

## Changes to dog rules planned

Aucklanders can now give their views on proposed changes to the way dogs are managed. Councillor Linda Cooper emphasises that no changes have yet been made and won't be "until we hear from Aucklanders about what they think of our proposals. We'll then look at all the feedback we receive before an amended bylaw is expected to be in place later this year."

Key proposed changes include standardising time and season rules. Currently, the policy has a definition of "time and season" that is 10am to 5pm from Labour Weekend until 1 March.

But in the last five years, 13 local boards were granted exemptions, meaning there are 17 different time and season definitions across the region. The proposed new definition of 10am to 7pm is for areas that already have the time and season rule. This would be in place from the Saturday of Labour Weekend to 31 March.

According to council this definition more closely reflects the current situation

in most local board areas. The alternative to having a regionally consistent time and season definition would be to have a default definition in the policy and enable local boards to introduce variations in their areas. This would mean local boards would be able to customise the time and season definition to the needs of the community.

Council also wants to standardise when a multiple dog ownership licence is required. Currently, some local boards require a licence for more than one dog, while others require a licence for more than two dogs. Council wants to amend this to require only dog owners living in an urban residential area with more than two dogs to apply for a licence.

If a dog has been classified as menacing, council is proposing that if the dog owner can provide evidence of taking a dog obedience course and has not had any further infringements in 12 months, then the owner can ask the council to reassess the classification.

The current policy and bylaw allows temporary changes to be made to dog access rules for the protection of vulnerable wildlife. It is now proposed that this should be extended for the protection of flora. This would allow for flexible changes to access rules to protect kauri. The governing body will make a final decision on amendments following the feedback period which ends on 10 May.

### Giving feedback

To give feedback on the proposed changes to the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 and Dog Management Bylaw 2012 you can complete an online feedback form at <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/> or fill in a hardcopy at a library. On Waiheke, a drop-in session will take place at Ostend War Memorial Hall on 14 April from 2pm to 4pm. •

## Auckland set to break cruise ship visit records

By the end of April, Auckland will have hosted 39 cruise ships, marking 110 visits since the start of the international cruise season in October. This is a 20 percent increase on the number of visits made during the previous season.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia managing director Joel Katz said the current season is likely to challenge visitor records set in recent years. Cruise ships to New Zealand boost the economy, with over 200,000 passengers disembarking in Auckland over the past six months. However, pollution, both air and marine, are significant issues at the waterfront.

"For years there was a webcam installed with a view over the harbourside area of the city and the gulf," says NIWA air quality scientist Dr Ian Longley.

"Depending on the direction the wind was blowing, shipping emissions could be seen. Measurements of sulphur dioxide are heavy around the waterfront and if the wind is blowing towards the city these emissions lower the air quality."

Dr Brendon Dunphy of the University of Auckland has spent years studying seabirds and says cruise ships have a detrimental effect on their navigational abilities.



Auckland has seen a 20 percent increase this season in the number of cruise ship visits compared to last season.

"There used to be vast numbers of seabirds. There are old drawings that portray huge flocks of them; there were so many that Māori were able to knock them out of the sky. Now, however, mammalian predators have affected seabirds in a big way, while fully lit up cruise ships attract the young birds and they crash into them at night."

Mr Katz says New Zealand has rapidly become an important destination for international cruise passengers and that growth here is amongst the highest in the world.

"Auckland is the prime beneficiary of cruising's increasing popularity, and it enjoys a substantial economic impact from each ship's visit."

Mr Katz says Auckland will not be able to maintain growth in the future without developing its berthing facilities.

"Restrictions on the length of ships that can be accommodated at Queens Wharf are hampering New Zealand's cruise industry and threatening future growth," Mr Katz says.

As part of the downtown redevelopment programme, Auckland Transport plans to construct a mooring dolphin around 50 metres to the north of Queens Wharf connected to the pier by a gangway. It will enable larger ships with capacity for almost 5000 passengers to dock in central Auckland. Most of these cruise ship engines produce high levels of emissions and the vast majority of the world's shipping fleet runs on diesel. The diesel used in ships is of lower quality than that used in road vehicles. It's also cheaper as it is virtually a waste product of the standard oil refining process.

Because New Zealand didn't get on board with MARPOL, the leading international convention covering pollution prevention from shipping emissions, restrictions on pollution from the cruise industry here aren't as stringent. •