

West Cairns Animal Management Pilot Program



Cairns

- Local government area encompasses 1687 km²
- Residential population of the Cairns region was **164,536 persons as at 30 June 2017**
- Population expected to double by 2050 which will significantly impact animal management for the region



Glimpse of AM in Cairns

- 1/3 of customer request (CR) council receives annually
- 1800 impounded animals
- 1500 animal pick ups
- 1400 stray and roaming dogs
- 900 dog attacks

18 thousand customer requests annually

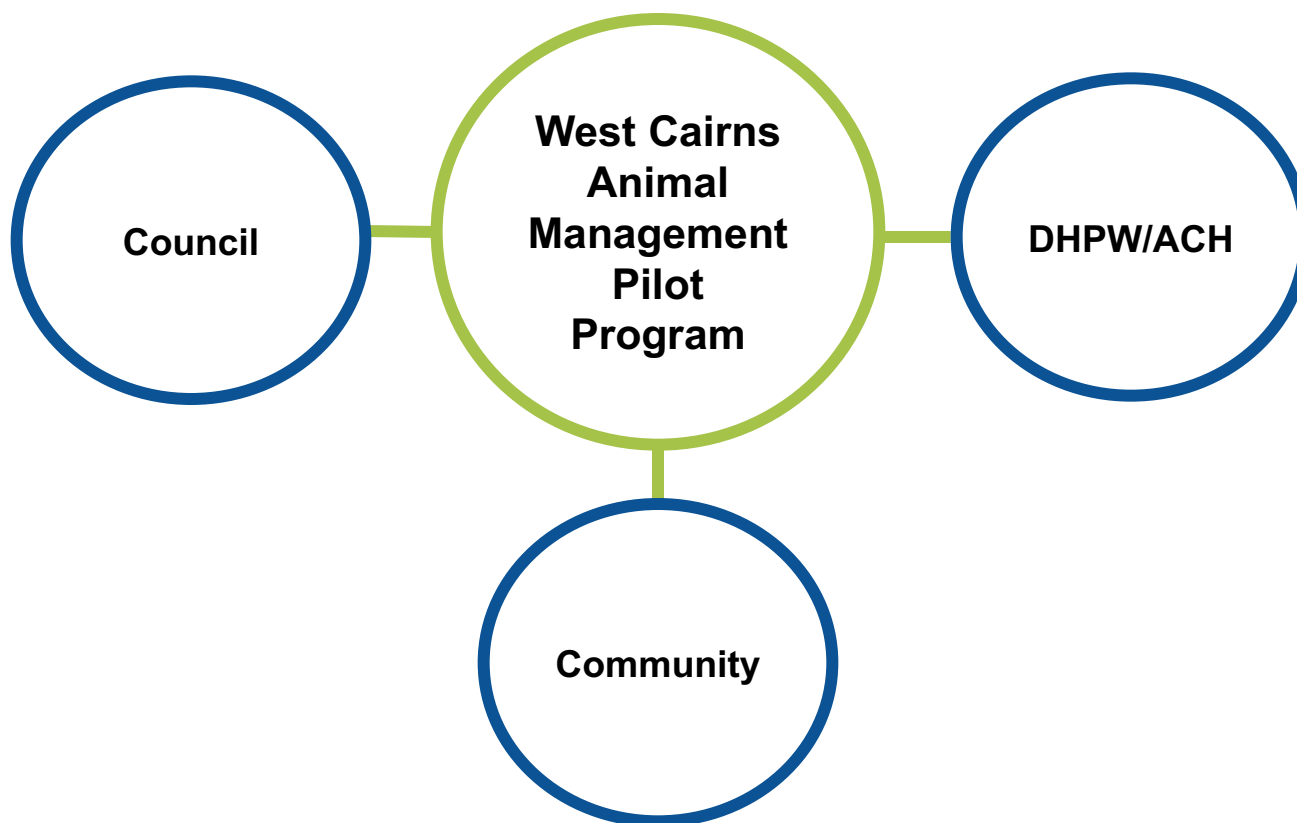
Background

- November 2018 Council was approached by community members in the area and Public Housing (DHPW)
- Aware of numerous issues
- Reactive enforcement not proactive



Solution was needed to break cycle of unwanted breeding of dogs and continuous impoundments

Our Approach: 3 Year Pilot Program



A multi-agency approach to animal management in low socio-economic areas

Challenges West Cairns

- Housing fencing issues
- Distrust of council
- High crime area
- Never been able to engage with target schools
- Movement of dogs not understood but assumed
- RSPCA EMU truck event in the area showed the lack of trust from the community

Program Focus

1

**Tracking movement of
population**



2

Vet Treatments



3

Engagement and Education



1. Tracking Movements

- Seeking to understand dog movement between other communities
- Council needed accurate dog numbers
- August 2019 conducted 2 day initial audit
- 98 dogs uncovered that were eligible for the West Cairns Program



1. Tracking Movements

- Annual baseline audit followed by quarterly monitoring
- Vet treatment day once a year collecting animal details again
- Flag animals in our system



2. Vet Treatments

Engaged an awesome vet!



Decided on the treatments

- Superlorin implant
- Microchips
- Dectomax
- C4 vaccinations



2. Vet Treatments

Finally, vet treatment week!



3. Engagement and Education

Developed and delivering separate programs targeting both children and adults



3. Engagement and Education

Just started our 8 week after school program and first session was a success!



Public Housing Commitment

- Commitment of money towards engagement
- Immediate Fencing Repairs
- Reporting during periods outside of audits
- Following up with owners not home during vet treatments



Results: Stats

- 98 dogs in the program
- 68 properties included
- 85 new dog registered issued
- 60 dogs microchipped
- 68 dogs treated for parasites
- 45 dog chemical desexed
- 10 properties have had immediate fencing issues fixed already



Results So Far

- Community have gladly welcomed us and our work
- Kids now look forward to our presence on the ground
- Thankful to have animals treated and fences fixed



Challenges With Program



The Balls!



Inadequate containment of
animals



Community Engagement



Building working
relationships

Next Steps

- Regular monitoring and management of animals involved
- Maintain education programs
- Explore opportunities to access grants to support program viability
- Present Program to other councils



Possible Improvements

- Consider immunising whole dog population against parvo
- Budget for 3 monthly worming
- Have booking times for the vet
- Simplify paperwork during audits and vet treatment days



Questions?

