



Ms A Boyd
Manager Compliance and Enforcement
Clarence City Council
38 Bligh Street
Rosny TAS 7018

By email: yoursay@ccc.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Boyd

COTA Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of **Clarence City Council's Dog Management Policy**.

We have completed the online survey where the questions allowed an organisational policy response. A number of questions were necessarily left unanswered because they sought personal experience as a Clarence resident rather than the perspective of a representative organisation.

COTA encourages Council to apply an age-friendly and inclusive lens throughout the revised policy.

Dogs provide many older people with companionship, purpose, routine, exercise, security, and social connection. It is therefore important to retain accessible and appropriately located opportunities for responsible dog owners to exercise and enjoy public spaces with their dogs.

However, uncontrolled dogs can create a significant safety and accessibility issue. An unexpected approach, collision, or jump can cause a fall or injury, particularly for an older person or someone with limited mobility. Attacks, or even the threat of an attack, on a much-loved companion dog can also cause significant distress, trauma, and loss of confidence for an older person. Even where no physical injury occurs to an owner or their loved companion, a negative experience can lead people to avoid parks, beaches, or walking paths.

COTA recommends that the revised policy:

- define effective control by the owner's practical ability to prevent a dog from approaching, intimidating, chasing, or interfering with others;
- provide a suitable mix of clearly identified on-lead, off-lead, and dog-free spaces;
- consider accessibility, seating, paths, fencing, bins, and clear signage when designating dog access areas – for both dogs and their owners;
- retain affordable registration and licensing arrangements, with meaningful pensioner and hardship concessions;
- maintain non-digital options for registration, payment, complaints, and information;
- combine education and early intervention with proportionate and effective enforcement; and
- recognise that complaint and incident statistics may not capture people who simply stop using a place after an adverse experience.

The policy should seek to accommodate responsible dog ownership while ensuring that older people, people with disability, families, those who are fearful of dogs, and other community members can use public spaces safely and confidently.

Thank you for considering COTA Tasmania's comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Brigid Wilkinson".

Brigid Wilkinson
CEO

10th June 2026