

# FACT SHEET

## *Dog Control Amendment Bill 2019*

The Dog Control Amendment Bill 2019 amends the *Dog Control Act 2000* (the Act) by:

- Introducing a new offence provision where a dog injures or kills wildlife that is declared as 'sensitive wildlife' in a particular geographic area or areas that is specified as a 'sensitive area'. An offence committed under this new provision carries a fine of up to 30 penalty units – currently \$5,040. The Minister responsible for Part 4 the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* will specify, by Ministerial Order, both the species of wildlife and the locations to which the offence will apply;
- Providing that, if an owner of a dog is found guilty of the new offence, the court may order that the owner pay either or both the reasonable costs incurred from the collection and analysis of a sample from a dog, and compensation for any damage caused or costs incurred as a result of the conduct of the dog in committing the offence. The court may also order that the dog be destroyed;
- Increasing the penalty – from 10 to 20 penalty units - for allowing a dog to be in a prohibited area that contains sensitive habitat for native wildlife, and broadening the application of the offence so that it covers instances where a dog is at large, as well as where a dog is deliberately taken into such areas by its owner;
- Increasing the penalty for a serious dog attack on a person – from 20 to 30 penalty units - in response to feedback received through consultation that this penalty should be set at least at the equivalent level to an attack on a sensitive species.
- Providing that an authorised officer (being a police officer or a ranger under the *Nature Conservation Act*) is able to collect a sample from a dog, without seeking the prior approval of the relevant council's general manager. State Government veterinary surgeons will also be able to collect a sample from a dog without seeking the approval of the relevant council's general manager.
- Amending certain provisions relating to greyhounds, so that councils can lawfully provide off-leash exercise areas for greyhounds (where they wish to do so) and to clarify that greyhounds are under effective control when off-lead on any private premises, so long as they are securely confined to those premises; and
- Addressing a number of minor, technical drafting matters identified by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.