

From: "Paul Garnett" <paul.garnett@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Mon, 1 May 2023 16:45:32 +1100
To: "Hannah Van de Werff" <HVandewerff@tweed.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: DA22/0854 Council Pound and Animal Rehoming Facility - Lundberg Drive South Murwillumbah
Attachments: 2023-04-28 DPI Agriculture advice Tweed Pound and Rehoming Facility.pdf

G'day Hannah,
Attached is DPI's response to your request for information for the Council Pound and Animal Rehoming Facility - Lundberg Drive South Murwillumbah (DA22/0854).

Happy to discuss if there is anything you have questions about.

Regards

Paul

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Attention: Ms Hannah Van de Werff

Development Application DA22/0854 Tweed Council Pound and Animal Rehoming Facility

Dear Mr Green

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 March 2023 seeking advice on matters relating to animal welfare and biosecurity at the proposed Tweed Council pound and rehoming facility at Lundberg Drive South Murwillumbah.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture collaborates and partners with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment.

I understand Council is seeking advice in response to queries raised by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (the Panel). While the DPI Agriculture does not have any statutory role in this development application, the following information may assist Council and the Panel's determination.

Animal Welfare

I understand that concerns have been raised in relation to the potential impacts of the adjacent pistol club on the welfare of animals that will be housed at the facility. This issue was discussed with NSW DPI's Animal Welfare Unit.

I note that an acoustic report and an animal behaviour report has been prepared. It is appropriate that expert advice has been obtained for such a specific and unique situation.

NSW DPI has no specific standards for the development of council pounds and does not have statutory responsibility for the operation of council pounds.

All animal pounds and shelters in NSW must comply with the provisions of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (the POCTA Act) which is jointly administered by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and NSW DPI (each on behalf of the respective Ministers).

The POCTA Act is enforced by the NSW Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA NSW), the NSW Animal Welfare League (AWL NSW) and NSW Police.

In addition to the POCTA Act, pounds and shelters may also need to adhere to the [NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments](#) (the Boarding Code), which is mandated under the POCTA Act.

Section 3 of the Boarding Code contains standards relating to animal housing and noise (as noted in the Animal Behaviour report by Dr Kate Mornement). Specifically, 3.1.1 of the Boarding Code states:

Animal boarding establishments should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to animals.

As local council animal impounding facilities may be inspected by any enforcement agency (RSPCA NSW, AVL NSW or NSW Police), it is strongly recommended that Council also seek advice from the RSPCA NSW in relation to potential animal welfare issues that may arise due to the proximity of the proposed facility to the pistol club. RSPCA NSW can be contacted on (02) 9770 7555.

Biosecurity

I understand that concerns have also been raised in relation to the potential for spread of animal diseases and the potential impacts of storing and disposal of animal waste. These issues were discussed with NSW DPI Biosecurity and Food Safety.

The management practices employed at the facility will be integral to minimising potential biosecurity risks. Hygiene and housing will be important considerations. If a facility is constructed in a manner which enables effective separation of animals when required and easy cleaning and disinfection the control of biosecurity risks will be easier to manage through the operational practices at the facility.

The Boarding Code provides some guidance in relation to hygiene, specifically sections 4.1 Cleaning and Disinfection and 4.3 Waste Disposal.

Biosecurity Risk Management Plan

Council is encouraged to develop a biosecurity risk management plan to detail how the introduction, presence, spread or increase of animal diseases should be managed, the risks posed and strategies to prevent, eliminate or minimise these risks.

A biosecurity management plan should be developed in consultation with a veterinarian. NSW DPI's [Biosecurity Risk Management in Land Use Planning and Development Guide](#) may provide assistance to identify, prevent, eliminate and minimise biosecurity risks that may arise from the potential housing of different animal species at the facility.

It will also be important to consider visitor management as a significant biosecurity consideration if livestock are to be housed on the site, especially if the facility will utilise volunteer workers. Guidance such as the NSW DPI factsheet on [minimising the risk of visitors to your farm](#) may be useful in providing general guidance on this matter.

The [Farm Biosecurity Website](#) hosts a range of resources including a generic biosecurity management plan and a [model infection control plan for veterinary practices](#) which may be useful for the management of small animals at the facility if tailored to the facility's specific circumstances.

If the facility will house livestock Council should be aware of the requirements under the *Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017* regarding records of movement of livestock. NSW DPI's website contains this [factsheet](#) on the National Livestock Identification System.

If the facility could house pigs Council should also be aware that feeding swill (which includes some pet foods) to pigs is prohibited. Further information on swill feeding can be in NSW DPI's [PrimeFact on Swill Feeding](#) .

Waste Disposal

Appropriate storage and disposal of animal waste will help prevent the spread of disease however there is not a specific best practice procedure for disposal of animal waste from council pounds. [NSW Environment Protection Authority \(EPA\)](#) governs waste disposal legislation in NSW and may be able to provide more specific guidance.

The Boarding Code provides some general guidance on appropriate practices and considerations to be incorporated to the specific situation.

Development of a waste management plan should be considered which details aspects such as how often waste disposal should occur, storage measures to prevent biosecurity risks such as zoonotic faecal pathogens (particularly parasites), the personal protective equipment and hygiene practices required, and the requirements for management of waste from large animals, such as livestock, that may be kept in outdoor areas where effluent runoff may occur during rain events.

If composting of animal manure is being considered the NSW EPA has published [Environmental Guidelines: Composting and related organics processing facilities](#) .

Guidance on animal carcass disposal is available in NSW DPI's [Animal Carcass Disposal PrimeFact](#).

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0429 864 501 or by email at landuse.ag@dpi.nsw.gov.au .

Sincerely



Paul Garnett
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
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28 April 2023