

## New temporary home for Tweed's animal pound

### *Opportunity for public to comment on temporary pound development application*

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**A temporary home is set to be established by the end of 2019 to house Tweed Shire Council's Animal Pound services for the next two years.**

The temporary pound at Dulguigan will be jointly operated by Council's long-term Pound partner, Friends of the Pound, as part of their continuing care and rehoming activity.

A staff presence from Council's pound will be maintained seven days a week in order to continue the high standard of animal care established at the current Stotts Creek facility.

Negotiations have been finalised with a private landowner, Hy-Tec Industries (Queensland) Pty Ltd, and at its meeting of 1 August 2019 Council granted approval to lease part of its property at No. 36 Pollards Road, Dulguigan to establish the temporary facility. The site contains the remaining building and exercise yards of the former Home for the Paws animal boarding business, which ceased operations in 2016.

In April, Council resolved to invest \$1.5million to construct a new modern pound on the Council-owned site at No. 751 Eviron Road, Eviron. This was, in part, due to the current pound facility being within the area approved for the expansion of Council's waste operations at Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre, which includes a state-of-the-art organics processing facility for the Tweed's green waste.

The project team is now in the process of designing this new permanent facility at Eviron which is expected to be ready to open its doors in around 18 to 24 months following the necessary approval processes.

Director Planning and Regulation Vince Connell said the decision to relocate the current pound wasn't taken lightly.

"We're taking all steps and efforts to ensure that we maintain our current high standard of service and care of our impounded animals, throughout both the temporary arrangements and development of a modern pound and rehoming centre at Eviron," Mr Connell said.

"We are improving the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre so we reduce the amount of the community's waste being sent to landfill and recover more right here in the Tweed. This will help to limit the impact on ratepayers from the recent, well-publicised increases to the cost of processing recyclables being experienced globally, as well as the introduction of a new waste levy in Queensland this July," he said.

The Dulguigan site was considered to be the most suitable given that it is close to Council's Murwillumbah office, the former Home of the Paws business had left a significant range of shelter facilities and is DA-approved, and the property provides a great surrounding, natural environment for exercising the impounded animals, and is relatively isolated from surrounding residences.

A development application (DA) is being prepared for the broadened animal shelter use by Friends of the Pound and necessary upgrades of the existing premises. At this stage, it is expected that the DA will be lodged by mid to late August and then advertised for public comment. Following an expected DA approval and a minor building and site upgrade, the new temporary facility should be operating by the end of the year.

Council is also currently working with Friends of the Pound to provide a contingency of care of Council's impounded animals in the intervening period between the expected closure of Council's current pound at Stotts Creek in October, and the commencement of the temporary facility at Dulguigan.

Council will continue to work with other animal rescue groups to rehome any animals that cannot be accommodated by Friends of the Pound.

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