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Burdekin Shire Council – media release

TOUGHER DOG LAWS COME IN

Declared dangerous dogs will have to be de-sexed under tough State Government laws that come into effect on Wednesday (July 1).

They must also be microchipped, wear special identification tags, be listed on a State Government database and be kept behind strong, child-proof enclosures.

Burdekin Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the new Animal Management Act gave local councils greater powers to manage dangerous dogs.

“Under the old local laws, there were just two categories – declared dangerous dogs and restricted dogs,” she said.

“Declared dangerous dogs are animals which have seriously attacked or mauled people, while restricted dogs are breeds that you need a permit to keep, such as pit bull terriers.

“The Act has given us an extra category called declared menacing dogs, which are those dogs that have carried out a less serious attack.”

Cr McLaughlin said the new category gives authorised officers more power to regulate dogs that are considered a threat to the community.

“Dogs that have killed or mauled someone often have a history of menacing behaviour that was never addressed,” she said.

“This new classification gives us the power to address menacing tendencies before they escalate to really harmful behaviour.”

Cr McLaughlin said the Act also included tougher fines and new registration charges.

“Under the old laws, owners of declared dangerous dogs had to pay an annual permit,” she said.

“Now, instead of a permit system, those owners will pay an annual registration fee of \$282.90 which also covers signage, ID tags and inspection costs.”

Owners of declared menacing dogs will pay \$282.90 for entire animals and \$244.40 for desexed animals.

Owners of restricted dogs will pay \$282.90, which includes registration, permit, signage, ID tags and inspection costs.