



## **APPROVED INSPECTION PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. What is an approved inspection program?
  - An approved inspection program is a selective or systematic program that allows Council to check on dog registrations and on regulated dog permit conditions.
  - An Approved Inspection Program, as detailed under Section 111 (1)(h) of the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*, allows an Authorised Person to enter a place at any reasonable time of the day or night.
2. How often do these programs run?
  - The program usually runs twice per annum
  - These programs have been run since the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008* came into effect in 2008.
  - The current program commences on 1 January 2019 and concludes on 31 July 2019.
3. Who does this affect?
  - The program affects all dog owners across the Western Downs, except for persons that have working dogs.
  - All residential, multiple occupancy, rural residential and small-town properties across the region will be systematically checked for compliance.
4. How come I have never heard about this before?
  - Council generally advertises the program in local newspapers 14 - 28 days before the program commences.
  - However, Council has extended the advertising and promotion of the current program through various mediums, including posters, social media and various other publications, thereby creating increased community awareness.
5. Why does Council run these programs?
  - Council runs these programs to ensure equity in the community by ensuring that all dog owners meet their legal obligations in having their dogs registered; and
  - To ensure that all regulated dogs are kept in accordance with their permit conditions.

For further information,  
contact Council:

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6. How do I know if they are Council officers or not?
  - All Council officers engaged in the program will have photographic identification and will also be driving a marked Council vehicle.
  
7. What service does this provide to the community?
  - Enables dogs that are found wandering to be reunited with their owners.
  - Facilitates investigations when dogs are involved in incidents, e.g. when dogs attack other persons or animals
  
8. Is it true that Council can enter private property without the landowners consent?
  - Yes, the Act allows officers to access private property. However, Council officers will always exercise discretion prior to entering a property.
  - When persons are at home, Council Officers will always introduce themselves, state the reasons for their visit, and seek permission from the occupier of the place. Further, all Authorised Officers have photographic identification which they will produce.
  
9. What should I do?
  - You are encouraged to register your dogs with Council as soon as possible, and prior to Council officers visiting your property.
  
10. Does my dog have to wear its registration tag?
  - Whilst your dog does not have to wear its registration tag whilst on your property, this is encouraged as the onus of proof of registration lies with the dog owner.
  - The wearing of a registration tag allows for easy identification of wandering dogs, thereby allowing for identification of the owner and the reuniting of your dog.

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