



REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL
ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW NO. 1 OF 2018

1. Purpose of Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is prepared when a council seeks to make a By-law. The preparation of an RIS is a rigorous process aimed at analysing the most efficient and effective options available to address a particular issue and avoiding unnecessary regulation.

The RIS identifies whether the benefits of regulation outweigh the costs of a restriction on competition and the impact on business imposed by the By-law. It does so by undertaking an assessment of the direct and indirect social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed By-law and alternatives considered.

Once the RIS has been prepared, Council must submit it to the Director of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet, for assessment. If the Director is satisfied that the RIS meets statutory requirements, he or she will issue a certificate to that effect and Council may then commence the public consultation process.

2. Objectives of the By-law

The Central Coast Council intends on developing a By-law that deals with the keeping of livestock and poultry within township boundaries.

The objectives of the proposed By-law will be to:

- . Promote good animal husbandry;
- . Eliminate public nuisance;
- . Control livestock within township boundaries;
- . Provide a mechanism to deal with neighbourhood disputes.

3. The means by which the By-law will achieve the objectives

The By-law will include details of a permit system which will allow to allow for members of the community to keep some of the prescribed animals within the township boundary. It will also define the penalties for non-compliance.

In support of the By-law will be a public education program in relation to good animal husbandry.

4. Nature of restriction

The creation of the By-law will not create any restriction of competition that Council is aware of. The keeping of animals for commercial reasons is an activity that would still occur within rural areas.

5. Alternative options available to Council

Currently when an issue arises concerning the keeping of animals Council must rely on legislative guidelines around public health or through the involvement of other organisations such as the RSPCA. In both instances this can only apply in extreme instances. It is also a lengthy process which often causes further stress to those involved in the process.

The creation of a By-law concerning animal control within township areas is a proactive way of controlling the issue before a nuisance exists.

6. Assessment of costs -v- benefits to the community

Any costs relating to the compliance with the By-law will be minimal with Council applying a charge equivalent to administration costs.

Penalties will be set so as to be a deterrence for those who choose to ignore the By-law and also ignore any direction given by authorised officers as part of the By-law.

Council understands that there will be some impact on its residents, and in particular poultry breeders who have traditionally raised chickens and kept roosters within townships. Council will work closely with the local poultry club to ensure its members are not disadvantaged by the By-law. A permit process will be put in place that will not only seek to eliminate public nuisance but will also advocate good animal husbandry.

There will be a further benefit to the community in relation to eliminating potential health risks that arise from keeping stock and excessive poultry within residential areas.

The net value to the community of the control of animals within residential areas outweighs the economic cost imposed on the community by the By-law.

7. Statement of consultation process

The following process will occur:

- 1 The Council will publish notice of its proposal to make the By-law:
 - (a) Once in The Advocate newspaper, and
 - (b) By displaying the notice on the Notice Board at the Council Offices and on its website from the day the newspaper advertisement is first published until the end of the day specified in the notice as the earliest day by which the notice may be removed from the website.
 - (c) Notice will also be given via Council's electronic newsletter.

- 2 The notice will state the following:
- (a) The title of the proposed By-law;
 - (b) The objectives of the proposed By-law;
 - (c) The envisaged or potential impact and the main features of the proposed By-law affecting the community or particular groups within the community;
 - (d) An invitation for submissions from the public on the proposed By-law;
 - (e) The manner in which submissions may be made;
 - (f) The availability of the Regulatory Impact Statement and a copy of the proposed By-law or how that information may be accessed;
 - (g) A contact point or person for public enquiries on the content and effect of the proposed By-law.
- 3 Once a draft By-law has been adopted, Council will proceed with the public consultation process as outlined in the *Local Government Act 1993*, as a minimum. This process will follow Council's Communications and Engagement Policy. It will not only meet the legislative guidelines in terms of going through a submission process, but there will be direct consultation with the local poultry club and the regional apiarist society once the formal process commences. Council is keen to work with these groups in a public education program for the keeping of animals.

SIGNED

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GENERAL MANAGER

DATE: