
Dog Control Hearings Panel

Te Komiti Whiriwhiri I Ngaa Take Kuri

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Dog Control Hearings Panel held in Committee Room 1 and Audio Visual Link, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Monday 28 April 2025 at 9:30 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr Emma Pike
Heamana

Members Cr Maria Huata
Cr Andrew Bydder
Cr Anna Casey-Cox

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia.

1. Apologies – Tono aroha

Resolved: (Cr Pike/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Dog Control Hearing Panel accepts the apologies for full absence from Cr Tauariki.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take

Resolved: (Cr Pike/Cr Bydder)

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel confirms the agenda, noting the addition of item 7 (Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Fourie) which was referred from the 17 April 2025.

3. Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipanga

No members of the Panel declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Objection to Menacing Classification of Dog - Riley & Fox

The objectors, Riley & Fox, outlined the history that led to the incident, testimonials from colleagues about their dog's behaviour, and noted that they had received anecdotal evidence from other dog park users regarding the other dog. They responded to questions from Members concerning fencing on property, dog's behaviour outside of owners property and owners understanding of the process if another incident was to occur.

The Animal Education & Control Manager and the Response and Resilience Manager then spoke to the report in particular the incident and the lack of involvement with the complainant. They responded to questions from Members concerning muzzle suitability and the Animal Control Officers procedural standards.

6. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Pike/Cr Huata)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
4. Objection to Menacing Classification of Dog - Riley & Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987 	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item 4.	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)
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The meeting moved into the public excluded session at 10.39am.

During the public excluded session of the meeting the following was resolved to be released to the public via the minutes:

Item 4: Objection to Menacing Classification of Dog - Riley & Fox

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;*
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;*
- c) notes that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection can only either uphold or rescind the classification under the Dog Control Act 1996;*
- d) **rescinds** the menacing classification of the dog ‘Tanzie’; and*
- e) approves the release of the decision from Public Excluded via the open minutes of this meeting.*

The meeting returned to the open session at 10:48am.

5. Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Raiwhara

The Chairperson noted that the objector would not be in attendance and had provided a written statement that had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The Response and Resilience Manager then spoke to the report in particular the historical incidents as outlined in the staff report and the original incident that led to the disqualification classification. Staff responded to questions from Members regarding the history of the objector as a dog owner historical dog registration issues, possession and the objectors willingness to rectify prior incidents reported.

6. Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved: (Cr Pike /Cr Huata)

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
5 Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Raiwhara) Good reason to withhold) information exists under) Section 7 Local Government) Official Information and) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)
7. Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Fourie		

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item 5.	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)
Item 7.	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting persons from improper pressure or harassment	Section 7 (2) (f) (ii)

The meeting moved into the public excluded session at 11.03am.

During the public excluded session of the meeting the following was resolved to be released to the public via the minutes:

Item 5: Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Raiwhara

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;*
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;*
- c) notes that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection
 - i. uphold the classification;*
 - ii. bring forward the date of classification; and*
 - iii. immediately terminate the disqualification.**
- d) upholds the classification of the dog owner (Raiwhara) as disqualified until 11 June 2029 (being the date that is 5 years from the date of the third or final infringement offence in respect of which the person is disqualified) and notes the right of the dog owner to appeal to the District Court under section 27 of the Dog Control Act 1996; and*
- e) approves the release of this decision from Public Excluded via the open minutes of this meeting.*

Item 7: Objection to Disqualification from Dog Ownership – Fourie

That the Dog Control Hearings Panel:

- a) receives the report;*
- b) confirms it has considered the mandatory matters specified under the Dog Control Act 1996, and other matters relevant to the objection;*
- c) notes that the Dog Control Hearings Panel in determining any objection
 - i. uphold the classification;*
 - ii. bring forward the date of classification; and*
 - iii. immediately terminate the disqualification.**
- d) brings forward the date of classification of the Dog Owner (Fourie) as disqualified until 24 April 2026 (being the date that is two years from the date of the third infringement offence in respect of which the person is disqualified) and notes the right of the Dog Owner to appeal to the District Court under section 27 of the Dog Control Act 1996; and*
- f) approves the release of this decision from Public Excluded via the open minutes of this meeting.*

The meeting was declared closed at 11.27am.