



APPROVED INSPECTION PROGRAM

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTIONS BELL, TARA AND WANDOAN RESIDENTS

Western Downs Regional Council is committed to fostering a dog-friendly region while ensuring the safety and welfare of both community members and animals.

Through our approved inspection programs, Council strives to empower residents with the knowledge necessary for responsible dog ownership, promoting safe and harmonious neighbourhoods.

Combined with education, enforcement remains an essential component of our strategy for effective animal management.

Accordingly, an approved systematic inspection program of all residential, multiple occupancy, rural residential and small-town properties within the localities of Bell, Tara, and Wandoan will be undertaken between **Monday, 2 February 2026** to **Tuesday, 30 June 2026**, by visiting and if necessary, entering yards of premises to monitor compliance with the:

- a. dog registration and renewal of registration requirements; microchipping requirements as per the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*; and
- b. conditions relating to the keeping of regulated dogs in accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

See below for the answers to some common questions the community may have regarding the Approved Inspection Program.

What is an approved inspection program?

An approved inspection program is a program approved by a local government, under which an authorised person may enter and inspect properties in the local government area to ensure compliance with the relevant legislations.

Under section 113 of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* Western Downs Regional Council by resolution have approved an inspection program under which an authorised person may enter and monitor compliance to ensure that all dogs over the age of 12 weeks are registered in accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* and that conditions relating to the keeping of regulated dogs are in accordance with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

When is the program taking place?

Council's approved inspection program is to be carried out from **Monday, 2 February 2026** to **Tuesday, 30 June 2026**. Properties will be inspected from **7am to 5pm Monday to Sunday**.



Who will be conducting the inspections?

Inspections will be carried out by authorised persons from Western Downs Regional Council's ranger services team. All rangers will have identity cards issued by Council.

Will Council enter my property as part of the inspection program?

Council rangers will only come onto your property to knock on your front door. The team conducting the inspection will not be entering backyards or other parts of your property without your presence.

What if I am not home, can Western Downs Regional Council rangers enter my yard to carry out the inspection?

While legislation allows rangers to enter private property, under this inspection program, if they can't verify from the footpath or nature strip that your dog is registered and kept in accordance with keeping requirements, they will enter your front yard to knock on the front door. If you are not home, they will leave a card.

If I'm not home, how will I know if a Council ranger visited?

If you're not home, a Council ranger will leave a card in a prominent place such as the mailbox to let you know that we attended. If further action is required, Council will attempt further contact.

What if I refuse to allow Council authorised officers to conduct the inspection of my property?

The aim of this program is to work with the community to understand dog ownership and ensure residents meet the dog keeping requirements. Under this inspection program, if a resident refuses access after three attempts to make a mutually convenient time to inspect, then Council may undertake additional compliance measures to gain access to the property with or without the owner's consent. This is a last resort as our main objective is to assist owners to understand the needs and obligations of dog ownership.

What if my dog is not registered at the time of the inspection?

If you are found to be non-compliant with animal registration requirements, you will be issued a notice to comply that will provide you with seven (7) days to register your dog/s. At the expiration of the notice, if Council records show you have not registered your dog, you will be issued with a penalty infringement notice (fine) for **\$333** for each unregistered dog in your care.

If you require more time to register your dogs, you will need to contact Council on **1300 COUNCIL (1300 268 624)** or info@wdrc.qld.gov.au where, depending on your circumstances, an extension may be afforded.

The registration period lasts from **1 August to 31 July**. Dog registrations expire on **31 July** regardless of the month your dog is registered. Prorata discounts apply.