

Lithgow Animal Shelter

Actions included in the 2019/20 Operational Plan support the following objectives included in the Community Strategic Plan 2030:

- CC3 We feel safe.

Changing how we do things

The Animal Shelter plays a vital role in the community. Council has acknowledged that the ownership of companion animals can contribute to improved physical and mental health of owners and plays an important role in the development of young children. Council strives to develop a family friendly community, and as such, are committed to provision of a high standard of animal care, community education and a safe community.

Lithgow Council has made significant investment into the Lithgow Animal Shelter in recent years, providing improved facilities and service. To complement this investment, improvements in public notification about lost animals through the Lithgow Animal Shelter Facebook Page @LithgowAnimalShelter has significantly increased information sharing leading to animals and owners being reunited quickly.

Over 460 animals made their way to the Lithgow Animal Shelter in 2017/18 which is a 64% increase on the previous year. Thankfully 63% of these animals are returned to their owners, with another 30% of animals found new homes. The Lithgow Animal Shelter exceeds benchmarks for 'live release' of animals admitted to the shelter with 93% of animals compared to 79% national and 71% NSW (School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland in 2017).

Not happy to rest on achievements, improvements are planned for the 2019/20 financial year. While the occurrence of the parvovirus has dramatically reduced in the past years, it is still a threat to unvaccinated and young animals. To assist this we are planning on creating an additional quarantine area and hard stand areas for animals. Furthermore, to achieve minimal environmental impact and become more self-sufficient the instillation of rainwater tanks and pumps are planned.

CC3 – WE FEEL SAFE

DELIVERY PLAN (2017-2021)	OPERATIONAL PLAN (2019-2020)			
Delivery Program Action (4 years)	Action	Performance Measure	Target	Responsible Department
CC3.1 Community safety and compliance is monitored.	CC3.1.1 Responsible care of animal welfare and maintenance of the Lithgow Animal Shelter.	Total number of animals impounded.	Total impounded animals	Environment
		Total number of animals rescued or sold.	% of total impounded animals	
		Total number of animals returned to owners.	% of total impounded animals	
		Total number of animals destroyed.	% of total impounded animals	
		Total number of animals retained at the end of the reporting period.	% of total impounded animals.	
		Responsible Companion animal's ownership education activities undertaken.	100% complete	