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The purpose of this report is to put forward amendments to the Council's Dog Control Policy made under the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996.

### INTRODUCTION

An amendment to the Council's Dog Control Policy, as adopted in June 1997 under the provisions of the Act, is being sought by the Parks and Recreation Committee. This amendment seeks a change to the status of the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve from requiring dogs to be on a leash in the area to prohibiting dogs from the area except for the designated dog park area.

Amendments to the policy are required to be undertaken through the special consultative procedure under the Local Government Act 1974, and in such a case registered dog owners must be given specific notice of any draft policy. To enable this to be undertaken at the least cost the opportunity exists now for the proposals to be sent to dog owners with the dog registration reminders. The Council must allow for submissions to be received within one month and consider these prior to making a final decision.

Should the policy change be accepted the Christchurch City Dog Control Bylaw 1997 will require to be amended to reflect the policy change.

### ADDITIONAL POLICY CHANGES SOUGHT

Since the original consideration of the policy the Christchurch Pier has been constructed and work is proposed on the development of a reserve on the land at the base. It has been suggested that this area, including the pier, should become a prohibited dog area. The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board supports this prohibition.

In April 1997 the Council, when adopting the dog control policy, approved a change to release dogs to new owners without paying the normal release fee of \$25.00. This has had little or no effect on the increase or decrease of dogs being re-homed to the public. I understand this charge was removed on the basis of a submission by Dog Watch to lessen the financial burden on that organisation. While that organisation is responsible in dealing with new owners, once the dog is transferred, they are not the only persons receiving dogs from the pound. The majority of such persons have not objected to this minimal charge which pays for the property inspection and educational visit. The effect on the shelter budget means, however, that \$25,000 annually is lost which has offset the cost of property inspections for

stray dogs being re-homed. It is therefore suggested that the \$25.00 release fee be reinstated.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Styx Mill Basin Reserve and the Christchurch Pier and base reserve, as defined on the maps provided, be declared prohibited dog areas under Policy 9 of the Dog Control Policy.
  2. That where a dog is released from the Animal Pound to a new owner a standard release fee of \$25 for the year 1999/00 will be payable prior to release and Additional Policy 10a be amended accordingly.

Note: The policy and fees payable are to be reviewed as part of the year 2000/2001 budget process.