

## Farmer wants new bylaw to control dogs

A TE KUITI farmer “fed up” with his sheep being mauled, is calling for stricter dog controls on dangerous breeds.

Paul Buist, who has farmed a 100 acre sheep and beef block on Liverpool St since 1972, says because of his farm’s proximity to town, sheep mauling incidents are a regular occurrence.

The latest took place on Wednesday and Thursday nights with five sheep mauled. They either died as a result of their injuries or were put down on Friday.

Mr Buist says each sheep costs about \$90-100 and in the past seven years he’s lost more than 30 to dog attacks.

And, he’s had enough.

He believes stricter controls such as mandatory castrating and neutering for certain breeds including Pit-bull, Rottweiler and Staffordshire-

cross, plus night patrols by Waitomo District Council’s dog control officer would help prevent future mauulings.

“We’ve had a lot of trouble over the years, but what annoys me the most is that the dog control bylaws were reviewed about 18 months ago and I made submissions to council about dangerous breeds – dogs that could do damage to stock and to people.

“I asked them if they could follow the lead of other district councils who have taken a stronger stand against dangerous breeds of dogs, but it didn’t happen.

### NEW BYLAW NEEDED

“I would like to have seen them implement a bylaw that requires owners to pay more to own a dangerous breed and if they do own a dangerous breed its breeding potential should be zip.

“That to me would be the ultimate because then you could phase them all out.”

Mr Buist says dangerous dogs are not only a threat to stock but people as well.

“When I see my sheep killed I feel sick and angry

“Stricter controls would help prevent incidents like this and the dog that mauled my sheep absolutely has the potential to do it to a young child.

“So surely the ultimate goal is to have no dog attacks and anything that can be done



**OVER IT:** Te Kuiti farmer Paul Buist is calling for stricter dog control bylaws following a mauling incident on his farm last week which resulted in five dead sheep.

to achieve that should be put into place.”

Following last week’s attack, Mr Buist says the response from the council’s dog control officer and

local police was prompt. A trap has been placed on his farm in an attempt to catch any dogs that are threatening his stock.



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