Glen Eira City Council

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST



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THE *GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026–2029* WAS ENDORSED BY GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL AT ITS ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 25 NOVEMBER 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a *Reconciliation Action Plan* which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Glen Eira's attractiveness as a residential area derives not only from its physical infrastructure but also from our commitment to fostering a harmonious environment that respects both residents and their pets. This *Plan* sets forth several key initiatives:

- promoting responsible pet ownership through targeted education and awareness programs
- supporting animal welfare by providing resources and assistance to pet owners
- ensuring public safety through effective animal management and control policies.

A collaborative approach is essential to sustaining a balanced and considerate relationship between pet owners and other community members. All pet owners are encouraged to review this *Plan* and make use of the available resources to uphold responsible pet care.

I would like to express my appreciation to all who contributed to the development of this *Plan*. Our shared efforts play a significant role in advancing Glen Eira's liveability. By working together, we can continue to enhance the wellbeing of all residents.

Cr Simone Zmood
Glen Eira Mayor



FOREWORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Our *Domestic Animal Management Plan* reflects our strong commitment to building a community where pets are valued and the safety and wellbeing of all residents are prioritised.

Our *Plan* is a roadmap for promoting responsible pet ownership, protecting animal welfare and ensuring our public spaces are safe and welcoming for everyone. We aim to create a balanced and respectful environment where pets and people can live together harmoniously.

We believe that by working together, we can achieve a community where pets are well-cared for and residents feel safe and supported. I encourage all community members to engage with the *Plan* and make use of the resources available.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us build a safer, more pet-friendly Glen Eira for everyone.

Lucy Roffey
Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (*Act*) requires Victorian councils to adopt a four-year *Domestic Animal Management Plan* for managing dogs and cats in the community. Recognising the role of companion animals, we aim to promote responsible ownership through education and innovative strategies for safe and harmonious co-existence across Glen Eira.

The *Plan* applies municipality-wide, is reviewed annually and results are published in our *Annual Report*.

The *Plan* must outline programs for the training of authorised officers accompanied by services and strategies to:

- ensure that people comply with the *Act*, the regulations and any related legislation
- minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats
- minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance
- effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the *Act* and the regulations
- provide for the review of existing orders made under the *Act* and local law, with a view to determine whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats are required
- provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats
- provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under this *Plan*.

The principles that have guided the development of this *Plan* are:

- It is written with community perspective and reflects what is important to them.
- It complies with the legislative requirements of the *Act*.
- It sets an effective strategic direction in terms of the management of dogs and cats.



DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (*Act*), every Victorian council must prepare a plan as follows:

68A councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

1. Every council must, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), prepare at four-year intervals a domestic animal management plan.

2. A domestic animal management plan prepared by a council must:

a. set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this *Act* and the regulations; and

b. outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this *Act* in the council's municipal district; and

c. outline programs, services, and strategies which the council intends to pursue in its municipal district —

i. to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and

ii. to ensure that people comply with this *Act*, the regulations, and any related legislation; and

iii. to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and

iv. to address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and

v. to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and

vi. to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and

vii. to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted-breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this *Act* and the regulations; and

d. provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and

e. provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and

f. provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

3. Every council must —

a. review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and

b. provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and

c. publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING



Figure 1. Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

We take an integrated approach to planning, guided by our *Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision*. This *Vision* reflects what our community values most — inclusivity, sustainability, wellbeing, creativity and connectedness — and what people want Glen Eira to become over time.

Our *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework* also guides our work and ensures all our strategies and plans align to our *Vision* and the *Council Plan 2025–2029*. Our resourcing strategies provide detail on the financial resources (*Financial Plan*, *Budget*), physical assets (*Asset Plan*) and employees (*Workforce Plan*) we need to keep delivering essential services and work towards achieving our strategic objectives.

This means our strategic plans connect and support each other. They are all part of a shared commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for our community.

The *Domestic Animal Management Plan* is aligned to the strategic objective 'our places are safe, healthy and versatile' from the *Council Plan 2025–2029*.

All our strategies share a common foundation. They are shaped by community values, built on strong evidence and guided by a long-term vision for a more inclusive, sustainable and connected future. We know that effective planning must also be:

- informed by our community — shaped by what matters most to our residents and stakeholders
- evidence-based — drawing on data, research and expert insight
- place-based — tailored to the diverse needs and identities of local communities across Glen Eira
- resource-focused — aligned to available budgets, assets and workforce capability
- adaptable — ready to respond to emerging risks, challenges and opportunities.

These principles guide how we approach every strategic plan — whether it's about climate, assets, biodiversity or finance.

All our plans are living documents — regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing conditions, emerging evidence and what we continue to learn through engagement and delivery.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

A community consultation was undertaken through the Have Your Say portal, which received 279 survey responses. Questions were framed on a range of issues on how we could improve animal management services. We advertised this through the following mediums:

- survey on our *Have Your Say* website
- news item on our website
- targeted promotion of the engagement to all registered cat and dog owners
- targeted promotion of the engagement to industry sector professionals
- email sent to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community
- advertisement in *Glen Eira News*
- post uploaded to our Facebook and Instagram pages
- distribute printed advertising material
- digital screen advertising at Town Hall Service Centre
- advertisement through Golden Days radio
- Service Centre telephone on-hold message.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFILE OF THE CITY OF GLEN EIRA

The City of Glen Eira is located in Melbourne's south-east suburbs, approximately 10 kilometres from Melbourne's central business district. The municipality includes the suburbs of: Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Brighton East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Caulfield East, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena, Ormond and St Kilda East.

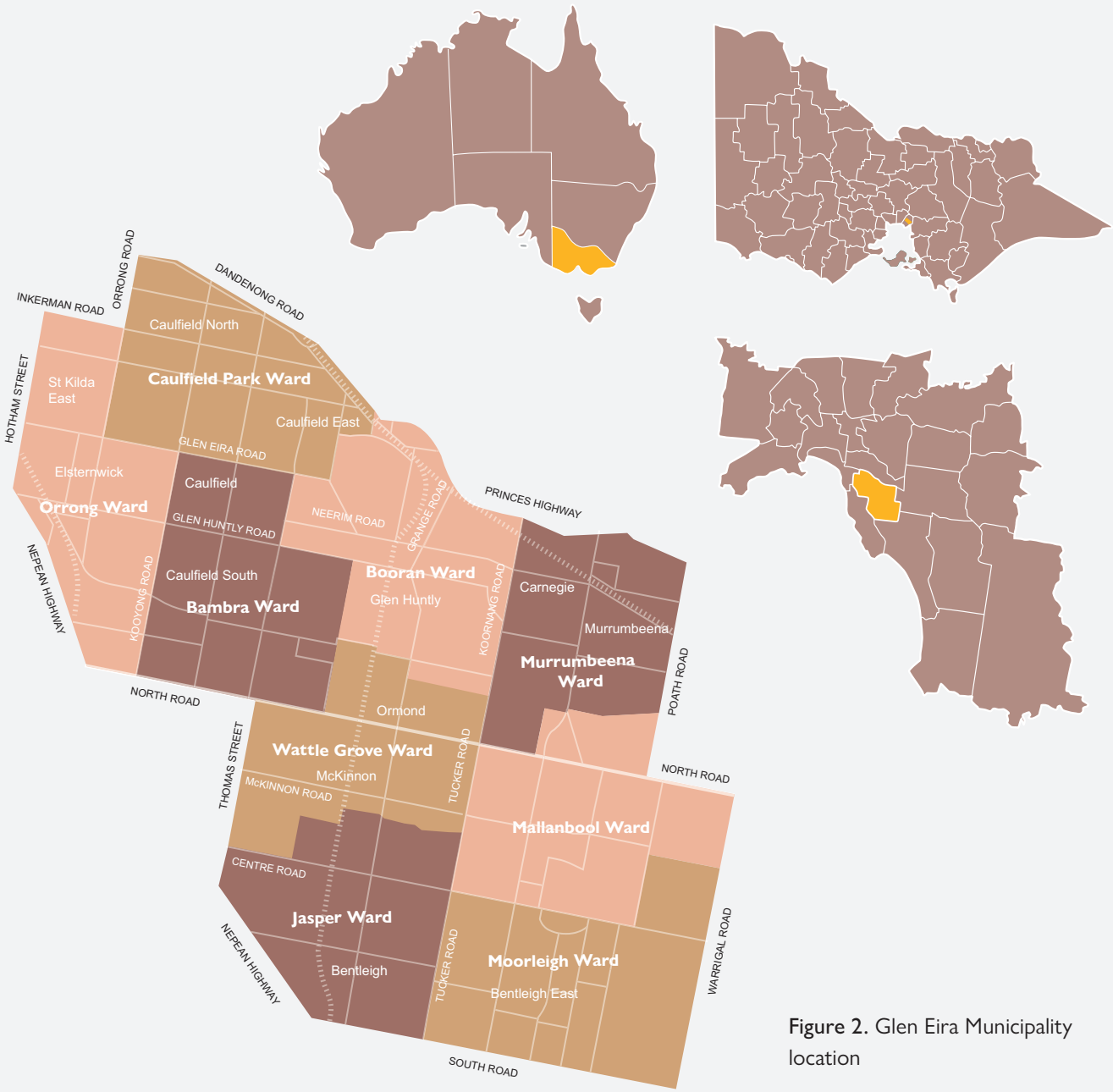


Figure 2. Glen Eira Municipality location

Glen Eira features a vibrant and diverse community with a strong cultural heritage. The municipality encompasses open space reserves, playgrounds, sports clubs, schools, seven major activity centres and more than 17,000 businesses.

Notable Melbourne landmarks within Glen Eira include Rippon Lea Estate, the Caulfield Race-course, Yarra Yarra Golf Club and the Jewish Holocaust Museum.

THE MUNICIPALITY



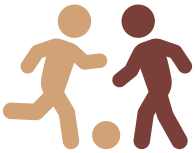
76

OPEN SPACE RESERVES



48

PLAYGROUNDS



74

SPORTS CLUBS



39

SCHOOLS



7

MAJOR ACTIVITY CENTRES



17,000+

BUSINESSES

With a population of 161,027 (2024) and a median age of approximately 38 years[2], Glen Eira residents represent more than 120 cultural backgrounds. Among those born outside Australia, the most prevalent countries of origin are China, India, England, South Africa and Israel. Additionally, 411 residents identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Glen Eira is home to 54.9 per cent of Victoria's Jewish population. Disability inclusion remains a key focus, with 4.8 per cent of residents living with disability. Couples with children comprise the most common household type, followed by single-person households.

POPULATION

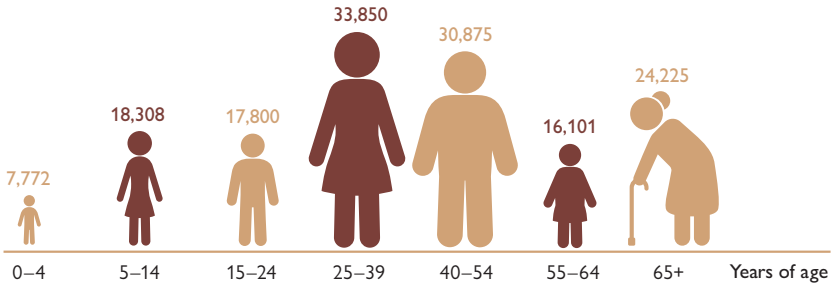
161,027

RESIDENTS[1]



MOST COMMON COUNTRIES OF BIRTH[2]

1. **China** 4.5%
2. **India** 4.4%
3. **England** 3.3%
4. **South Africa** 2.4%
5. **Israel** 1.5%



AGES OF GLEN EIRA'S RESIDENTS[2]

Residents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage[2]

411

Glen Eira is home to the largest Jewish community in Victoria

54.9%

of the Victorian Jewish population call Glen Eira home[2]

Residents needing daily assistance due to disabilities

4.8%

59 per cent female, 41 per cent male[2]

1 ProfileID – ABS ERP 2024
2 ABS (2021 census)

DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We currently report in the *Council Plan* the indicators outlined in the table below.

INDICATOR	TARGET (%)	2020–21 (%)	2021–22 (%)	2022–23 (%)	2023–24 (%)	2024–25 (%)	2024–25
Dog registration rate: (per cent, dogs registered/estimated dog population)	85	92	96	99	92	89	12,498/14,000
Cat registration rate: (per cent, cats registered/estimated cat population)	85	77	82	82	73	70	4,228/6,000
Enforcement success rate: (per cent, successful prosecutions/ total prosecutions)	100	100	100	100	100	100	12/12
Dog return/reclaim rate: (per cent, total dogs reclaimed-returned/total dogs impounded) (includes adopted/ sold dogs)	90	93	99	100	99	93	100/108
Cat reclaim/return rate: (per cent, total cats reclaimed/total cats impounded) (includes adopted/sold cats)	20	96	49	95	90	93	131/134
Domestic animal business compliance rate: (registered/ compliant)	93	100	100	100	100	100	8/8
Dog desexing rate: (per cent, dogs desexed/actual registered)	70	60	80	82	83	84	10,456/12,498
Cat desexing rate: (per cent, cats desexed/ actual registered)	80	76	97	98	97	99	4,189/4,228
Infringements versus official warnings rate: (per cent, infringements/warnings)	<40	64	47	60	75	52	80/155



OFFICER TRAINING

ANIMAL REGISTRATION

NUISANCE MANAGEMENT

Photo by Cole Wyland on *Unsplash*

TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Current situation

The Civic Compliance team, within the Community Safety and Compliance department of the Planning and Place directorate, manages domestic animals, enforces our local laws and oversees education and enforcement.

Enforcement officers face challenging situations, so they receive comprehensive training to ensure safety for themselves and animals.

We provide training for officers to ensure they can perform their responsibilities safely and in alignment with their delegated authority and appointment. The team is authorised and participates in regular training. Officers are required to obtain the Certificate IV in Animal Regulation and Management and the Certificate IV in Government Invesigations, covering skills such as animal handling, investigation, report writing, communication and time management.

Three business support officers assist the team by handling customer enquiries and complaints at the initial point of contact, processing permits and registrations, and supporting authorised officers.

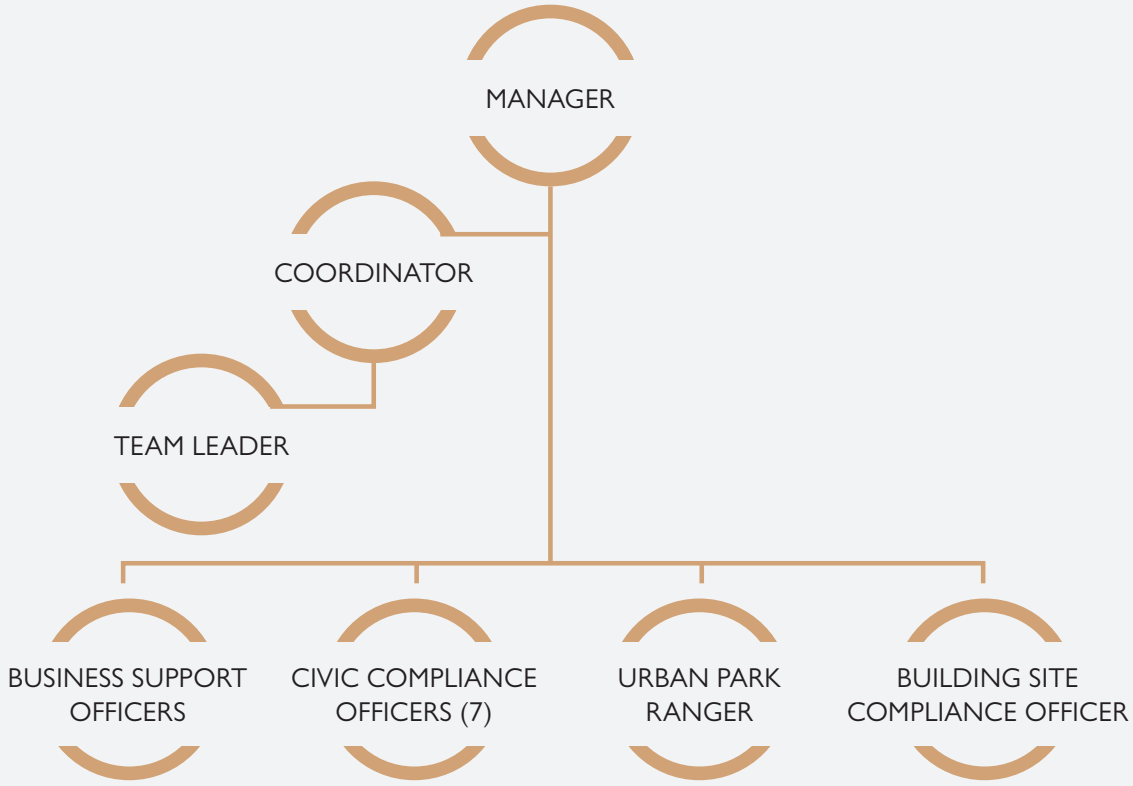


Figure 3. Glen Eira's Civic Compliance Team structure

We are committed to equipping the Civic Compliance team to meet objectives and deliver a professional animal management service. The *Corporate Training* program offers varied learning opportunities and all authorised officers complete an induction to understand required practices and guidelines.

Employee training and development are reviewed annually through Glen Eira's *Organisational Performance Development* program. The table below outlines ongoing activities for authorised officers, which will remain for the duration of this *Plan*. Officers will continue receiving training in fraud awareness, customer service, operational procedures and animal handling, and attend industry information sessions.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
1.1 **Privacy training**	Annually	Attendance record — ongoing
1.2 **Certificate IV in Animal Regulation and Management**	As required	Certificate obtained
1.3 **Certificate IV in Government Investigations**	As required	Certificate obtained
1.4 **Statement taking/evidence gathering**	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing
1.5 **Animal assessment and handling**	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing
1.6 **Practical training by industry specific providers which focusses on best-practices**	As offered	Attendance record — ongoing

Planned training for authorised officers

Section 68(A)(2)(b) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* specifies that councils are required to detail programs for training authorised officers to ensure effective administration and enforcement of the *Act* within the municipal district.

Authorised officers carry out their enforcement responsibilities in accordance with the principle of 'reasonable laws, reasonably enforced'. In practice, this involves officers taking an educational approach to achieve compliance when appropriate, prior to initiating enforcement action.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
1.2.1 **First Aid Level 2**	2027	Certificate obtained — renewed every three years
1.2.2 **Dangerous Dog Management Training**	2026 and 2028	Certificate obtained — renewed every two years
1.2.3 **Situational Awareness Training**	2029	Certificate obtained — refreshed every four years
1.2.4 **Dealing with matters relating to Family and Domestic Violence Training**	2026	Attendance record

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

We are required to detail programs, services and strategies designed to promote the registration and identification of dogs and cats. This section of the *Plan* fulfills the requirements set forth by Section 68A(2)(c)(v) of the *Act* and presents our initiatives and approaches regarding the registration and identification of these animals.

Objectives

> To require annual registration of all dogs and cats over the age of three months residing in Glen Eira and ensure they are implanted with a microchip.

> To set registration fees at a level that aligns with the costs of enforcing the *Act* within the municipal district and contributes appropriately to the expenses related to administering our animal management services.

Current situation

Dogs and cats older than three months are required to have a microchip implanted and be registered with us. Registration is renewed each year by 10 April.

The following table presents data on registration trends.

ANNUAL REGISTRATIONS	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
Dogs	13,998	12,891	12,498
Cats	4,894	4,370	4,228
Total	18,896	17,216	16,726

Current education and promotion activities

To promote educational and promotional activities within Glen Eira, we:

> offer a registration fee reduction to owners of pets if they desex their dog or cat or have their dog undertake obedience training via an accredited trainer

> issue a reminder notice, SMS and email to pet owners who have failed to renew registration

> liaise with local veterinary practices to ensure registration and responsible pet ownership information is available

> schedule routine park patrols by authorised officers where registration education is provided

> follow up registrations for dogs and cats that have been adopted through pounds and animal shelters

> provide the means for online payments for registrations renewals

> write media releases relating to topical animal management issues

> distribute animal management brochures and sector booklets.

Current compliance activities

Animal registration compliance activities include:

- routine park patrols, which include random animal registration checks
- scanning all collected dogs and cats for a microchip to reunite the animal with their owner prior to being impounded
- requiring the owner of any unregistered animal that has been collected, to register it prior to its release
- conducting a door knock and telephone campaign of properties where dogs and cats were previously registered and where the registration has not been renewed
- undertaking an animal registration benchmarking exercise prior to implementing new fees.

Planned additional activities to promote registration and identification

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
2.1.1 **Partner with the RSPCA to provide 12-month subsidised microchipping to un-microchipped dogs and cats presenting at RSPCA/Council low-cost vaccination clinics**	2026	Total animals microchipped at subsidised clinics during the program period Target: 100 per cent of animals presenting without a microchip implanted at a clinic
2.1.2 **Ensure all seized and impounded animals are registered to their owner prior to release**	Prior to every release	Percentage of seized/impounded animals released with confirmed registration Target: 100 per cent
2.1.3 **Follow up of unregistered dogs and cats**	Annual door knocks conducted between July and August each year	Percentage of follow-up cases resulting in successful registration still residing in Glen Eira Target >90 per cent
2.1.4 **Continue to offer incentive scheme that encourages 'early' initial registration and desexing of dogs and cats**	Ongoing	Number of new registrations completed under the incentive scheme Target: 25 per year
2.1.5 **Develop A-frame signage promoting pet registration with QR codes and rotate between parks, that when scanned, takes park users to an online registration form**	2026	Register kept of locations and number of times QR code scanned
2.1.6 **Develop A-frame signage with QR codes and rotate between parks, that when scanned, takes park users to a map of the boundaries of the designated on- and off-leash areas**	2026	Register kept of locations and number of times QR code scanned
2.1.7 **Provide 12 months of free registration for animals adopted from pounds and animal shelters**	2027	Register kept that identifies which residents have received free registration
2.1.8 **Increase awareness regarding registration requirements among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities**	2026	Material published and issued via email and regular mail to established CALD audiences
2.1.9 **Review animal registration tag design to ensure material used is resilient given they are not issued annually**	2028	Review undertaken and changes made where required

NUISANCE MANAGEMENT

This section of the *Plan* addresses behaviours, such as roaming dogs and cats, barking dogs and issues related to dog waste. The *Act* specifies that we are required to implement programs, services and strategies to reduce the likelihood of nuisance caused by dogs and cats.

Objectives

We are responsible for considering the needs of cat and dog owners as well as those of the broader community to determine effective methods for monitoring and, when necessary, enforcing regulations that ensure open spaces remain safe and clean.

Current situation

Concerns related to animal nuisance and regulatory compliance are important considerations for pet owners and the community. Achieving a balance between community needs and effective compliance processes can sometimes present challenges. The approach described as 'reasonable laws, reasonably enforced' aims to address expectations in an equitable manner.

Issues persist with dog waste in public spaces and off-leash dogs in restricted areas. We run routine proactive park patrols focusing on known problem sites and respond to complaints. Additional educational measures may be considered near on- and off-leash boundaries. Common nuisances include barking in high-density areas, limited open space and misunderstandings of dog behaviour.

Current education and promotion activities

We conduct the following educational and promotional activities to reduce cat and dog nuisance within Glen Eira.

> Authorised officers offer guidance on resolving nuisance issues. This information is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

> We advise residents to communicate with the animal's owner and when suitable, seek support from the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.

> Authorised officers implement a routine *Proactive Park Patrol* program, targeting areas that we identify, and provide information to park users.

NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
Barking dogs	296	414	484	439
Cat collection	159	166	123	142
Dog excrement	71	100	111	115
Dog collection	207	193	187	140
Dog off-leash	139	164	137	157
Dog wandering at large	59	84	60	66

Current compliance activities

We conduct a range of nuisance management activities.

- Authorised officers investigate all nuisance complaints, which may lead to the issuance of an official warning, a notice to comply or an infringement notice.
- We offer a free-of-charge *Cat-trapping Program* available to residents. This *Program* provides directives to the owners of trapped and returned cats.
- We also collaborate with agencies to address broader nuisance issues.

Planned additional activities to minimise nuisance

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
3.1.1 **Provide online resources to assist residents in managing their dogs barking**	2026	Content accessible on website
3.1.2 **Run a media campaign to focus on the message of 'Pick up your doggie poo'**	2026	Decrease in nuisance complaints relating to dog excrement
3.1.3 **Provide online resources aimed at dog hygiene**	2027	Content accessible on website
3.1.4 **Partner with external expert organisation to provide a community education seminar on animal nuisance training**	2029	Session delivered
3.1.5 **Conclude feasibility investigation for our consideration to determine if a cat curfew is appropriate for Glen Eira**	2026–27	Implement our decision
3.1.6 **Provide online educational material about cat enclosures, including DIY instructional videos**	2026	Content accessible on website
3.1.7 **Review of complaint processes including undertaking a benchmarking exercise with neighbouring Councils**	2027	Review undertaken with findings and actions taken reported in the annual review
3.1.8 **Review dog waste bin locations and restrictions signage within Glen Eira parks and reserves**	2028	Review undertaken with findings and actions taken reported in the annual review
3.1.9 **Review the effectiveness of the night-time cat curfew and consider whether a 24-hour curfew is appropriate for Glen Eira**	2029	Review undertaken with findings presented to Councillors for consideration



DOG ATTACKS

DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

DOG ATTACKS

The *Act* specifies requirements for plans to identify programs, services and strategies aimed at reducing the risk of dog attacks on people and animals. This section addresses these requirements by:

> establishing a method for evaluating animal management services to determine whether we are meeting the obligations specified in the *Act* regarding dog attack incidents

> conducting regular assessments of programs and service strategies.

Objectives

> Reduce dog attack rates relative to registered dogs.

> Ensure officers respond quickly and effectively to dog attack reports.

> Increase awareness of the consequences of owning or being in apparent control of a dog that has attacked.

> Achieve full annual compliance for owners of declared dangerous, restricted breed or menacing dogs.

Current situation

We investigate all dog attack complaints, including incidents resulting in serious injury or the death of another animal. In these cases, we assess whether to seize the dog and initiate proceedings before the Magistrates' Court.

Addressing dog attacks remains a priority for authorised officers. We recognise the community's expectation to respond promptly and administer duties in compliance with the *Act*.

The table at right outlines the dog attack statistics over the last four years:

Current education and promotion activities

> The educational and community awareness programs we provide include:

> the annual audit of dog signage in parks and reserves

> rule enforcement and education activities via routine, targeted park patrols

> information on responsible pet ownership, including the desexing, socialisation and training of dogs, is provided on our website

> employees communicate with dog owners during park patrols to ensure that dogs are under appropriate control in public places.

DOG-ATTACK COMPLAINTS	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
Dog rushes at person	0	0	6	1
Dog attacks (animal or person)	82	134	134	140

Current compliance activities

Authorised officers currently utilise all enforcement decisions that are defined in the *Act*. They include:

- verbal directions
- official warnings
- notices to comply
- infringement notices
- dangerous, menacing and restricted breed declarations
- prosecution
- orders sought from the Court in relation to training, seizure, destruction and registration.

We have a range of compliance activities.

> Prompt responses are provided to reports of dogs found wandering at large.

> Patrols of public areas are conducted to check compliance with regulations regarding dogs in public spaces.

> Established procedures under the *Act* are applied for reported dog attacks and rushes. This may include issuing official warnings, notices to comply, infringement notices, declaring a dog as menacing or dangerous, court prosecution, or seeking an order for the destruction of the dog. These actions are not sequential and may be implemented concurrently.

> Seizing dogs that have been involved in attacks is considered when necessary to maintain public safety and prevent further incidents.

Planned additional activities to minimise dog attack incidents

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
4.1.1 **Provide online resources to assist residents in managing aggression between dogs**	2026	Content accessible on website
4.1.2 **Provide an education campaign on what 'effective control' means**	2027	Upload content to website and social media
4.1.3 **Conduct targeted campaign, including A-frame signs and VMS boards at locations where reports of attacks are more prevalent**	2028	Campaign locations documented
4.1.4 **Where appropriate, publicise prosecution outcomes via *Glen Eira News* and social media**	2026 and ongoing	Media releases as required and in consultation with affected parties
4.1.5 **Review of complaint processes including undertaking a benchmarking exercise with neighbouring Councils and implement recommendations**	2028	Review undertaken with findings and actions reported in the annual review

DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

The *Act* sets the requirements that we must outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs in the municipality and ensure those dogs are kept in accordance with the *Act*, regulations and our guidelines.

Objectives

> Implement an evaluation method to ensure compliance with declaration requirements, aiming to support public safety.
> Promote responsible ownership of declared dogs.
> Monitor compliance with the *Act* relating to declared dogs.
> Assess and monitor potential restricted breed dogs.

Current situation

We administer the identification and control of dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs to maximise public safety.

The following table outlines the current state in Glen Eira.

DECLARATIONS	2024–2025
Dangerous dog	1
Menacing dog	2
Restricted breed dog	0
Total	3

Current education and promotion activities

We share information about dangerous, menacing and restricted dog breeds on our website. In the next four years, we will seek more ways to promote compliance and help residents choose suitable breeds for their homes.

Current compliance activities

Current compliance activities include:

> unscheduled and annual inspections of properties housing declared dogs
> conducting inspections of all properties where declared dogs have relocated within the municipality
> maintenance of data on the Victorian Declared Dog Register
> investigation into all reports of restricted breed dogs.

Planned additional declared dog activities

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
5.1.1 **Review and update existing declared website material**	2028	Assess, update and upload to website
5.1.2 **Proactively audit the Victorian Declared Dog Register**	2029	Update accordingly to ensure compliance with *Act*
5.1.3 **Review declaration process procedure**	2029	Reviewed and updated
5.1.4 **Ensure compliance with legislative requirements**	Annually	Audit inspections carried out and details recorded
5.1.5 Advocate for reform to improve restricted breed legislation and its associated standard	2027	Formal submission to be issued

OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA RATES

The *Plan* outlines programs, services and strategies to address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates in dogs and cats. It reinforces the need for registration and identification to avoid impoundment so dogs and cats can be returned home. Cat-trapping of both wild and domesticated cats, combined with sterilisation, has minimised the population of wild cats. This also assists with the conservation of wildlife. Cats are grouped into the following categories:

Wild — live and reproduce in the wild and survive by hunting or scavenging

Stray — cats found within the municipality that can depend on some resources provided by humans but are not necessarily owned

Domestic — cats that are owned and most of their needs are provided for by their owners

Objectives

> To decrease the population of wild cats, thereby reducing the necessity for euthanasia resulting from overpopulation.

> To encourage cat owners to keep their cats within their property boundaries in order to minimise injury, prevent unplanned breeding and reduce nuisance.

Current situation

We provide cat traps at no cost to Glen Eira residents and will maintain this service. The *Cat-trapping Program* is designed to manage the wild cat population and mitigate overpopulation risks. In addition, it serves as an effective measure for addressing nuisance complaints and supporting cat owners in managing issues related to trespassing.

The following table presents data on cat impoundments, rehoming and euthanasia for the past four years.

CAT STATISTICS	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
Cats impounded	72	80	56	69
Cats euthanised	23	19	16	13
Cats rehomed	97	136	101	124

Current education and promotion activities

> promoting the *Who's For Cats?* campaign and Bureau of Animal Welfare materials

> collaborating with the RSPCA to provide regular, low-cost vaccination clinics in Glen Eira

> promoting responsible cat ownership via media campaigns

> distributing cat traps free of charge.

Current compliance activities

Current compliance activities include:

> investigation of all reports of cat hoarding

> education and enforcement action for ongoing non-compliance with registration or nuisance offences.

Planned additional responsible cat ownership promotion activities

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
6.1.1 **Provide online resources around keeping cats thriving inside**	2027	Content accessible on website
6.1.2 **Explore subsidised desexing schemes, educational material and programs and other initiatives to assist the community**	2028	Work with municipal-wide clinics to establish annual reporting of unsterilised cats
6.1.3 **Expand cat-trapping resources to support introduction of cat curfew**	2026	Undertake benchmarking exercise across the sector of councils that have introduced curfews and increase cat traps and other resources accordingly
6.1.4 **Investigate feasibility of running an in-person cat enclosure building workshop**	2027	Liaise with industry and report on recommendation
6.1.5 **Advocate to State Government for improved funding of desexing programs**	2026	Undertake targeted advocacy to fund subsidised desexing of cats and dogs to assist with cat confinement and improved animal management objectives


Doggy Day Care
DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES
OTHER MATTERS
ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTING

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

The *Plan* outlines programs, services and strategies to ensure that domestic animal businesses comply with the *Act*, regulations and any related legislation, and are responsible for the registration of their premises as a domestic animal business. These include:

- pet shops
- dog and cat breeding establishments where three or more fertile females and animals are sold (whether a profit is made or not) for an enterprise whose proprietor is not a member of an applicable organisation
- animal shelters and pounds
- boarding facilities, including day care, overnight and home boarding
- dog training and rearing establishments.

All domestic animal businesses must be registered annually with us and comply with the appropriate mandatory Code of Practice. Business premises must also comply with other requirements, including building, health, planning and local laws.

Objectives

> To manage all domestic animal businesses in accordance with legislative standards.

> To detect non-compliance and implement effective enforcement to gain compliance.

Current situation

We have eight registered domestic animal businesses comprising 12 categories in the municipality. The relevant legislation in managing the provisions is in the *Act*. Chance and scheduled audits are carried out in response to complaints. All businesses are subject to a pre-permit inspection prior to registration being granted.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESS	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024	2024–2025
Breeding and rearing	0	0	0	0
Pet shop	2	2	2	2
Dog training establishments	5	6	5	5
Shelters and pounds	0	0	0	0
Boarding establishments	4	6	6	5

Current education and promotion activities

We provide awareness activities for domestic animal businesses.

> The relevant Code of Practice is provided to all businesses.

> All Code of Practice documents are available at Customer Service.

Current compliance activities

Current compliance activities include:

> chance and scheduled audits that are carried out in response to complaints

> annual inspections that are carried out on all domestic animal businesses.

Planned additional domestic animal business activities

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
7.1.1 **Work with registered domestic animal businesses to promote our animal management programs and support services**	2028	Collateral circulated to registered domestic animal businesses
7.1.2 **Investigate complaints regarding unregistered businesses and all instances of non-compliance**	Ongoing	Percentage of complaints actioned within the required timeframe Target: 100 per cent
7.1.3 **Monitor our registration database for owners with more than three fertile females**	Annually	Conduct a site inspection to verify numbers and determine if the properties are unregistered breeding locations
7.1.4 **Conduct proactive investigations to determine businesses that should be registered as domestic animal businesses**	By December each year	Ensure all identified domestic animal businesses are registered with us

OTHER MATTERS

The *Plan* addresses other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district that we believe are necessary.

Current situation

We will continue to advocate for the benefits of responsible pet ownership and its contribution to fostering healthy and vibrant communities. Glen Eira remains dedicated to the prevention of family violence. Accordingly, we intend to promote the provision of temporary, cost-free shelter for domestic animals when residents are compelled to leave situations involving family violence. In urgent circumstances requiring residents to relocate due to violent incidents, we will offer seven to 10 days of complimentary shelter for animals residing within the municipality.

Additionally, we will assess the appropriateness of implementing cat restrictions in Glen Eira. As part of this evaluation and benchmarking process, we will engage in community consultation to gauge public support for potential policy changes.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTING

Pursuant to the *Act*, we must review this *Plan* annually and, if appropriate, amend it. We must provide the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions secretary with a copy of the *Plan*, including any amendments, and publish an evaluation of the *Plan's* implementation in our *Annual Report*.

Planned annual review and reporting activities

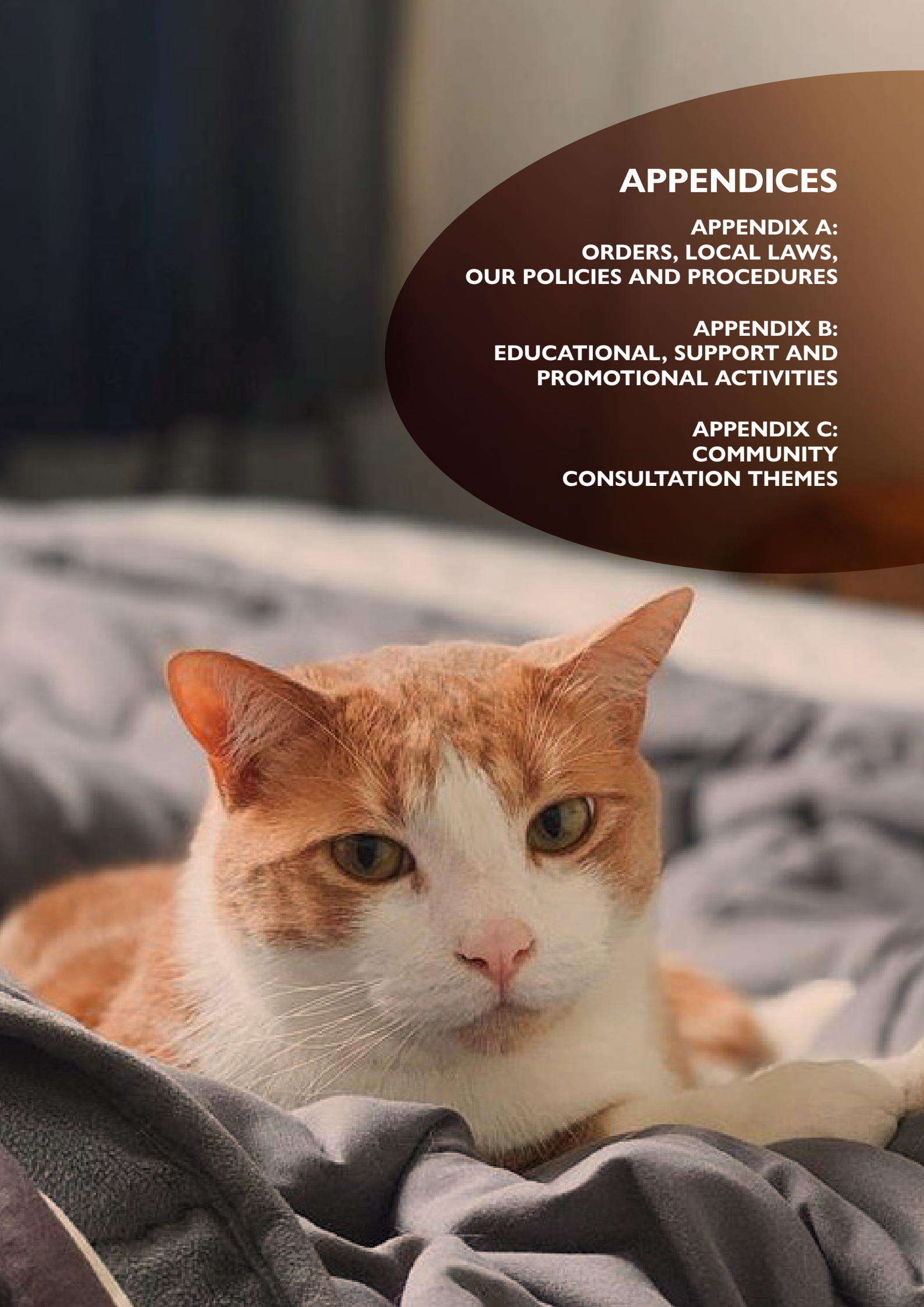
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	MEASURE
8.1.1 **Complete an annual evaluation of the *Plan* and submit to Council for approval along with suggested amendments**	Annually	Evaluation completed and any amendments implemented
8.1.2 **Submit the amended *Plan* to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions secretary**	As required	Amend the *Plan* and submit to the secretary
8.1.3 **Publish an evaluation of the *Plan* in our *Annual Report***	Annually	Published in the *Annual Report*

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:
ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

APPENDIX B:
EDUCATIONAL, SUPPORT AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

APPENDIX C:
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION THEMES



APPENDIX A: ORDERS, LOCAL LAWS, OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following table details the orders, local laws and work instructions in place to manage dogs and cats within the municipality.

TITLE	PURPOSE
Council Order Section 26(2) — *Domestic Animals Act 1994*	Control of dogs in public places
Our policies	• Destruction of dogs • Impoundment of animals
Our procedures	• Trapping of cats and loan of traps • Inspecting properties for keeping more than two dogs or more than two cats • Dealing with barking dog complaints • Animal pickups • Registration of dogs and the fee structure for registration (schedule to the *Act*) • Enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution • Serving notices of seizure relating to the seizing of identified dogs • Seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack • Dealing with owners when recovering dogs that have been seized by us • When a dog is declared dangerous (s.34) • When a dog is declared menacing (s.41A) • When a dog is declared to be of a restricted breed (s.98A) • Provide details of dangerous dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry (VDDR) (s.44AE) • Provide details on VDDR of dogs destroyed in relation to s.84TA, TB and TC (s.44AEA) • Seizure and impounding of dangerous and restricted breed dogs • Assessment of restricted breed dogs • Process for the registration/refusal of registration/renewal of registration of dangerous and restricted breed dogs (s.17)

APPENDIX B: EDUCATIONAL, SUPPORT AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The following table details the educational, support and promotional activities in place to manage dogs and cats within the municipality.

TITLE	PURPOSE
Glen Eira News	Regular articles in the monthly editions
Social media	Topical issues distributed via Instagram and Facebook
Postcards and letter-drops	Providing education on requirements
Our website	Online registration process and general information
Community noticeboards	Topical issues

APPENDIX C:
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION THEMES

The following table details the three key themes which came from the community engagement process in developing this *Plan*.

TITLE	PURPOSE
Managing dogs in public spaces	• More off-leash areas, better fencing, and extra bins and bag dispensers. • Clear signage and consistent enforcement of leash and waste rules.
Effective and fair enforcement	• Stronger, more visible, and consistent rule enforcement. • Better reporting and investigation of complaints. • Balanced approach — not just punitive or reactive.
Promoting responsible pet ownership	• Education and incentives to encourage responsible ownership. • Proactive, evidence-based approaches like owner training and practical support.

GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST

Glen Eira City Council

Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield

Mail address: PO Box 2421
Caulfield Junction, 3161

Phone: (03) 9524 3333
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www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

National Relay Service

A phone solution for people who have a hearing or speech impairment. Internet relay users connect to NRS then ask for 03 9524 3333.

TTY dial 13 36 77 or Speak and Listen dial 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9524 3333. https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au

Social media

Glen Eira City Council:
www.facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil

@cityofgleneira:
www.instagram.com/cityofgleneira

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/company/glen-eira-city-council

Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:
www.facebook.com/gleneiraarts
www.instagram.com/gleneiraarts

Glen Eira Leisure:
www.facebook.com/GESAConline
www.instagram.com/gleneiraleisure

Glen Eira Libraries and Learning Centres:
www.facebook.com/GlenEiraLibraries
www.instagram.com/gleneiralibraries

Glen Eira sustainable living:
www.facebook.com/sustainablelivinggleneira

Glen Eira Youth Services:
www.facebook.com/GlenEiraYouthServices
www.instagram.com/gleneirayouthservices