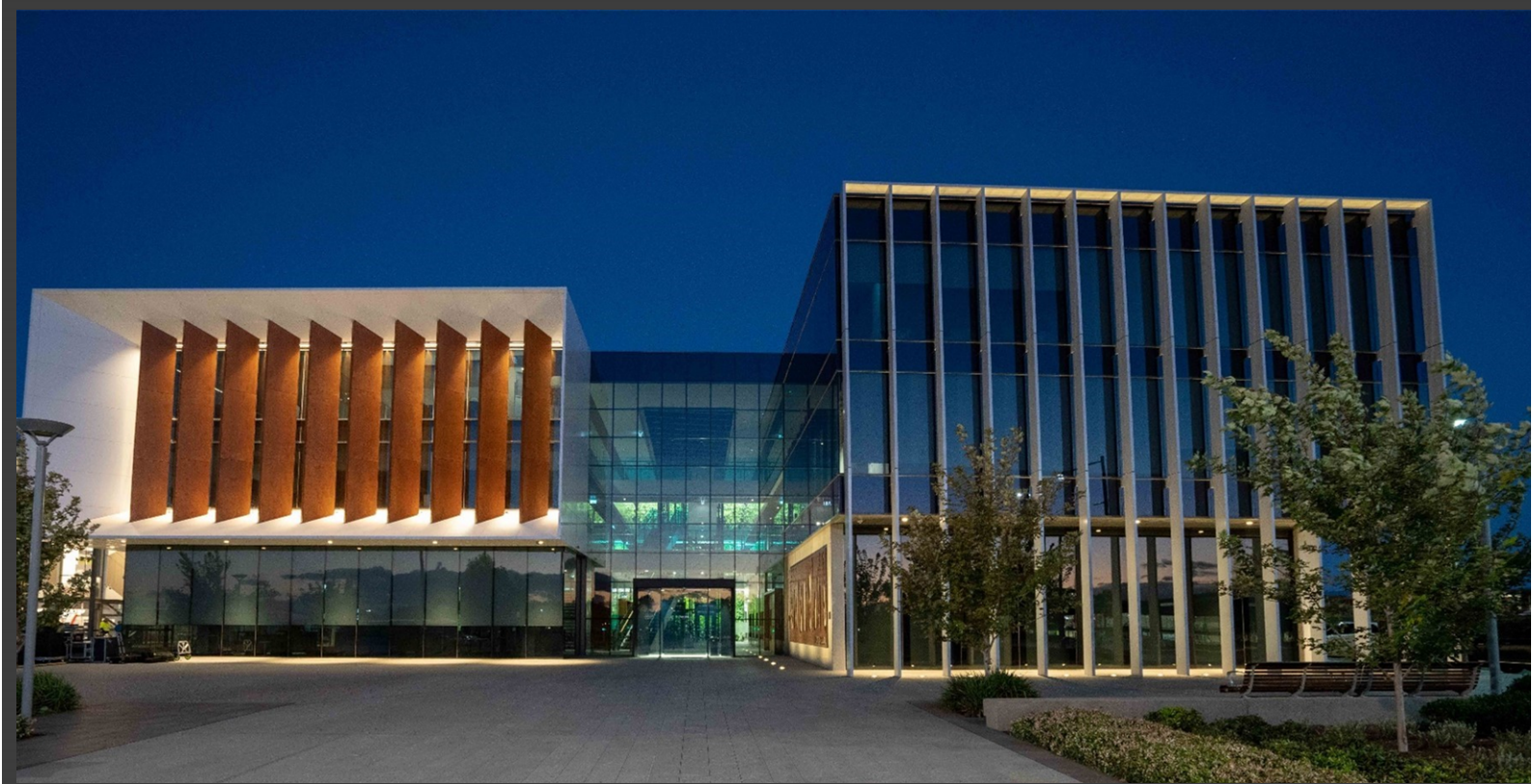


# Minutes

Companion Animals Advisory Committee Meeting  
Camden Council  
Administration Centre  
70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

14 February 2023



camden  
council



**MEETING COMMENCED: 11:35AM****PRESENT**

Councillor Campbell (Chairperson), Councillor Symkowiak, Dr Steven Ferguson, Dr Simone Maher, Dr Derek Keeper, Ms Joanne Lawrence (arrived at 12:02om), Ms Sharon Richards, Ms Kate Kabrovski, Ms Cherie Davis.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services, Acting Manager Public Affairs, Team Leader Ranger Services, Companion Animals Rangers, and Governance Officer – Panel & Committees.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Councillor Campbell gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

The Committee noted Ms Kerrie Ellis is an apology.

Moved Ms Sharon Richards, seconded Dr Steven Ferguson.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

That the minutes of the Companion Animals Advisory Committee Meetings held on 12 July 2022 and 11 October 2022, be confirmed and adopted.

Moved Dr Steven Ferguson and seconded Councillor Symkowiak.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services noted that an informal and out-of-course meeting occurred on 1 December 2022 to discuss concept designs for the Camden Animal Shelter.

**Update on Paws in Park**

Moved Dr Steven Ferguson, seconded Ms Sharon Richards.

The Acting Manager Public Affairs provided an overview on the Paws in the Park Event which has been taken on by the Events Reference Group.

The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that, given the Companion Animals Advisory Committee was instrumental in the first event, she wanted to provide the Committee with an opportunity to provide comments.

The event is happening on 7 May 2023 at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park from 9am to 1pm.

The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that there are free vet checks, competitions, activities for children, free poo bags and Farmer Dave from Big Brother attending as a special guest.

The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that an EOI process will be opened for pet-related stalls along with food and drinks. Councillor Campbell enquired about the fees involved with setting up a stall. The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that there is a fee of \$25 per metre included unless they are a not-for-profit organisation. The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that this is already a subsidised price, noting this is the first event post COVID and noting the strain on people in the current climate.

### **Action Items/Discussion:**

The Committee requested further information on Farmer Dave's practices.

The Committee noted that there should be some kiosks on animal welfare and the Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that there will be a Council Information Hub to answer questions.

Clr Campbell raised the issue of a possible further subsidy to local business owners. The Acting Manager Public Affairs advised that she would provide this proposal to the Events Reference Group and provide an update in due course.

## **1. CAMDEN ANIMAL SHELTER UPDATE**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Companion Animals Committee note the contents of the discussion.**

Moved Ms Kate Kabrovski, seconded Ms Sharon Richards.

### **Action Items/Discussion:**

The Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that feedback received from the Committee has been incorporated.

The Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that the Camden Community Nursery will be on the same lots as the Camden Animal Shelter after being successful in receiving \$4m worth of funding from WestInvest.

The Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that architects are working on pricing and concepts and this information will be coming back in March (initial engagement to provide the concept).

The Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that the Councillors will be briefed on the concepts once received and then a report will be submitted to Council for the 11 April 2023 meeting.

Dr Derek Keeper enquired what the zoning was for the site and the Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that a Planning Proposal to allow the use has been developed and exhibited, with no submissions received.

## **2. CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Companion Animals Committee note the contents of the discussion.**

Moved Councillor Symkowiak, seconded Dr Steven Ferguson.

### **Action Items/Discussion:**

The Manager Environment and Regulatory Services gave a presentation on the Draft Camden Council Cat Management Plan (to be emailed to the Committee Members).

Ms Joanne Lawrence noted that we could approach Local/State Members to make representation on whether a cat could be registered as a “community cat.”

The Committee noted that education events and information nights are productive and outline what aftercare looks like and what support is in place.

## **3. OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the information in this report is noted**

Moved Ms Sharon Richards, seconded Ms Cherie Davis.

### **Action Items/Discussion:**

The Committee noted that Council is working with Animal Welfare League NSW to provide guidance in setting up a foster care program.

The Team Leader Ranger Services advised that a proposal has been given to Council by Petstock for an adoption weekend. This is still being reviewed and an update can be provided in due course.

## **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the items be discussed in General Business.**

Moved Councillor Symkowiak, seconded Dr Steven Ferguson.

### **Action Items/Discussion:**

- The Companion Animals Ranger gave an update on the Bark Badge, advising that the GPS tracking has a request to allow location settings. The owner has capacity to accept or decline the GPS location to be sent. Trial to be commenced.
- Dr Derek Keeper provided an overview of his issue with data entry microchip details, noting that he had a litter of staffys registered as pitbulls, which flagged the dogs as potentially dangerous. Cllr Campbell suggested that the Manager

Environment and Regulatory Services could obtain the information for this matter and investigate.

- The Committee was shown a video of staff from within the Ranger Team making dog cookies for Valentine's Day. The Team Leader Ranger Services noted that staff have been trying to increase their online presence, which has resulted in a 36% increase in engagement.
- Committee supported a Responsible Pet Ownership calendar for 2024.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 1pm.**

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