



GUARDIANS OF PĀUATAHANUI INLET

Date: 15 July 2017

To: Porirua City Council

From: Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet

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Submission: On the proposed changes to dog rules

Thank you for accepting a late submission to the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Law.

This submission comments mainly on those matters which relate to the Objectives of the Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI). GOPI was formed in 1991 and merged with Pāuatahanui Inlet Community Trust (PICT) in 2015.

The objectives of GOPI are:

1. Consistently with its ecological values, to encourage, promote, protect, maintain and foster the natural, historic and cultural values of the Pāuatahanui Inlet.
2. To promote recognition locally, regionally, nationally and internationally of the ecological values and standing of the Inlet.
3. To educate all persons, corporations, organisations, governments and their agencies in the values set out in Rule 3 (a) & (b).
4. To represent all members of the Society and the views and interests of the citizens of the region in matters affecting the Inlet.
5. To publish such materials, cause appearances and representations to be made in any forum or circumstance and to hold such conferences, forums and hui as required for the promotion of any of the Society's objectives.
6. To carry out research, surveys, and investigations of all kinds which may be considered in any way of benefit or use to the Society or its members in furthering the objects of the society hereinbefore set out.
7. To work with or support any other person or group, whether incorporated or not, with similar objects, for the benefit of the Pāuatahanui Inlet (or any other part of New Zealand when matters of practice or law or statute are viewed by the Management Committee as a precedent affecting the Inlet).
8. To consult with the communities around the Inlet and to provide opportunities for the public to share in celebrating and caring for the Inlet.

9. Generally, to do all such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them or any part of any of them.

New Fenced Dog parks

GOPI is supportive of the addition of new off-leash dog exercise areas. This would take pressure off the existing off-leash areas, in particular Motukaraka Point and Camborne Walkway.

Changing Parts of dog exercise areas

- Motukaraka Point
GOPI is supportive of the proposed changes at Motukaraka Point – requiring dogs to be on-leash at all times. With the completion of Te Ara Piko pathway, which requires dogs to be on-leash, it is sensible to ensure this continues as Motukaraka Point becomes part of the pathway. It provides one rule for the entire length of the pathway. PICT had been asking for this area to be on-leash since 2002.
- Camborne walkway
GOPI is partially supportive of the proposed changes to this walkway. We would prefer that the entire Camborne walkway be considered as part of Te Ara Piko with dogs required to be on-leash for its whole length. Dogs are often encouraged into the water and walkers complain of being rushed at by wet dogs. Greater Wellington Regional Council lays bait and sets traps along this route and the associated warning signs indicate that dogs should not be allowed to roam, and that they should be restrained. The whole of Paremata beach from Pascoe Avenue to Dolly Varden toilets is an off-leash area with minor date changes under your proposal.
- To enable pest control, and to protect the flora and fauna of the Inlet catchment and foreshore, GOPI would prefer that dogs be on-leash for the entire walkway.
- The popularity of Te Ara Piko pathway around the Inlet will increase rapidly with its completion, and with growth of the area. Non-dog owners are increasingly wanting recreational areas without loose dogs.

Prohibited areas

- GOPI asks the Council to add: 'the foreshore and beaches of Pāuatahanui Inlet from, and including, the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve to Pascoe Avenue' included in the list of prohibited areas.

Other recommendations regarding dogs and Pāuatahanui Inlet

- Signage
The proposed changes will only be effective if there is adequate clear signage – especially in those areas where existing rules will no longer apply.
- Existing swimming holes
GOPI suggests that signs be installed at known popular dog swimming holes along Te Ara Piko pathway e.g. Horokiri Stream where the bank is beginning to crumble away with the movement of dogs in and out of the water.

- Information to Owners
GOPI suggests dog owners are given a brochure about the effects of dogs on flora and fauna with simple messages such as: 'just the presence of dogs can disturb birds, while chasing birds prevents them from feeding, mating and nesting in the area'. This should be given during registration of new dogs and at re-registration.
- We note that the policy seems to make no mention of the consequences of non-compliance.

We would like to speak in support of our submission.

Tony Shaw

Chairperson

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