

ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

24 May 2023

Held in the Hilltops Council, Young Chambers 189 Boorowa Street Young

12.7 - 22/114 - DRAFT HILLTOPS COUNCIL KEEPING OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS POLICY

Responsible Officer: Director Planning

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with a Draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy and request that the policy be placed on exhibition for a period of 28 days.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) Approve the Draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy be placed on Public Exhibition for 28 Days; and**
- (b) If there are no submissions received adopt the Hilltops Council Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy at the completion of the 28-day exhibition period.**

REPORT/SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy (the draft policy - **Attachment 1**) is to provide a balanced approach to the management of animals kept as pets in domestic living within the local government area, and to assist owners of animals in understanding their obligations under the Local Government Act 1993.

The policy will provide a clear and consistent approach to:

- Inform the community of the legal restrictions and acceptable standards which apply to keeping certain animals;
- Provide advice on restrictions and prohibition applied to keeping animals in certain areas with the local government area;
- Ensure that public and private amenity is not adversely impacted by the keeping of animals;
- Promote responsible ownership of companion animals; and
- Investigate complaints about inappropriate animal behaviour.

The draft policy will inform the wider community of Council's responsibilities and regulatory powers concerning the keeping of animals. The policy will provide guidance to Council's Officers when dealing with both enquiries and complaints and to assist owners of animals in understanding their obligations regarding the keeping of animals in residential areas.

The policy aims to:

- a) Minimise the incidence of nuisance being caused to persons.
- b) Protect the welfare of companion and farm animals.
- c) Protect the welfare and habitat of wildlife.
- d) Minimise the disturbance of or damage to the environment.

It is well documented that the keeping of companion animals and/or pet animals can be beneficial to the well-being of people. However, complaints are made to Council where animals of an inappropriate species or number are being kept or where the animals and their accommodation are not being cared for and maintained properly. Council also receives noise related complaints regarding animals kept in residential areas in particular barking dogs and roosters crowing.

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The draft policy also informs the community of the reasonable limits (both statutory and advisory), which apply concerning the maximum number of animals and the circumstances under which they may be kept on premises. The policy applies to the keeping of animals for domestic purposes as companion pets or for hobby interests.

The draft policy does not apply to broad scale rural activities or the keeping of animals for commercial purposes. However, where it is intended to keep animals for any other commercial purpose, it may be necessary for a Development Application be submitted to Council. Consent to the operation of animal establishments may not be allowed where Council considers that the proposal would be detrimental to the amenity of the locality.

Council Officers will take enforcement action when a complaint is made and an investigation shows that the reason for the complaint is, in part, caused by the number of animals on the property is the cause or contributes significantly to the nuisance reported and as such an Order can be issued under the Local Government Act 1993. Council Officers will also consider any proven record of responsible animal ownership before taking enforcement action.

The draft policy has been developed in response to an increased level of community concern in relation to the keeping of animals for domestic purpose on residential land. The draft policy has also been assessed for consistency with those in surrounding local government areas.

Variations to the policy may be sought by an occupier of subject land utilised for residential purposes, by completing and lodging an application with Council which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, to determine if the variation is consistent with the purpose and intent of the policy.

Summary

The draft Policy sets requirements for the keeping of domestic animals on residential properties within Hilltops Local Government Area. The policy will assist both Council staff and residents to understand their responsibilities and expectation of the community and their neighbours in keeping domestic animals.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- Section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1993
- Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997
- Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021
- Companion Animals Act, 1998

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

This report aligns with Hilltops Council Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan Community Strategic Plan:

Enhancing Our Safe & Healthy Communities

A.1. Supporting networks, programs and facilities that encourage healthy lifestyles.

Operational Plan Service Outputs:

A.1.1 Advocate for the delivery of legislated health protection and regulatory programs.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The costs of implementing the draft policy can be accommodated within the existing operational budget. The draft policy will aid and guidance to Council Officers when dealing with enquiries and complaints concerning the keeping of animals.
- It is proposed that a fee of \$125.00 would apply to any request from the public for a variation to the Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy to undertake the assessment and inspection process on site. The proposed fee will be addressed through a separate public exhibition process.

CONSULTATION AND TIMING

- Consultation will be undertaken through public exhibition of the draft policy and calling for public submissions.



Draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy

Policy Title	Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy
Responsible Manager(s)	Director Planning
Contact Officer(s)	Manager – Development and Environment
Directorate	Planning
Approval Date	
Strategic Focus Area	Thriving, Responsive
Delivery Plan Link	A.1. Supporting networks, programs and facilities that encourage healthy lifestyles.
Operational Plan Link	A.1.1 Advocate for the delivery of legislated health protection and regulatory programs.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure resident's amenity is not impacted adversely by the keeping of domestic animals
- minimise the incidence of nuisance being caused to persons
- safeguard wildlife and the environment
- promote responsible animal ownership

Scope

This policy applies to animals kept for domestic purposes, as companion animals, pets or as a hobby.

The policy only applies to land used for residential purposes regardless of the zone under the Hilltops Local Environmental Plan 2022.

The keeping of animals for any commercial purpose, other than for legitimate agricultural activities in the appropriate zone, requires a development application to be submitted to Council.

The Policy Requirements in Section 3 of this Policy apply to the keeping of the domestic animals for commercial purposes, including boarding, breeding, grooming, caring, treatment, training, racing, exhibiting, trading, or selling, unless specific provisions apply in State Legislation, or the Hilltops Local Environmental Plan or Development Control Plan.

Policy Details

1. Power to control and regulate the keeping of animals

Council under Section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021 can control and regulate the keeping of animals.

Council may, in the appropriate circumstances, issue an Order to:

- prohibit the keeping of various kinds of animals
- restrict the number of various kinds of animals to be kept at a premises
- require that animals be kept in a specific manner.

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Council may also issue Orders requiring:

- Demolition of animal shelters built without the prior approval of Council
- The occupier to do or refrain from doing such things as are specified to ensure that land or premises are placed or kept in a safe or healthy condition.

Council can exercise further controls over the keeping of animals under the following Acts:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021
- Companion Animals Act 1998

2. Giving of orders

Where a problem is identified with the keeping of domestic animals and it cannot be resolved by consultation, Council will proceed to issue a notice of intention to serve an Order.

Normally a person will be given opportunity to make representation to Council prior to a formal Order being issued. In situations where urgency is required, an emergency Order may be issued without prior notice.

3. Policy requirements

The number of animals that may be kept at a premise should not exceed the number prescribed as appropriate to the kind of animal listed in the table included with this policy.

The kind of animal that is suitable to be kept at any premises will be determined having regard for the size of the available yard area and the distance to the nearest dwelling or other prescribed building. Certain statutory requirements also apply as noted in the table.

It should not be assumed that animals of all kinds may be kept on premises that are part of a multiple dwelling development. Where a dwelling is owned within a Strata Plan, it will be necessary for the rules of the Body Corporate to be examined for requirements relevant to the keeping of animals.

Animals should be kept in a manner which does not:

- Create unclean or unhealthy conditions for people or for the animals.
- Attract or provide a harbourage for vermin.
- Create offensive noise or odours.
- Cause a drainage or dust nuisance.
- Create waste disposal or pollution problems.
- Create an unreasonable annoyance to neighbouring residents or fear for safety.
- Cause nuisance due to proliferation of flies, lice, fleas, or other insects.

Animals should not be kept at premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale, or storage of food for human consumption.

Suitable shelter(s) should be provided for all animals. Certain species of animals are required to be kept in cages to prevent escape or attack by predators. Generally, other animals are to be securely enclosed with adequate fencing to prevent escape.

Certain animal shelters and facilities should not be erected or located at a premise without the prior approval of Council. Animal owners wishing to erect such structures should consult the NSW 'Exempt and Complying Development Codes SEPP' - to determine which structures require development approval.



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4. Variations to this policy

Variations to this policy may be sought, by the occupier of the land, by making written representation to Council using the application form along with payment of the associated application fee.

Any proposal for a variation to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must provide the following information as a minimum:

- The size of the property
- A site plan showing the location where the animals will be kept and the distance from any structures on site or on adjoining properties
- The type of animals to be kept
- The number of animals to be kept
- Owner's consent from the owner of the property
- The likely impact of the animals on the environment and the amenity of the area
- Information addressing any matters raised by Council in any correspondence.
- Demonstrate compliance with objectives of the Policy.

Written support from neighbouring properties will be beneficial in supporting the application for a variation.

5. Temporary care and accommodation

Although the number of animals that may be permanently kept at a premise should not exceed the number prescribed in Clause 10 of this policy, special provisions may be given to those who temporarily house additional animals as part of a legitimate foster caring arrangement, or care for friends and family pets who go on holidays, etc. for a period not greater than **four weeks** so long as health and amenity of the neighbourhood is preserved.

Regardless of the expected time frame for temporarily housed animals, any animal specifically prohibited due to the likely impacts on health and amenity cannot be housed on the property without a specific exemption being granted by Council.

If a problem is identified with the keeping of domestic animals under this temporary care and accommodation provision that cannot be resolved by consultation, Council may take action to regularise the number or type of animal temporarily housed to ensure compliance with this policy.

6. Table of requirements

The following table indicates the essential requirements and relevant considerations regarding the keeping of domestic animals.

ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
Bees	Residential 2 hives	All locations Hives should not be located within the vicinity of schools,	Regulated by the NSW Apiaries Act 1985. Beekeepers must be registered in NSW and applications are available from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

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ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
	Rural residential 5	childcare centres, hospitals, or other public facilities.	Beekeepers should refer to the Beekeeping Code of Practice on the NSW DPI website. Bee flight paths to and from the hive should be kept distant from outdoor areas frequently used by people. Screens may be necessary to raise flight paths above 2m. An ample supply of water near the hive is required in summer months.
Birds (Incl canaries, budgerigars, quails, finches, and parrots)	All locations Appropriate to location and breed Keepers of 50 birds or more must be members of official Aviculture Societies.	All locations Appropriate distance to avoid nuisance to adjoining premises	All birds should be kept in accordance with the Code of Ethics produced by the NSW Associated Bird Keepers and Traders Inc. A National Parks and Wildlife permit is required for the keeping and sale of protected bird species. Registered breeders may keep more birds (normal, breeding or show) but are subject to requirements of the POEO Act 1997.
Cats	All locations 4 (and 1 litter of kittens up to 6 months old)	All locations Appropriate distance to avoid nuisance to adjoining premises	Cats should be kept in numbers and breeds appropriate to the size of the property. Owners are encouraged to keep their cat inside particularly at night. The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires all cats born after 1 July 1999 to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age and registered at 6 months of age. Owners are encouraged to desex their pet. The provision of adequate holding facilities must be in place, especially for all non-de-sexed male cats. Cats must not be permitted to create a nuisance in the form of noise nuisance or damaging the property of others. The owner must control all odours and waste. The health of all cats is to be monitored and appropriate veterinary treatment obtained in the event of illness. Wildlife must be protected where possible from cats.
Dogs (Over the age of 6 months)	Residential 3 Rural residential	Residential Appropriate distance to avoid nuisance to adjoining premises. Rural residential	Dogs should be kept in numbers and breeds appropriate to the size of the property.

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ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
(Greyhounds - listed separately)	5	Dog kennels must be at least 1 m from any boundary.	<p>Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that yards are kept in clean condition and faeces suitably disposed of at all times.</p> <p>When walking/exercising dogs in public areas faeces must be collected and suitably disposed of at all times.</p> <p>Owners should remain aware of any noise nuisance created by barking dogs as they are subject to noise restrictions under Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 & the Companion Animals Act 1998.</p> <p>The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires that dogs must be microchipped from 12 weeks of age and registered from 6 months of age. This includes all</p> <p>Dogs must wear a collar with a name tag displaying their name and the address and/or phone number of the owner.</p> <p>Dog owners are encouraged to desex their pet.</p> <p>All working dogs (including dogs trained as a working dog) used primarily for droving, tending, working, or protecting stock not ordinarily kept on land rated as farmland must be microchipped and registered. No fee is payable to register a working dog.</p> <p>No attack-trained dog shall be held in a residential area unless managed by a registered owner/security company, Police, or other approved Government agency.</p> <p>Waste matter, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of in an approved manner.</p> <p>All odours must be controlled.</p> <p>The health of all dogs is to be regularly monitored and appropriate veterinary treatment obtained in the event of illness.</p>
Ferrets	All locations 2	All locations Cages to be 10m from dwellings and 1m from any boundary	<p>The keeping of ferrets is not recommended; however, where proper care (including appropriate secure cages) is available, the keeping of ferrets may be undertaken provided no nuisance is created.</p> <p>Cages should be adequate to prevent escape.</p>

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ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
			Ferrets must not be released into the environment.
Greyhounds	Residential 2 Rural residential 4	All locations Kennels to be 15m from adjoining dwellings and 1m from any boundary.	<p>Greyhounds must be registered under the Greyhound Racing Act or under the Companion Animals Act.</p> <p>Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that yards are kept in clean condition and faeces suitably disposed of at all times.</p> <p>When walking/exercising dogs in public areas faeces must be collected and suitably disposed of at all times.</p> <p>Individual greyhounds to be housed in separate kennels. Kennels to be secure and lockable. Minimum kennel dimensions to be 1200 (w) x 1800 (h) x 1200 (d)</p> <p>Greyhounds registered on the NSW Pet Registry are not required to wear a muzzle.</p> <p>A muzzling exemption only applies to greyhounds that have successfully completed a greyhound re-training program. To successfully complete an approved program, a greyhound must be deemed suitable to be unmuzzled in a public place by an authorised greyhound assessor. The muzzle exemption process is administered by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) as part of its Greyhounds program.</p> <p>Greyhound will still require a muzzle in an off-leash area if it has not undergone an approved retraining program. Greyhounds that have completed this program will continue to wear identifying green collars, or alternatively the person in charge of the animal can carry a 'proof of completion' card.</p> <p>Owners should remain aware of any noise nuisance created by barking dogs as they are subject to noise and nuisance dog restrictions under <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997</i> & <i>The Companion Animals Act, 1998</i></p>
Horses, Donkeys & Cattle	Residential 1 horse with a minimum property size of 5000m ² . Cattle strictly prohibited.	Residential 10m from certain buildings and 1m from any boundary	<p>Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005 applies. A greater separation distance may be required by resolution of Council in each particular case.</p> <p>Fencing must be strong and durable to prevent escape. Stables and sheds must be hard paved and graded to drain.</p>

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	Rural residential 1 horse per 5000m ² . 5 Cattle per 5000m ² .	Rural residential 20m from dwellings	
Other animals not specified elsewhere	Residential As appropriate to species Rural residential As appropriate to species	All locations Setbacks in line with similar species of animal in the table.	
Pet rats, mice & guinea pigs	All locations 4 of each variety	All locations 3m from certain buildings and 1m from any boundary	Rats and mice are to be kept indoors only in appropriate cages which are to be kept odour free. Care should be taken to prevent excessive breeding and release into the environment.
Pigeons	Residential 80 birds (Registered racing pigeon owners) 20 birds (Non-registered owners) Multi dwelling residential Keeping of pigeons is strictly prohibited. Rural residential 160 birds (Registered racing pigeon owners) 60 birds (Non-registered owners)	All locations 10m from certain buildings and 1m from any boundary	All pigeons must be housed in purpose-built facilities. The construction of a pigeon loft will require Council approval with plans detailing ventilation, waterproofing and drainage. Cladding on the loft should be unobtrusive in colour. Lofts should be kept clean and insect free. No feathers or droppings to escape from subject land. Open lofts are not permitted. Food must be stored in vermin proof containers. Owners should remain aware any noise nuisance created by the pigeons as they are subject to noise restrictions under the Protection of the Environment and Operations Act 1997. Enclosed housing must use deep litter or other appropriate substrate. Rodents and other vermin must be vigorously controlled. All offensive odours must be controlled. Pigeons must not be kept within 10 m of any property used for the sale, preparation, handling, or storage of food for sale.

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ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
			Adequate protection from predators must be provided.
Pigs	Residential Prohibited. Rural residential 1 pig/1 ha.	All locations Pigs or their manure must not be within 60 m of certain buildings/areas.	<p>Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021 applies to pigs. The keeping of pigs is not permitted in residential areas. This applies to all breeds of pigs, including miniature pigs.</p> <p>It is illegal to feed prohibited pig feed (swill) to pigs under the Biosecurity Regulation 2017.</p> <p>A person must not feed or allow access to human waste food or stock food containing a mammal product (meat) to a pig.</p>
Poultry - geese, turkeys & ducks	Residential Combined maximum of 2 animals (And chicks until fully fledged). Ganders & Gobblers are strictly prohibited. Rural residential Combined maximum of 10 animals. (and chicks until fully fledged). 1 rooster.	Residential 30 m from certain buildings and 1 m from any boundary Rural residential 30 m from certain buildings and 10 m from any boundary 30 m from certain buildings and 10 m from any boundary	<p>Keeping of poultry must not create a nuisance or be dangerous or injurious to health.</p> <p>Poultry yard must always be kept clean and free from offensive odours.</p> <p>Council may insist on the keeping of domestic poultry or guinea fowl at a distance greater than 10 m in a particular case where Council believes there is likely to be an impact to adjoining premises.</p> <p><u>The keeping of roosters in residential areas is strictly prohibited.</u></p> <p><u>The keeping of roosters in rural residential areas is not recommended. Noise issues relating to roosters will result in the removal of the offending bird.</u></p> <p>Poultry yards must be enclosed to prevent escape of poultry.</p> <p>The floors of poultry houses beneath roosts or perches must be constructed of impervious material (e.g., concrete, or mineral asphalt or other equally impervious material) to permit easy cleaning if constructed within 3m of a property boundary.</p>
Poultry - domestic chickens (Gallus gallus), guinea fowl & bantams	Residential 10 (and chicks until fully ledged). Roosters are strictly prohibited. Rural residential 20 (And chicks until fully fledged)	Residential 10m from certain buildings and 1m from any boundary Rural residential 20m from dwellings and 10m from any boundary	<p>This does not apply to poultry houses that are located at a distance greater than 15.2m from a dwelling, public hall, or school. Where impervious material is not required the floor of the poultry house is to be covered with a suitable material such as sawdust, clean sand or other suitable material.</p>

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	1 Rooster.	20m from dwellings and 10m from any boundary	
Poultry (other) - including peafowl, pheasants	Residential 10 (and chicks until fully fledged). Roosters are strictly prohibited. Rural residential 20 (and chicks until fully fledged).	Residential 30m from dwellings and 1 m from any boundary Rural residential 30m from dwellings and 10 m from any boundary	
Rabbits	Residential 2 (Same gender) Rural residential 4 (Same gender)	Residential Enclosures (hutch) to be 3m from any boundary Rural residential Enclosures (hutch) to be 10m from any boundary	<p>Must be domestic or hybrid of a domestic breed and kept in a cage.</p> <p>A licence is not required to keep domestic rabbits in NSW. It remains illegal to keep wild rabbits in captivity without the approval of the Rural Lands Protection Board.</p> <p>Noise, odour, and pests must be adequately managed to prevent nuisance to neighbours. Hutches must be cleaned regularly, which should include the replacement of litter and bedding material at least once per week.</p> <p>Must not be released abandoned or left in any situation which would allow them into the environment.</p> <p>Rabbit enclosures should be fly meshed to prevent spread of Myxomatosis and Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV). Council recommends vaccination of pet rabbits against RHDV. Rabbits must not be vaccinated with the fibroma (myxomatosis) vaccine.</p> <p>Rabbit farming is not permitted without approval and must comply with NSW Department of Primary Industries guidelines.</p>
Reptiles	All locations As appropriate in the	All locations	National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 requires a Reptile Keeper's Licence to be held for anyone who keeps captive-bred reptiles. It is against the law to

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ANIMAL SPECIES	MAXIMUM NUMBER (Excluding off-spring to 3 months of age)	MINIMUM DISTANCE (From certain buildings see Note 1,2,3,4)	APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADVISORY MATTERS
	circumstances with the appropriate licences.	Appropriate distance to avoid nuisance to adjoining premises	<p>take reptiles from the wild. Advice on the keeping of reptiles should be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in all cases.</p> <p>All species must be adequately housed to prevent escape. The keeping of snakes may cause concern to neighbours.</p>
Sheep & goats	<p>Residential 2 (Billy goats and/or rams strictly prohibited) A min. of 2000m².</p> <p>Rural residential 4</p>	All locations 10m from certain buildings and 1m from any boundary	<p>Enclosure must be securely fenced to avoid escape.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to any noise created by sheep as they are subject to noise restrictions under Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.</p> <p>Care should be taken to prevent excessive breeding.</p>
NOTES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The distances indicated in the third column of the above table are to be measured in metres from the animal yard or enclosure to the nearest dwelling, public hall, school, hospital, premises used for the manufacture, preparation, sale or storage of food or any other building listed. The distances indicated in the third column of the above table are to be measured in metres from the animal yard or enclosure to a dwelling, shop, office, factory, church or other place of public worship, workshop, school or public place in a city, town, village or other urban part of an area. The distance specified above may be varied by resolution of the Council and notified in writing to the occupier of the premises in specific cases. Every property with livestock (includes pet pigs) must have a property identification code (PIC) number. Registration for a PIC number is completed through Local Land Services (LLS). 			

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Definition of Terms

The meaning of words and expressions used in this Policy are detailed in the table.

Term	Meaning
Amenity Impact	Includes disturbance from the keeping of animals due to noise, odour, dust, vermin, effluent, or the unsightliness of structures used to house animals
Animal	'Animal' includes a mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish. 'Animal' does not include a human being (as defined by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, NSW).
Authorised Officer	An employee of Hilltops Council provided with delegated authority to act under the Local Government Act 1993
Council	Hilltops Council
Domestic Animal	Animals kept for domestic purposes, as companion animals, pets or as a hobby.
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Fully Fledged	A pullet is ready to begin laying eggs, generally around 16-24 weeks old. This is the sign when your chick is no longer a baby or teenager but a full-fledged adult, but still will not be fully grown (usually 12 months).
All Locations	A Residential or Rural Residential property
Livestock	Includes cattle, horses, donkeys, mules, asses, camels, sheep, goats, and deer; including any that are a 'mini' breed
Multi dwelling residential	3 or more dwellings (whether attached or detached) or a building containing 3 or more dwellings on one allotment
Prescribed premises	An adjoining dwelling, school, shop, office, factory, workshop, church or other place of public worship, public hall or premises used for the manufacture, preparation or storage of food
Residential	Properties used primarily for residential use
Rural Residential	Properties used primarily for residential use

Document History

Date	Status	Version	Resolution	Description
May 2023	Draft	0.1		Draft Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy created

- This Keeping of Domestic Animals Policy shall be reviewed within 12 months of an election, and thereafter at intervals of no greater than four years. Any review will ensure this Policy continues to meet all statutory requirements and the operational needs of Hilltops Council. The Policy may also be reviewed at other times as determined by Hilltops Council.
- This Policy commences on and from the date of adoption by Hilltops Council as listed in the document history and replaces all previous versions.