



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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Councils Need More Support to Deal with Dangerous Dogs

Liberal member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe has today called for Yarra Ranges Council to be given more State Government funding support to train and employ council rangers so that they can implement and enforce the Brumby Government's new dangerous dog laws.

"The *Domestic Animals Amendment (Dangerous Dogs) Bill* will bestow upon councils more power to ensure our streets and homes are safer from wandering and dangerous dogs. However, along with this responsibility comes an increased cost," Mrs Fyffe said.

"Councils already bear the burden of enforcing companion dog laws including registration and the employment of authorised officers and rangers. So it is no surprise that council has been handballed this new duty as well," Mrs Fyffe said.

Although cognisant of the additional burdens to council, Mrs Fyffe also acknowledged the need for more responsible pet ownership.

"More than 40 per cent of dogs are currently unregistered and an average of six dog attacks are reported every day in Victoria," Mrs Fyffe said.

Research by Monash University's Victorian Injuries Surveillance Unit suggests that dog attacks occur more frequently among unregistered dogs.

"My advice to pet owners is make sure your dogs are registered, microchipped, properly secured and receive early training. With the State Government's new dangerous dog laws the onus is entirely on pet owners to take responsibility or suffer the consequences," Mrs Fyffe said.

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