

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Horowhenua District Hearings and Regulatory Committee will be held on:

Date: Thursday 28 May 2026
Time: 9:00 am
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Venue: 126-148 Oxford St
Levin

Hearings and Regulatory Committee

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Cr Clint Grimstone
Councillors Cr David Allan
Cr Mike Barker
Cr Sam Jennings
Cr Lani Ketu
Mayor Bernie Wanden

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Full Agendas can be viewed at:
Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

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PROCEDURAL

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest in writing they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendations

That the Hearing and Regulatory Committee meeting minutes of 1 April 2026 be accepted as a true and correct record.

DOG CONTROL HEARING

An Objection by PHOEBE ANNA GODDARD and STEPHEN MONTFORD against a Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking of Dogs under s 55(1)(b) of the Act.

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- F. Dog Control Summing up
- G. Objectors summing up
- H. Committee Deliberations

File No.: 26/302

4.1 Appeal of Barking Dog Abatement Notice - Goddard

Author(s)	Vaimoana Miller Compliance Manager Tumu Tūtohu
Approved by	Brent Harvey Group Manager - Community Experience & Services Tumu Rangapū, Wheako Hapori, Ratonga
	Monique Davidson Chief Executive Officer Tumuaki

PURPOSE | TE PŪTAKE

1. This report is to seek a determination from the Hearings and Regulatory Committee (the Committee) on the barking dog abatement notice issued on 17 November 2025 to Phoebe Goddard of 207 and 217 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | TE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

2. On 17 November 2025 a notice to abate nuisance barking was issued to Phoebe Anna Goddard (the Dog Owner) following complaints received regarding barking from dogs kept at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.
3. There is a history of complaints relating to barking dogs at this location, including a previous barking dog abatement notice having been issued in 2019.
4. Phoebe Goddard has objected to the notice, and therefore the Committee is required to determine the matter under delegated authority.

DELEGATION OR AUTHORITY TO ACT | TE MANA WHAKATAU I NGĀ KAWENGA

5. Section 55 of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides for a person to object to a barking dog abatement notice and sets out a Territorial Authority shall consider the objection and may confirm, modify, or cancel the notice.
6. The Hearings and Regulatory Committee is delegated the responsibility to conduct statutory hearings on regulatory matters under the Dog Control Act 1996. Clause 4.2(4) of the Council and Committee Terms of Reference adopted on 10 December 2025 refers.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT | HE AROMATAWAI MATUA

7. This matter is assessed as not significant because it relates to a dog matter affecting the dog owner, Council and the immediate neighbours to the properties of where the dogs are kept.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TAUNAKITANGA

- A. That the Committee considers and determines the objection to
 - A.1. Confirm the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking; or,
 - A.2. Cancel the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking; or,
 - A.3. Modify the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking.

BACKGROUND | HE KŌRERO TŪĀPAPA

8. Phoebe Goddard owns 217 Hokio Sand Road, Levin but resides at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin, where her dogs are kept. Phoebe Goddard has three Anatolian Shepherd dogs, with numbers increasing at times due to breeding.
9. There are five dogs kept at 207 Hokio Sand Road; three owned by Ms Goddard and 2 owned by Mr Montford. A notice to abate nuisance barking was also issued to Mr Montford in November 2025 which he too has objected to. The objection to Mr Montford's notice is put to the Hearings and Regulatory Committee for determination in a separate report.
10. A notice to abatement nuisance barking was issued to the Dog Owner in 2019 in relation to barking at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin. That notice was objected to and subsequently upheld by the Hearings Committee. The provision with the notice imposed on Ms Goddard to "*Cease all barking nuisance on your property by identifying which of your dog(s) are causing the barking issue and remove those dog(s) from the property when you are not home to control the barking*".
11. In July 2024 Council started to again receive complaints regarding barking nuisance from dogs at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin. These complaints continued right through to November 2025 when the notice was issued.
12. The 2019 notice to abate barking nuisance is no longer considered a suitable measure to manage the nuisance, and therefore a new notice to abate nuisance barking was issued on 17 November 2025 with updated controls.

DISCUSSION | HE MATAPAKINGA

13. On 20 February 2025, Council animal control officers met with Phoebe Goddard to discuss the complaints. During that meeting, Phoebe Goddard advised that she would implement measures including exercise routines, managing dogs during breeding cycles, use of bark deterrent devices, and improvements to fencing at 217 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.
14. Despite any measures put in place by the Dog Owner to address the barking nuisance, complaints continued to be received from occupants at neighbouring properties.
15. Between 29 July 2025 and 15 November 2025, Council undertook a number of monitoring assessments from a neighbouring property, which recorded instances of barking from the direction of 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.
16. On 17 November 2025, animal control Officers issued a notice to abate barking dog nuisance to Ms Goddard. The notice imposing the following provisions:
 - 16.1. Keep no more than two (2) dogs at 207 and 217 Hokio Sand Road collectively and notify Council which two dogs will be kept.
 - 16.2. Rehome any additional dogs to another suitable property/s, which must not be 207 or 217 Hokio Sand Road. You must then provide Council with confirmation of the new locations of each dog so that Council records can be updated accordingly.
 - 16.3. Do not use 207 or 217 Hokio Sand Road for breeding or keeping of puppies with dog numbers and bitches on heat contributing to the established barking nuisance.
 - 16.4. Dogs must not be left outside when no person is home to monitor and control nuisance barking
17. Ms Goddard has objected to this notice. Ms Goddard disputes that the barking originates from her dogs and believes neighbouring dogs are responsible, noting observations of barking from nearby properties.
18. Ms Goddard states they have taken steps to address concerns and questions the accuracy of monitoring in determining any barking is attributable to her dogs, and an unwillingness to comply with the notice unless proven necessary.

19. The Notice to abate barking dog nuisance issued to Ms Goddard on 17 November 2025 is has been provided to the Committee along with the evidence compiled by the Animal Control team as part of this process.

Options | Ngā Kōwhiringa

20. Section 55 of the Dog Control Act 1996 prescribes that the Committee has the following options:
 - 20.1. Confirm the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking
 - 20.2. Cancel the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking
 - 20.3. Modify the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barkin

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING | TE TAHUA PŪTEA ME NGĀ RAUEMI

21. There are no direct costs associated with this matter. Barking dog complaints and the responses to are managed within Dog Control operational budgets.

LEGAL AND RISK | TE TURE ME NGĀ MŌREAREATANGA

22. This matter has been considered in accordance with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The processes set out in the Dog Control Act 1996 provide for the Dog Owner with the opportunity to be heard, and therefore no inconsistencies with the Bill of Rights have been identified.

POLICY IMPACT | NGĀ PĀTANGA I NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE

23. This matter is considered under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is consistent with Council's Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. The decision relates to the application of existing legislative requirements, and does not give rise to any changes to Council policy.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAWHITI PĀRONGO ME TE MAHI

24. The decision of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee will be formally communicated to the Dog Owner following the hearing. Any further communication will be undertaken as required in accordance with the outcome of the decision.

NEXT STEPS | HEI MAHI

25. Following the hearing, the Hearings and Regulatory Committee decision will be formally communicated to the Dog Owner in accordance with statutory requirements. Any subsequent actions will be undertaken in line with the Committee's decision.

File No.: 26/303

4.2 Appeal of Barking Dog Abatement Notice - Montford

Author(s)	Vaimoana Miller Compliance Manager Tumu Tūtohu
Approved by	Brent Harvey Group Manager - Community Experience & Services Tumu Rangapū, Wheako Hapori, Ratonga
	Monique Davidson Chief Executive Officer Tumuaki

PURPOSE | TE PŪTAKE

1. This report is to seek a determination from the Hearings and Regulatory Committee (the Committee) on the barking dog abatement notice issued on 17 November 2025 to Stephen Montford of 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | TE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA MATUA

2. On 17 November 2025 a notice to abate nuisance barking was issued to Stephen Montford (the Dog Owner) following complaints received regarding barking from dogs kept at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.
3. There is a history of complaints relating to barking dogs at this location, including a previous barking dog abatement notice having been issued in 2019 to another occupant and dog owner (Phoebe Goddard).
4. Stephen Montford has objected to the notice. The Committee is therefore required to determine the matter under delegated authority.

DELEGATION OR AUTHORITY TO ACT | TE MANA WHAKATAU I NGĀ KAWENGA

5. Section 55 of the Dog Control Act 1996 provides for a person to object to a barking dog abatement notice and sets out a Territorial Authority shall consider the objection and may confirm, modify, or cancel the notice.
6. The Hearings and Regulatory Committee is delegated the responsibility to conduct statutory hearings on regulatory matters under the Dog Control Act 1996. Clause 4.2(4) of the Council and Committee Terms of Reference adopted on 10 December 2025 refers.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT | HE AROMATAWAI MATUA

7. This matter is assessed as not significant because it relates to a dog matter affecting the dog owner, Council and the immediate neighbours to the properties of where the dogs are kept.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TAUNAKITANGA

- A. That the Committee receives report 26/165 Appeal of Barking Dog Abatement Notice – Monford
- B. That the Committee considers and determines the objection/reserves its decision.

BACKGROUND | HE KŌRERO TŪĀPAPA

8. Stephen Montford resides at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin and owns two dogs kept at the property.
9. There are five dogs in total kept at 207 Hokio Sand Road; two owned by Mr Montford and another three owned by Phoebe Goddard. A notice to abate nuisance barking was also issued to Ms Goddard in November 2025 which has also been objected to. The objection to Ms Goddards notice is put to the Hearings and Regulatory Committee for determination in a separate report.
10. There is a history of complaints relating to nuisance barking at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin with previous enforcement action in 2019, with a previous barking dog abatement notice being issued to another occupant (Ms Goddard).
11. Since July 2024, Council has received complaints from neighbouring properties regarding barking from 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin. These complaints continued right through to November 2025 when the notice was issued.

DISCUSSION | HE MATAPAKINGA

12. Five dogs are kept at 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin under the ownership of both Phoebe Goddard and Stephen Montford. Council has received complaints and undertaken monitoring in relation to barking from this location.
13. Where barking cannot be attributed to a specific dog, enforcement action may be directed to multiple dog owners at the property.
14. Between 29 July 2025 and 15 November 2025, Council undertook a number of monitoring assessments from a neighbouring property, which recorded instances of barking from the direction of 207 Hokio Sand Road, Levin.
15. On 17 November 2025, animal control Officers issued a notice to abate barking dog nuisance to Mr Montford. The notice imposing the following provisions:
 - 15.1. Keep no more than two (2) dogs at 207 and 217 Hokio Sand Road collectively and notify Council which two dogs will be kept.
 - 15.2. Rehome any additional dogs to another suitable property/s, which must not be 207 or 217 Hokio Sand Road. You must then provide Council with confirmation of the new locations of each dog so that Council records can be updated accordingly.
 - 15.3. Do not use 207 or 217 Hokio Sand Road for breeding or keeping of puppies with dog numbers and bitches on heat contributing to the established barking nuisance.
 - 15.4. Dogs must not be left outside when no person is home to monitor and control nuisance barking
16. Mr Montford has objected to this notice and therefore the Committee is required to consider the objection and may confirm, cancel or modify the notice.
17. The Notice to abate barking dog nuisance issued to Mr Montford on 17 November 2025 has been provided to the Committee along with the evidence compiled by the Animal Control team as a part of this process.

Options | Ngā Kōwhiringa

18. Section 55 of the Dog Control Act 1996 prescribes that the Committee has the following options:
 - 18.1. Confirm the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking
 - 18.2. Cancel the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking
 - 18.3. Modify the Notice to Abate Nuisance Barking

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING | TE TAHUA PŪTEA ME NGĀ RAUEMI

19. There are no direct costs associated with this matter. Barking dog complaints and the responses to are managed within Dog Control operational budgets.

LEGAL AND RISK | TE TURE ME NGĀ MŌREAREATANGA

20. This matter has been considered in accordance with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The processes set out in the Dog Control Act 1996 provide for the Dog Owner with the opportunity to be heard, and therefore no inconsistencies with the Bill of Rights have been identified.

POLICY IMPACT | NGĀ PĀTANGA I NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE

21. This matter is considered under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is consistent with Council's Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw. The decision relates to the application of existing legislative requirements, and does not give rise to any changes to Council policy.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAWHITI PĀRONGO ME TE MAHI

22. The decision of the Hearings and Regulatory Committee will be formally communicated to the Dog Owner following the hearing. Any further communication will be undertaken as required in accordance with the outcome of the decision.

NEXT STEPS | HEI MAHI

23. Following the hearing, the Hearings and Regulatory Committee decision will be formally communicated to the Dog Owner in accordance with statutory requirements. Any subsequent actions will be undertaken in line with the Committee's decision.

File No.: 26/310

5 Hearing Pack

PURPOSE | TE PŪTAKE

1. The attachments to this report are the combined hearing pack for this hearing, containing the pre-exchanged submissions and evidence of the parties. This is prepared for the parties involved in the hearing. These documents are withheld from the public under LGOIMA s 7(2)(a) in order to protect the privacy of individuals, in particular the private details of objectors, applicants and witnesses in this case.

No.	Title	Page
A_	NoH - Goddard and Montford - Dog Control Act - May 2026 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	
B_	Appellant Submissions and Evidence - Goddard and Montford - Dog Control Act - May 2026 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	
C_	Council Submissions - 207 & 217 Hokio Sand Road Barking nuisance - Goddard and Montford - May 2026 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	
D_	Appellants Supplementary Submissions and Evidence - Goddard and Montford - Dog Control Act - May 2026 (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>)	

Exclusion of the Public : Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

C1 Deliberation in Private

Reason:	The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
Interests:	s7(2)(a) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.
Grounds:	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.
Plain English Reason:	To allow the committee to deliberate in private to evaluate the merits of case..