ITEM 17.4	RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO 13/2020 - DOG ATTACKS ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES AND COUNCIL'S RESPONSE
TRIM FILE REF	2020/431287
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

Submitted by: Councillor Vincent De Luca OAM

## QUESTION

- 1. Noting that Council reported 58 dog attacks between 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 to the Office of Local Government:
  - a. How many fines were issued during that period for attacks by dogs and what were the total of the fines?
  - b. During that period how many Rangers were specifically employed to undertake enforcement under the Companion Animals Act?
  - c. During that period, how many complaints were received by Council of dogs off leash in prohibited areas, how many fines were issued and what was the total amount of fines received?
  - d. During that period, how many complaints were received by Council of dogs defecating and their owners failing to pick up faeces, how many fines were issued and what was the total amount of fines received?
- 2. For the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020:
  - a. What were the total amount of dog attacks received by Council?
  - b. During that period how many Rangers were specifically employed to undertake enforcement under the Companion Animals Act?
  - c. During that period, how many complaints were received by Council of dogs off leash in prohibited areas, how many fines were issued and what was the total amount of fines received?
  - d. During that period, how many complaints were received by Council of dogs defecating and their owners failing to pick up faeces, how many fines were issued and what was the total amount of fines received?
- 3. What will Council do to enforce the Companion Animals Act and fine irresponsible dog owners who have allowed their dogs to attack people and other dogs, roam unleashed in prohibited areas and defecate without removal?

## RESPONSE

- 1. a 15 fines were issued for dog attack related incidents, with total fines amounting to \$20,400.
- 1. b 3 Full Time Animal Management Officers investigated dog attacks and were assisted by 15 Rangers who undertook patrols.

1. c:

- I. 301 customer requests were received for Roaming Dogs
- II. 64 fines issued for dogs being off leash, totalling \$21,120
- III. 5 fines were issued for dogs in a prohibited place totalling \$1,650



- IV. 8 Fines issued for dogs for Fail to prevent dog from escaping (Roaming dogs) \$1,760.
- 1. d 22 customer requests were received, and no fines were issued.
- 2. a 88 complaints relating to Dog Attacks were received.
- 2. b Full Time Animal Management Officers investigated dog attacks and were assisted by 15 Rangers who undertook patrols.

2. c :

- I. 9 offences detected for dogs being in a prohibited place, with fines totalling \$2,970
- II. 305 customer requests were received for Roaming Dogs
- III. 34 fines issued for dogs being off leash totalling \$11,220.
- 2. d 23 complaints were received, and no fines were issued.

3. Rangers and Animal Management Officers work 7 days a week between 6am to 8pm each day to monitor and regulate concerns relating to companion animals. Council also has an afterhours service where any reported dog attacks are treated with a priority response. Each day Rangers patrol known locations throughout the council area to regulate responsible pet ownership. Offleash dog exercise areas are also patrolled.

Dog attacks are investigated, and in cases where serious incidents occur and/or involve dogs that which are declared as menacing or dangerous, prosecution action is pursued, where, in addition to fines imposed by the Court, orders sought can also include custodial sentences and dog destruction orders.

A proactive enforcement program was undertaken over a three week period in June 2020, which saw some 45 hours of patrol time targeted to companion animal enforcement, and which resulted in 14 fines and 2 warnings being issued. 43 dogs were observed to be as being compliant in this time.

In addition, other action includes distributing educational material on responsible pet ownership through local pet shops and vets and local media, publicising successful court actions, and networking with other agency stakeholders such as the RSPCA and Police and other councils.

Council will also review the current provision of dispensers/ bins to dispose of waste in parks to ensure enough facilities are available for dog owners to dispose of animal waste.

Council records indicate that there are 66458 dogs in the Northern Beaches LGA; the vast majority of dog owners are compliant and responsible. Council will also work with the peak organisations, Pittwater Unleashed and Manly Dogs to assist in education for the relatively small number of dog owners not picking up dog faeces.