

Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026

Proposed Changes and Why They Matter

The City of Cockburn has been reviewing its local laws, with the aim of renewing and aligning with best practice.

The purpose of a health and nuisances local law is to help protect the health and amenity of the community. It does this by regulating activities which have a greater potential to cause nuisance or which may be damaging to public or environmental health.

The proposed City of Cockburn Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026 will not completely replace the current Health Local Laws 2000. The existing laws will still apply for important matters like minimum housing standards, public buildings, and lodging houses. The new law will also update and replace certain sections of the City's Consolidated Local Laws that deal with 'dangerous and offensive things'.

The key changes are:

Amendment	Reason
Burning rubbish or certain materials will be prohibited unless approved by the City or allowed under other laws.	To protect public health and amenity.
A new rule to prevent the emission or reflection of light which creates a nuisance.	To replace the old technical standard with a simpler, clearer requirement.
Rules about removing rubbish, disused materials, and overgrown vegetation have been simplified.	To improve clarity and make it easier to comply.
Introduction of clauses requiring owners to keep stormwater and liquid waste on their land.	To protect public health and amenity.
The application process for dust/sand management plans has been streamlined.	To improve clarity, consistency, and provide greater transparency on the process.
Simplification of the disposal of liquid waste clause, so that liquid waste must be disposed of onsite in a way approved by the City, or offsite at an authorised facility.	To improve clarity and make it easier to comply.
Simplification of the mosquito, fly, rodent, cockroach, anthropod vector and pest control clauses to simply require an owner to take reasonable steps to prevent breeding of mosquitoes, flies, rodents, cockroaches, and other disease-carrying pests.	To improve clarity and make it easier to comply.
Introduction of clauses prohibiting the feeding of uncaged birds in a way that causes a nuisance, as well as requiring owners to prevent pigeons from nesting or perching on their property.	To protect public health and amenity.

Amendment	Reason
Standardising enforcement rules.	To improve clarity, consistency, and provide greater transparency.

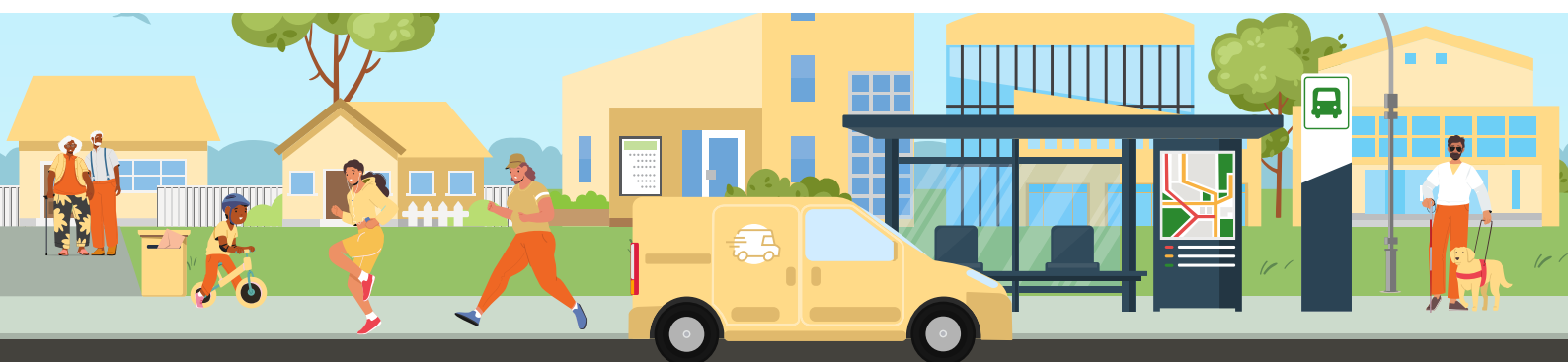
Review of the modified penalties to align with a three-tier approach.

To ensure the modified penalties better reflect the seriousness of the offence, and to also create the ability for the City to issue larger infringements for repeat offenders.

The City will not include some clauses from its current Health Local Law 2000 in the new Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026. These clauses are proposed to be excluded as they are either no longer needed or already covered by State legislation:

Clauses 8-9	Dealing with outdoor festivals and toilets.
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Clauses 11-13	Dealing with public toilets.
clause 16	Dealing with washing or keeping of clothes in kitchen.
Part 3, Div 4	Dealing with second-hand furniture, bedding and clothing.
Part 3, Div 5	Dealing with morgues.
Part 4, Div 2	Dealing with butchers' waste.
Part 5	Dealing with cleanliness of public vehicles, transportation, use and storage of offal and blood, and the use, storage and dispatch of fertiliser.
Part 4, Divs 4 and 5	Dealing with Argentine Ants and European Wasps.
Part 7	Infectious Diseases.
Part 9	Offensive Trades.

Please visit the [Proposed Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026 'Comment on Cockburn' page](#) for a copy of the complete [proposed new City of Cockburn Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026](#).



While local governments have the ability to make local laws under the Local Government Act 1995, there are limits to this power. Any local law must be fair, reasonable, and proportionate. It should be necessary for the good government of the district. Local laws cannot conflict with State legislation, and they shouldn't introduce major new policies or big changes to existing policies. That is the role of State Government.