

ATTACHMENT I

ATTACHMENT I

**COPY OF THE LETTER SENT TO THE
EXPERT PANEL MEMBERS**

Dear Elena,

I refer to previous advice from City staff regarding your possible membership on a panel to consider an application to revoke a dangerous dog declaration, issued by the City of Sydney Council (the "City").

Background

In December 2011, following four complaints of attacks by the same dog on a person, two dogs and a cat, the City imposed a dangerous dog declaration on a dog owned by a Mr Lawrence Gibbons.

Mr Gibbons appealed to the Local Court to have the declaration revoked. In December 2012 the Local Court dismissed this appeal and confirmed the decision of the City's authorised officer to declare the dog as a dangerous dog.

Under the provisions of section 39 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, the owner of a dog which has been declared dangerous by a council, may make an application to that council to have a dangerous dog declaration revoked.

Mr Gibbons has now made an application to the City for the declaration to be revoked.

The Panel

The City has determined that it is appropriate that a review of Mr Gibbons' application be conducted by an expert panel consisting of:

- Dr Robert Holmes, PhD (Animal Behaviour), Bachelor of Veterinary Science.
- Jeremy Bennett, Audit and Operations Co-ordinator, Sutherland Shire Council.
- Elena King, Bachelor of Animal Science, Companion Animals Liaison Officer, City of Sydney.

The Process

Following the consideration of all material before it, the Panel will be asked to prepare a report recommending whether the dangerous dog declaration should be revoked. The report will be presented to a meeting for Council's consideration and determination of Mr Gibbons' application. Panel members may be required to attend that meeting.

The proposed process for the review of this application is as follows:

1. Documentation regarding the dangerous dog declaration, including supporting evidence relating to relevant evidence to be reviewed by panel members; and

city of villages

ATTACHMENT I

2. A conference of all panel members to be held to discuss the matter, including consideration of written submissions made by Mr Gibbons and the City's authorised officer.

Please find enclosed the following documents to be reviewed as part of the consideration of this application:

From the City of Sydney –

- A chronological sequence of events that includes details of events leading up to the dangerous dog declaration
- A copy of the briefs of evidence relied upon by City staff when presenting their evidence to the Local Court, outlining the four attacks which this dog had been involved in.
- A copy of an email from Tara Dethridge (Council's Companion Animal Officer) dated 25 August 2008 detailing events relating to the dog's performance in dog training sessions provided by Hanrob.
- Memoranda dated 20 July 2006, 25 May 2011 and 3 June 2011, as well as guidelines from state government bodies regarding Council's obligations in relation to dangerous dogs.

From Mr Gibbons -

- A copy of an e-mail from Mr Gibbons dated the 4 January 2013 which sets out his grounds for requesting revocation.
- A copy of a report from Dr Kersti Seksel provided by Mr Gibbons in support of his application.
- A copy of an e-mail dated 26 February 2013 from Mr Gibbons which accompanied the report from Dr Seksel.

City staff will contact you shortly to arrange a conference to review the application by Mr Gibbons to the City to revoke the declaration.

Yours sincerely



GARRY HARDING
Director, City Operations.