

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the review of the Dog Control Bylaw 2020.

The Blenheim Business Association (BBA) will submit on the below two points. We make no further comment on the drafted bylaw, and our decision not to comment on any changes should not be construed as supporting the proposals.

### **Dogs in town**

The BBA strongly supports the reclassification of the Central Business District as a “dog on leash area”. The BBA’s vision for the Blenheim CBD is that it should be an area where people want to gather and spend time. We believe that reducing barriers to do so, and making town more friendly for all to visit is integral to this. We want people to be able to stop for a coffee or a spot of shopping in town.

The BBA has been a strong proponent of dogs being allowed in the CBD. We advocated for a trial of dogs in town, which occurred in October 2019 to coincide with the Black Hawke Dog Show. This trial was well received and several shops declared themselves as dog friendly.

### **Exclusion zone around playgrounds**

Playgrounds are defined as any recreation play area containing playground equipment and surfacing. The proposed bylaw creates effectively an exclusion zone, prohibiting any dog within 10 metres from any playground.

The BBA is involved with setting up pop-up parks in the CBD such as in the forum and we are looking at installing play equipment as part of the Marlborough Mile.

We support making sure that children have the space to freely play, however We are concerned that the pop-up parks and Marlborough Mile re-development will lead to large areas in the CBD effectively becoming dog exclusion areas. This is at odds with the move towards making the CBD more dog friendly.

Our submission is that the exclusion zone remains at 3 metres, to allow children space to play but does not block dogs in the CBD.

### **Summary**

- The BBA supports the reclassification of the Central Business District as a dog on leash area.
- The BBA does not support the increase of the exclusion zone around playground equipment to 10m.