

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN RELATING TO DOGS AND CATS 2022-2027



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1. Executive Summary

Acknowledgment of Country

The District Council of Robe acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of the Boandik people and we respect their spiritual relation with their Country. We also acknowledge the Boandik people's deep feelings of attachment and relationship with this land and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Boandik people today.

The District Council of Robe is largely rural and spans 1,091 km², has a residential population of 1,542 and over 2,794 rateable properties. The Council is comprised of the township of Robe and the hamlets of Nora Creina, Greenways, Mt Benson, Bray and Boatswains Point. The Robe township is situated on Guichen Bay and has a vibrant shopping precinct, marina and holiday homes which are nestled in a mixture of historical buildings and sites with infrastructure assets worth more than \$142 million. Agriculture, commercial fishing, tourism and service industries are key drivers of the District Council of Robe's economy.

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the District Council of Robe, to provide a planned approach to understanding its responsibilities pursuant to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. The Plan has been prepared by Council, who consulted with the public and the Dog and Cat Management Board on the draft prior to its adoption by Council.

This plan will guide domestic animal management by the District Council of Robe over the next five (5) years and is seen as a vital tool in the promotion and management of responsible pet ownership throughout the District. This plan has been established with considerations of our Community Plan 2019- 2039 and Animal Management Plan relating to Dogs and Cats 2017-2022.

The Plan aims to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats;
- promote the effective management of dogs and cats, whilst focusing on the need to educate the community in respect of the law relating to dogs and cats; and
- harness the benefits of dog and cat ownership and ensure the expenditure of dog registration fees addresses both dog and cat management issues.

Mission - Continue to promote responsible pet ownership and recognise that companion animals are part of the community, contributing to its quality of life and ensure that the legitimate needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the differing needs of non-pet owners of the Robe community and protecting the environment.



2. Background

The District Council of Robe has had three Animal Management Plans. The first being adopted in 2007 – 2012, the second being adopted in 2012 – 2017 and third 2017- 2022.

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) provides the framework for the management of dogs and cats in the community.

Its purpose is to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Council is responsible for implementation of the Act within the Council area, in accordance with Section 26A of the Act. Council is required to prepare a management plan relating to dogs and cats within their local area and review and update this Plan every 5 years.

Section 26A – Plans of management relating to dogs and cats, states:

- Each Council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area.
- A plan of management must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised offleash and for parks where dogs must be under effective control by means of physical restraint and may include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited.
- A plan of management must cover 5-year periods and each plan must be prepared and presented to the Board at least 6 months before it is to take effect.
- A plan of management must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.
- A Council may, with the approval of the Board, amend plan of management at any time during the course of the 5-year period covered by the plan.

This new Plan provides Council with the opportunity to address animal management at a strategic level and implement initiatives to address the legislative changes to the Act.



Current Statistics and Figures at a glance;

DC OF ROBE	20/21 FY	19/20 FY	18/19 FY	17/18 FY	16/17 FY
Total number of expiations issued	11	19	4	3	11
Number of court cases won	1	0	0	0	0
Number of court cases lost	0	0	0	0	0
Total court actions for the year	1	0	0	0	0
Number of official barking dog complaints received	3	2	0	2	0
Number of official wandering dog complaints received	29	40	40	35	49
Number of dogs collected and returned to owner before impounded	24	18	26	26	33
Total number of dogs impounded	0	9	10	30	40
Total number of dogs impounded and subsequently returned to the owner	0	6	8	4	7
Number of reports of dog harassment to humans	0	1	1	1	0
Number of reports of dog attacks on humans	0	0	0	0	0
Number of reports of dog harassment to animals	2	0	1	1	0
Number of reports of dog attacks on animals	0	1	4	1	0
Number of authorised officers	2	2	2	6	6
Number of cat complaints	8	10	0	5	2
Number of registered businesses involving dogs	4	0	0	0	0

From this data collected by council, we see stable figures with minimal negative impact on community.

Animal Management is embraced within Councils Strategic Plan in reference to **Theme 1: Community goal: A vibrant, engaged, inclusive, diverse community providing a healthy quality lifestyle.**

Pet ownership is vital to the quality of life for a large portion of the Community.

The District Council of Robe grows as a tourism destination in our peak seasons and is a popular destination for families and their pets. This means a significant rise in dogs around the community, parks and beaches. The income from registration fees, intended to cover the cost of local animal management, does not account for the impact of visiting dogs. The District Council of Robe's General Inspector monitors compliance in this peak season with support from its Infrastructure Team.

Local by-laws and reference to our Dogs in Robe Brochure further assist with compliance and dogs on beaches restriction zones during this time.



3. THE LAW/GUIDELINES

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) and Dog and Cat Regulations 2017 provides the legislative framework to be adhered to in relation to the management of dogs and cats within the community.

The Council delegates powers under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to the Chief Executive who in-turn, sub-delegates these powers to the relevant officers within the organisation.

The General Inspector reports directly to the Director Infrastructure.

Enforcement Provisions:

- The Dog and Cat Management Act requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act in the area of the Council. The approach in the first instance will be to encourage people to accept their responsibilities as pet owners and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.
- However, the community has an expectation that public places are monitored to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with and that appropriately trained and authorised persons are available to respond to concerns of the community and serious breaches of the Act and Council By-Laws.
- Council will provide appropriate resources to an after-hours service to meet the community's expectations, however the after-hours service will be provided for emergency situations or animal injury purposes, at the discretion of the on-call officer.
- The Chief Executive is appointed as the Registrar and Council employs one (1) full time Authorised Officer. After-hours support is provided by other Council officers as required.
- Council will respond to calls/complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and Council By-Laws.



4. REVENUE

Registration fees for dogs are set by Council as prescribed by the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. As of 1 July 2018, Council contributes to the Dog and Cat Management Fund from dog registration fees collected.

Council determines its proposed fees annually. The Act requires a mandatory rebate for a 'standard dog or cat' which is an animal that is both microchipped and de-sexed. Council offers other discretionary rebates and the fee structure is available within Council's Fees and Charges Register which is available on Council's Website.

5. COUNCILS MANAGEMENT OF DOGS

5.1 Dog Registration

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, dogs over 3 months old must be registered and microchipped. Additionally, dogs and cats born after July 2018 must be desexed by the age of six months. Dog Registration occurs via the Dogs and Cats Online Website, which is the centre point for registration, microchipping and breeder registration. Council assists the process by making available Customer Services for owners wishing to register or update their pet's details directly with us via phone, in person or by guided assistance using Council's public computer.

Expiation fees apply to unregistered dogs so it is important that dog owners ensure their dog/s registration and details are up to date and renewed by the due date. Expiation fees and late fees can be issued to all dogs with unrenewed statuses annually by 31 August.

5.2 Detention Arrangements of Dogs Seized

Council has a secured holding area for all dogs that are seized at the Council Works Depot, Robe Street, Robe. Dogs impounded are advertised at the front of the Council Office and via website and social media to ensure visibility to the public out of working hours and Council's Website, this assists in ensuring that dogs are returned to their owners as soon as possible.

When a dog is found wandering at large and is seized, the Authorised Officer will endeavour to identify the owner of the dog by checking for a registration disc or other visible signs, such as a name tag with contact details or scan for a microchip. If the owner can be identified and contact made with the owner, then their pet will be returned to them immediately. If an owner cannot be identified, the dog will be impounded at Council's Pound for 72 hours, after which the Authorised Officer will, if the dog is suitable to be rehomed, use resources available for rehoming. If the dog is unable to be rehomed for whatever reason, the dog will be taken to the Kingston Veterinary Clinic to be euthanised.

When a dog is impounded without identification, every effort is made to try and locate the owner by way of:

- a. A notice placed at the Council Office, which is visible at all times
- b. Council's website
- c. Other social media forums as appropriate

Dog owners are required to microchip **all dogs** from 1 July 2018 including puppies by the age of three (3) months. Dog owners are also required to de-sex all new generations of dogs born after 1 July 2018 and by the age of six (6) months. Owners will not be required to de-sex dogs born before 1 July 2018, however de-sexing of all dogs will be encouraged.

5.3 By-Laws

The District Council of Robe has a Dog By-Law No.5 which provides further legal provisions in relation to the management and control of dogs within the Council area. The By-Law is available on Council's website.

5.4 Community Organisations

A) Veterinary Services
Kingston Veterinary Clinic
8 East Terrace, Kingston SE SA 5275
Phone: 87672516



6.COUNCILS MANAGEMENT OF CATS

Cat owners must microchip all cats by the age of three (3) months. District Council of Robe recommend that all cats microchip records are recorded in Dogs and Cats Online to ensure pets can be reunited with their owners quickly and safely.

6.1 Detention Arrangements for Cats Seized

Owners of any cats identified by a microchip or other identification on the cat will be notified by Council's Authorised Officer to make arrangements for collection. If the cat is assessed as being friendly and well cared for every effort will be made to find the owner and as is the case with dogs, cats will be provided with a 72 hour period to find their owners. Cats that are impounded will be advertised at the front of the Council Office to ensure out of hours visibility and on Council's Website and social media platforms. However if reunification is not possible, within 72 hours the Council may try to rehome the cat or alternatively euthanise the cat.

Council addresses complaints from members of the community in relation to wandering cats and if they are causing a nuisance within a neighbourhood, Council has cat traps for hire to assist residents in the capture and removal of the cat/s. If the cat/s can be identified, Council's Authorised Officer will take this opportunity to talk to the owner and promote the importance of being a responsible pet owner and containing their cat/s on their own property.

6.2 Services Available

To support responsible cat management within the community Council has a cat trap hire process, whereby members of the community that are experiencing a nuisance cat/s problem can pay a fee as set by annual fees and charges for a cat trap. The trap can be collected from the Council Office or arrangements can be made to have the trap delivered. If a cat/s are caught, the trap must be returned to the Council Pound with the cat/s still inside, within 12 hours of trapping the cat/s.

6.3 By-Laws

The District Council of Robe has a Cat By-Law which provides further legal provisions in relation to the management and control of cats within the Council area. The By-Law is available on Council's website.



7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES

7.1 Council Operations			
a) Council Authorised Officers have the capacity to administer and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Appropriately trained workers.	Staff undertake training, as required, relating to legislative provisions under the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act</i> .	Type and number of training sessions attended.
b) Education of the Community			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Greater knowledge of the dog and cat legislative provisions.	Promotion of the need for breeders to registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	Number of promotional activities undertaken. Number of Robe breeders registered with the DCMB.
2	Proactive education of pet owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.	Implement various campaigns, such as wandering dog and cat campaigns and the benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsible pet ownership.	Number and type of campaigns undertaken annually. Annual reduction in dogs and cats wandering. Annual reduction in dogs and cats not microchipped or de-sexed.
3		Participate at community events to promote responsible dog and cat ownership and encourage positive behaviours of pets and their owners.	Events participated in and target audience.
4		Provide educational material for display and circulation to promote responsible pet ownership to Veterinary Clinics, Visitor Information Centre, Schools, and Holiday Rentals etc.	Number of pamphlets/brochures circulated. Number and type of different locations where educational material was distributed.
5	Ensure up-to-date promotional materials are available.	Regularly review and update promotional material to ensure it is accurate.	Review of promotional materials completed.
c) Effective Reporting and Management Structures			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Maintain appropriate reporting mechanisms for all reporting requirements under the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i> to ensure timely reporting to the Board.	Implement reporting system for compliance with regulatory provisions. Ensure Council's Dog Incident Reports are uploaded to the Dog and Cats Online.	Reporting system developed and implemented. Number and type of reports generated.
d) Community awareness of Pet Ownership Benefits and Responsibilities			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Encourage responsible pet ownership.	Undertake community awareness activities, using various communication mediums, to highlight the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership.	Number of activities completed. Types of communications mediums used.
2	Provide links to other relevant services on Council's website.	Provide links to other appropriate website about dogs and cats relevant information and services.	Number of links on Council website.
3	Community adequately informed of Dog On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas.	Review and update the Dogs On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas.	Schedule of On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas reviewed and attached to the Animal Management Plan and Council's website.
e) Visitor Information			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide relevant information to various services within Robe to ensure that visitors are aware of the Dog and Cat Management services that are available.	Supply brochures to accommodation facilities on dog On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas within the Robe District.	Number of facilities provided with brochures.
f) Registration of Dog and Cat Breeders			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Promote the legislative requirements for all breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	Actively investigate any pup and kitten litters identified for sale and ensure that the animals and breeders/sellers are compliant with the <i>Dog and Cat Management Act</i> .	Reduction in the number of owners selling pups and kittens who are not registered breeders.
2		Promote the requirement that a person must not sell a dog or cat they have bred unless they are registered as a breeder with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	Number of promotional activities undertaken. Number of expiations issued for breach of the Act. Number of breeders registered with the Board from the Robe District.

7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES

7.2 Dog Management			
a) Dog Registrations			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	High level of dog registrations achieved.	Promote dog registrations annually.	Reduction in dogs not registered annually.
2	Increased knowledge of legislative provisions around registration by the community.	Undertake annual door knocks to identify and ensure any unregistered dog is registered.	Number of dogs identified and registered as a result of door knocks.
b) Mandatory Microchip Identification			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs.	Partner with Council's local Veterinary Clinic to offer discount microchipping days.	Annual reduction in the number of dogs found not microchipped. Discount microchipping day held annually.
2	Authorised Officers to undertake microchipping training.	Authorised Officers trained in microchipping can implant microchips in dogs found wandering that are not already microchipped. The Council can recoup the costs from the owner, in place of expiating for the offence, this will assist with compliance.	Number of dog's microchipped by Authorised Officers.
c) Mandatory De-sexing			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide incentives to the community to assist in de-sexing programs.	Partner with Council's local Veterinary Clinic to offer discount de-sexing days subject to grant funding.	Annual reduction in the number of dogs found not de-sexed. Discount de-sexing day held annually.
2	Increase awareness in the benefits of de-sexing.	Encourage Council's local Veterinary Clinic to promote the benefits of de-sexing. Promote voluntary de-sexing for older dogs through the new mandatory rebate for 'standard dog' (dog that is de-sexed and microchipped). Distribute information on the benefits of de-sexing through the local Veterinary Clinic, Council Office and Council Website.	Promotional material provided by Council. Increase in the number of 'standard Dog' registrations. Number of types of information provided.
d) Wandering Dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Reduced the number of dogs wandering.	Respond to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public.	Number of reports followed up regarding wandering dogs.
2	Identification of dogs wandering.	Continue to conduct random patrols of all public places and detain dogs found to be wandering.	Number of dogs seized.
3	Return registered or identified dogs found wandering to their owners.	Use all avenues to identify and return wandering dogs to their owners.	Number of dogs return to their owners.
4	Advertise events where fireworks or weather could impact on the number of dogs wandering.	Proactively promote events as a reminder to pet owners to take the necessary steps to secure their pets.	Types of advertising undertaken and number of dog owners reached.
e) Faeces Management			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Dog owners to remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets.	Provide and promote facilities to ensure collection of faeces in public spaces by dog owners.	Types of facilities provided and number of different locations. Reduction in fines issued for faeces breaches.
f) Barking Dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Reduction in the number of barking dog complaints.	Provide information to owner/s where a complaint has been received regarding their pet barking and highlight various methods to help control barking. Provide educational information through the Community Newsletter to the reasons why dogs bark and how to address the issues.	Number of complaints received and resolved. Identify the number of reoffending complaints. Number of articles published.
g) Attacks and Harassments			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Decrease in dog attacks.	Promote the consequences of dog attacks prevention strategies.	Number of attack reports. Types of prevention information and strategies provided.
2	Dog attack and harassments reported and acted upon.	Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attack and harassments whether in a public place or on a private property. All reported dog incidents to be lodged onto Dogs and Cats Online.	Number of Attack/Harassments reported.
h) Exercise and Enrichment of Dogs			

7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs within the community.	Education of the community of the importance of exercise and enrichment and things they can do for their pets.	Number of promotional material provided by Council.
i) Impounded Dogs			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Continue to rehome suitable dogs. (a suitable dog for rehoming would have no aggressive or behavioural traits and would be assessed on a case by case basis).	Advertise any impounded dogs that are not claimed and suitable for rehoming.	Number of dogs successfully rehomed.
j) Dog By-Law			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	By-Law No.5 outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of dogs.	Review Council's Dog By-Law No.5.	By-Law No. 5 review completed.

7.3 Cat Management

a) Mandatory Microchip Identification			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs.	Partner with Council's local Veterinary Clinic to offer discount microchipping days.	Annual reduction in the number of cats found not microchipped. Discount microchipping day held annually.
2	Authorised Officers to undertake microchipping training.	Authorised Officers trained in microchipping can implant microchips in cats found wandering that are not already microchipped. The Council can recoup the costs from the owner, in place of expiating for the offence, this will assist with compliance.	Number of cat's microchipped by Authorised Officers.
b) Mandatory De-sexing			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Provide incentives to the community to assist in de-sexing programs.	Partner with Council's local Veterinary Clinic to offer discount de-sexing days.	Annual reduction in the number of cats found not de-sexed. Discount de-sexing day held annually.
2	Increase awareness in the benefits of de-sexing.	Encourage Council's local Veterinary Clinic to promote the benefits of de-sexing. Promote de-sexing for older cats. Distribute information on the benefits of de-sexing through the local Veterinary Clinic, Council Office and Council Website.	Promotional material provided by Council. Increased number of de-sexed cats. Number of types of information provided.
c) Owner responsibility			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Appropriate surrender of kittens.	Work with Council's local Veterinary Clinic to promote de-sexing of older cats to reduce the number of unwanted litters.	Reduced number of kitten litters surrendered annually.

7. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES/MEASURES

2	Increased awareness of owner responsibility and types of enclosures available to reduce wandering cats.	Pamphlets provided to owners of seized cats to enable them to consider an appropriate enclosure to secure their cat to their property.	Number of pamphlets issued.
d) Cat Trap Hire			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Proactively manage unidentified cats within the Robe District.	Cat traps are available for hire as required.	Number of cat traps hired annually.
2		Cat traps made available at the discretion of the Authorised Officer/s where un identified cat numbers are high.	Number of cat traps provided for free.
2		Undertake an education program on semi-owned cats to encourage people to either fully adopt the cats they feed or hand them into Council.	Number of cats trapped. Number of suitable cats rehomed. Number of cats handed into Council and euthanised.
e) Receiving Seized Cats and Impounding Cats			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	Appropriate management of cats trapped.	Council will endeavour to identify the cat and either return, rehome or euthanise the animal as determined on a case by case basis.	Number of cats trapped. Number of cats returned, rehomed or euthanised annually.
f) Cat By-Law			
	Objective	Strategies	Measures
1	By-Law No.6 outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of cats.	Review Council's Cat By-Law No.6.	By-Law No.6 review completed.

8. OUR FACILITIES

The District Council of Robe has a specialised dog pound that has seen improvements under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding. This facility assists in the accurate implementation of impounding wandering animals at large.

9. DOGS OFF LEASH MAP



10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

10.1 Schedule On-Leash, Off-Leash and Prohibited Areas

While the Act provides that a dog can be in a public place, provided that it is under the effective control of a person, and that effective control can be by command of that person who is in close proximity to the dog, and able to see the dog at all times, there are circumstances where the community has an expectation that tighter controls are required.

This tighter control is in the form of declaring that, in identified circumstances, dogs will have to be 'on-leash' in (but not limited to) the following circumstances.

- Where there is a congregation of people and traffic movements.
- Where there is a congregation of children.
- Where there is a congregation of families in a recreational setting.
- Where there is an expectation in the community that certain public and recreational areas are free from domestic animals.
- Where there is a known breeding area of the Hooded Plover (*Thinornis Rubricollis*) and other vulnerable shorebirds.
- Playing of sport.

1. Monitoring of By-Law No 5 – Dogs; to promote compliance with the following declared dog free areas within the Council district:

- All ovals and sports arenas at times when there is organised sport or training or other community events in place.
- All reserves and parks except for those specifically identified and set aside for the free exercise of dogs.
- Within 100 metres of a school or playground except for defined footpaths and walking and bicycle tracks where dogs must be on-leash.
- All other areas not designated as on-leash or off-leash areas are dog free areas.

2. Monitoring of By-Law No 5 – Dogs; to promote compliance with the following declared 'on-leash' areas within the Council district:

All ovals and sports arenas at times when no organised sport or training or other community events are evident.

- Long Beach Foreshore.
- Long Beach north of first ramp and south of rock barrier (second ramp).
- Long Beach north of rock barrier (second ramp) and south of third ramp between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Hoopers Beach (old sailing club) between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Fox Beach.
- Karatta Beach.
- Nora Creina Bay Beach between 9am to 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Boatswain Point Beach between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Town Beach and Foreshore from Post Office to Sea Vu Caravan Park.
- Lake Butler Marina.
- All streets, footpaths, jetties, walking and bicycle tracks within the townships of Robe, Boatswain Point and Greenways.

3. Monitoring of By-Law No 5 – Dogs; to promote compliance with the following declared 'off-leash' areas within the Council district:

- Wrights Bay.
- Lipson Park.
- West Beach.
- Long Beach north of third ramp to Boatswain Point Beach (excluding Guichen Bay Conservation Park).
- Long Beach north of rock barrier (second ramp) and south of third ramp except between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Hoopers Beach (old sailing club) except between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Nora Creina Bay Beach except between 9am and 8pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.
- Boatswain Point Beach except between 9am and 8 pm from December 1 to after the Easter Weekend.

10.2

<https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/documents/bylaws>

10.3

<https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/documents/bylaws>