

Responsible Department:	Development Services
Responsible Business Unit:	Ranger Services
Date of Review:	20 May 2026
Council Resolution:	110526

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to provide a consistent, transparent and equitable framework for the assessment and approval of applications to keep dogs in excess of the prescribed limits under the *Shire of Chittering Dogs Local Law 2023*.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all residents within the Shire of Chittering seeking approval to keep additional dogs above the prescribed limits, and to all officers responsible for assessing and determining such applications.

3. DEFINITIONS

Additional Dogs / Multiple Dogs means a number of dogs kept on a premises that exceeds the limits prescribed under the *Shire of Chittering Dog Local Law 2023*.

Authorised Officer means a Ranger or other officer appointed under relevant legislation to administer and enforce this Policy.

Exceptional Circumstances means the limited circumstances under which approval for additional dogs may be considered under this Policy.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy aligns with the *Shire of Chittering Dog Local Law 2023*, including section 3.2(2), which prescribes limits on the number of dogs that may be kept on a premises.

Applications to keep additional dogs may be considered where the applicant can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist and that the keeping of additional dogs will not adversely impact neighbouring properties, public amenity or animal welfare.

4.1. Application Procedure

Residents seeking approval to keep additional dogs must complete and submit to the Shire of Chittering an "Application for Exemptions on Limitations of Number of Dogs" form. The application must include completion of the prescribed form, payment of the applicable (non-refundable) fee, and a written explanation outlining the purpose of the request and how it meets the exceptional circumstances criteria.

SHIRE POLICY 8.2

Multiple Dogs

Applicants must also ensure that all existing dogs at the property are registered in accordance with the *Dog Act 1976*. Approval must be obtained prior to acquiring additional dogs, and retrospective applications may be subject to additional fees.

4.2. Assessment Procedure

Applications will be assessed by an Authorised Officer, who will undertake neighbour consultations, including written notification to adjoining and nearby landowners within 50 metres, allowing a minimum of 21 days for submissions. A site inspection will be conducted to assess animal welfare, fencing suitability and property conditions.

Where submissions are received, the Authorised Officer may contact submitters to clarify concerns. The applicant's compliance history will also be considered.

Following assessment, a report and recommendation will be prepared for review by the Executive Manager Development Services. Where objections cannot be resolved or significant issues are identified, the application will be referred to Council for determination.

4.3. Exceptional Circumstances

Approval for additional dogs will only be considered in limited circumstances, including where a dog is being replaced due to age or illness, where a dog has been inherited due to family circumstances, where households have merged, where prior approval existed in another local government, or where dogs are required for stock management or training on appropriately zoned land.

Each application will be assessed on its individual merits, and these circumstances do not guarantee approval.

4.4. Conditions of Approval

Where approval is granted, conditions will apply, including requirements for registration and microchipping of all approved dogs within prescribed timeframes, and limitations that approval applies only to the approved dogs for their lifetime.

Applicants must notify the Shire of any changes to their circumstances, including relocation or changes to dog numbers.

The Shire may impose additional conditions as necessary to ensure compliance, animal welfare and community amenity.

Where conditions are breached, and Authorised Officer may revoke approval and require removal of the additional dogs within a specified timeframe.

All dogs must be contained within suitable enclosures, with fencing appropriate to the breed, size and condition of the dog to prevent escape.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council is responsible for establishing the policy framework for the management of multiple dogs within the Shire.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Policy and the appropriate delegation of decision-making authority.

The Executive Manager Development Services is responsible for oversight of application assessments and decision-making under delegated authority.

Authorised Officers (Rangers) are responsible for assessing applications, conducting inspections, undertaking community consultation, and enforcing compliance with this Policy and relevant legislation.

Applicants are responsible for complying with all application requirements, conditions of approval, and legislative obligations relating to dog ownership.

6. COMPLIANCE

Legislation	<i>Dog Act 1976, s26(3)</i> <i>Local Government Act 1995, s5.18, 5.42 and 5.46(1)</i> <i>Shire of Chittering Dog Local Law 2023, cl3.2(2)</i>
Industry	Animal welfare standards and guidelines
Organisational Documents	Application for Exemptions on Limitations of Number of Dogs form
Strategic Alignment	

7. ADMINISTRATION

Review Cycle	Every 3 years	Next Review Due	April 2029
Policy Owner	Executive Manager Development Services		
Version	Decision Ref	Date	Change
1.0		21/11/2012	Initial adoption
2.0		20/02/2013	Amendment
3.0		19/07/2023	Amendment
4.0	110526	20/05/2026	Amendment