policy may also be used where animals(s) are kept in non-residential areas where the keeping of animal(s) is causing or has the potential to cause impacts on adjoining lands.
5. The Policy applies to keeping of animals for hobby or companion purposes. Keeping of animals for commercial breeding or racing purposes is beyond the scope of the Policy and requires submission of a development application.

Background

6. Council may exercise controls over the keeping of animals under the following NSW legislation:
 - a. Local Government Act 1993
 - b. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
 - c. State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008
 - d. Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
 - e. Impounding Act 1993
 - f. Companion Animals Act 1998.

General

7. The "Advisory Table" provides a guide to appropriate numbers for keeping of animals that Council may consider when required to address any impact created by the keeping of any animal species.
8. Animals must be kept in a manner that is:
 - a. clean and healthy for people and the animal
 - b. free from promoting harbourage of vermin, including flies and/or insects
 - c. free of offensive odours, noise and/or dust
 - d. free of wastes, including body wastes having the potential to produce pollution impacts
 - e. free of any other impacts upon neighbouring residents, including safety risks.
9. While Council provides this information as a guideline, the NSW Government's State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 outlines required setbacks for the structures required for keeping of animals in NSW. Structures which do not comply with the SEPP will require development consent.

Keeping of Animals – Advisory table

The following table provides a guideline for the keeping of animals in residential land and may be used in conjunction in maintaining a health and safe environment for the keeping of animals.

Species	Maximum Number of Animals ¹
Bees	Refer to Department of Primary Industries requirements
Caged birds	Appropriate to location and breed
Horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats	Not recommended in residential areas
Pet rats, mice and guinea pigs	4 of any variety
Pigeons	10 pairs
Poultry	10 fowl/poultry Roosters are not recommended in residential areas
Rabbits/ferrets	2
Reptiles	Only where licenced
Any other species ²	Contact with Council is recommended before introduction to residential area

¹ The numbers of animals are a guide. Enforcement action may be taken where less than the number are kept and unhealthy, unsafe or any other adverse impacts are being produced. Animal includes any non-human being or living creature.

² Other species include any animal kept, subject to the keeping of the animal not causing impacts listed below.

Compliance, monitoring and review

10. Council may take compliance or enforcement action to address any impact produced by the keeping of any animal(s), regardless of the number being kept or the distance from a dwelling.
11. An impact may include:
 - a. noise
 - b. odour
 - c. effluent discharge
 - d. dust
 - e. insect or pest generation
 - f. safety risk.
12. Where Council decides to take action to address any impact, such action will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance and Enforcement Policy.
13. This policy will be reviewed at least once every term of Council.
14. Staff must maintain all records relevant to administering this policy in a recognised Council recordkeeping system.

Related resources

15. NSW Legislation:
 - a. [Companion Animals Act 1998](#)
 - b. [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)
 - c. [Impounding Act 1993](#)
 - d. [Local Government Act 1993](#)
 - e. [Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#)
 - f. [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) 2008](#)
16. Associated/Internal documents:
 - a. Council's [Code of Conduct](#)
 - b. Council's [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#).

History of revisions

Amendment history	Details
Original approval authority details	<p>Central Coast Council</p> <hr/> <p>23/02/2021 Item Number 3.2 Minute 46/21</p> <hr/> <p>This Policy aims to provide minimum standards for the keeping of animals, particularly in residential areas, in the Central Coast Council local government area. This policy replaces the <i>Keeping of Animals Policy</i> of former Wyong Shire Council (WSC015),</p>