

Penguin protection

Date Requested: **16 October 2024**

Date Provided: **23 October 2024**

Request

Details of rules/policies/objectives in your district plan designed to avoid adverse effects of dog attacks and vehicle strike on penguins (specifically hoiho and kororā).

Decision making materials that underpin the making of the district plan (including any plan changes) where the need to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) was considered.

Details of any bylaws or other local measures that protect penguins from dog attacks or vehicle strike.

Details of council monitoring of penguin populations and documents that contain monitoring results (including published reports under s35(2A) RMA).

Reports received by the Council on dog attacks and vehicle strikes on penguins in the last 3 years.

Details of any other actions taken by the Council to protect penguins.



Council Response

Details of rules/policies/objectives in your district plan designed to avoid adverse effects of dog attacks and vehicle strike on penguins (specifically hoiho and kororā). Decision making materials that underpin the making of the district plan (including any plan changes) where the need to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) was considered.


Objectives, policies and rules relevant to protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are in section 9.1 of the Christchurch District Plan. There is not specific reference to penguins in the objectives, policies and rules. Notwithstanding this, the effects of land use, development and subdivision on the habitat of penguins would be considered where resource consent is required and Council has discretion. Decision making materials that underpin the making of the district plan (including any plan changes) where the need to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) was considered.

Note that activities may require a Wildlife Permit under the Wildlife Act 1953, which is administered by the Department of Conservation.

Clause 6 and 14 of the Dog Control Policy.

Decision making materials that underpin the making of the district plan (including any plan changes) where the need to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) was considered.

The decisions made on section 9.1 of the District Plan were as part of a full review of the District Plan, completed in 2017. Decisions were made by an Independent Hearings Panel appointed by the Minister for Earthquake Recovery and subject to a truncated process under special legislation. The evidence and other information presented to the IHP in respect of chapter 9 can be found here - <http://chchplan.ihp.govt.nz/hearing/chapter-9-natural-and-cultural-heritage-stage-3/>.



Details of any bylaws or other local measures that protect penguins from dog attacks or vehicle strike.

There are no reports prepared under section 35 of the Act relevant to the subject. Please refer to the screenshot below from the Christchurch City Council Bylaw 2016

3. OBJECTIVES

(1) The objectives of this bylaw are:

- (a) to promote the responsible management of dogs in public places
- (b) to provide for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners
- (c) to minimise the potential for dogs to cause harm, distress or nuisance to the community, animals and **wildlife**.

NUISANCE means anything which interferes with or threatens the health or enjoyment of people, and in this context may involve things such as barking, causing distress via intimidating behaviour (such as aggressive barking or rushing), or attacking people, **wildlife** or other animals

The Council has areas that prohibit dogs from certain places to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds), it also prohibits dogs or requires a leash in certain places to protect conservation values. If a dog owner is found to be in breach of the Bylaw, then under the Dog Control Act, Council has the power for enforcement.

Animal control (dog Bylaws), Wildlife act (DoC), Reserves Act, Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2016 (now 2024), Regional Coastal Plan (Ecan)- e.g. Has rules to restrict vehicles from driving on beaches south of Spencer Park. CCC developed and maintain the Harris Bay Predator Proof Fence to support nesting white flippered penguins. CCC maintain trap lines around the fence and also support a Forest and Bird Group doing trapping and habitat work inside the fence. Also support and provide access for the Christchurch Penguin Rehabilitation group doing monitoring for Doc. Staff advocate for effective protection of sites where penguins occur during bylaw review e.g. Animal control bylaw.



Details of council monitoring of penguin populations and documents that contain monitoring results (including published reports under s35(2A) RMA).

There are no reports prepared under section 35 of the Act relevant to the subject. We don't hold any formal monitoring information of the local penguin population in Christchurch. Staff have local knowledge of a number of known sites where nesting or penguin activity occurs. DOC may have better information through groups like the Harris Bay Penguin rescue people.

Reports received by the Council on dog attacks and vehicle strikes on penguins in the last 3 years.

Below are attacks on protected wildlife that have been reported to Animal Management at Christchurch City Council. The Department of Conservation (DOC) may hold additional data.

2021 to 2022 – No attacks reported,
2022 to 2023 – Three attacks reported on wildlife,
2023 to 2024 – Two attacks reported on wildlife, and
2024 to 2025 – One attack reported on wildlife.

Details of any other actions taken by the Council to protect penguins.

Pest control – the Council maintains trap lines at some known sites in Christchurch where penguin nesting occurs.

Rangers monitor penguin activity and nesting sites during development works such as the coastal pathway and seawall renewal works. As part of those works, rangers have successfully advocated for the installation of nest boxes to provide areas of safe nesting e.g. Shag Rock and Sumner Esplanade.