

Proposed Dog Restriction Area - Asche

Q1. What is being proposed?

A1. Litchfield Council is proposing to declare the suburb of Asche a Dog Restriction Area, limiting all properties in Asche to a maximum of two (2) dogs unless a licence is granted.

Q2. Why is Council proposing this restriction?

A2. Asche is a newly established, higher-density suburb with approximately 544 residential lots with an average size of around 450m², interconnected community parks and commercial areas proposed for the Territory Reserve parcel.

Experience in other high-density areas within the municipality shows that higher dog numbers on smaller lots can increase the risk of:

- Excessive barking and noise complaints
- Odour and waste issues
- Dog overcrowding and animal welfare concerns
- Neighbour disputes.

Introducing the restriction before the suburb is occupied provides clarity and supports positive neighbour relationships from the outset.

Q3. Why introduce this now?

A3. Asche is currently unoccupied. Introducing the restriction now:

- Provides transparency for prospective purchasers
- Will avoid retrospective enforcement issues
- Establishes clear expectations for future property owners.

This is a proactive measure to support community wellbeing as the suburb develops.

Q4. Will existing residents be affected?

A4. No. Asche is not yet occupied. No current dog owners will be impacted.

Q5. Can I keep more than two dogs?

A5. A person may apply to Council for a licence to keep more than two dogs. Applications would be assessed against formal criteria, including property size, animal welfare considerations and potential impact on neighbours.

Q6. Is this consistent with other councils?

A6. Yes. Comparable councils, including the City of Palmerston and City of Darwin, restrict standard residential properties to two dogs, reflecting common practice in urban and medium-density environments.

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Q7. Will this apply to the rest of Litchfield Municipality?

A7. At this time, Council is only considering the declaration for Asche.

However, Council acknowledges that there are existing urban living areas across the municipality. While no decision has been made to extend restrictions elsewhere, Council may consider similar measures in the future.

Any future proposal would require public consultation and Council resolution.

Q8. What legislation allows Council to do this?

A8. Under Section 23 of the Litchfield Council (Dog Management) By-Laws 2017, Council may declare an area to be a dog restriction area and prohibit the keeping of more than a specified number of dogs.

Q9. How can I provide feedback?

A9. Public consultation will run from 23 February 2026 to 22 March 2026.

Submissions can be made in writing via:

Email: council@litchfield.nt.gov.au
Mail: Supervisor Regulatory Services
Litchfield Council
PO Box 446
Humpty Doo
NT 0836

All feedback will be considered before a final decision is made at the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Q10. Who can I contact for more information?

A10. For further information, please contact Council on (08) 8983 6000 or visit Council's website litchfield.nt.gov.au.