Community engagement outcomes report

Proposed New Cat By-law

Consultation dates: 21 August – 17 September 2024

Report prepared by:
Community Engagement team

November 2024

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Background

At its meeting on 11 April 2023, following a Motion without Notice, Council resolved:

1. *"That Council notes the response from the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water regarding statewide cat management and the intent of the State Government to introduce a draft Bill to amend the Act and consult with councils and elected members as part of this process.*
2. *That the CEO prepare a report to allow council to consider the commencement of a community engagement process for the purpose of understanding the Community's view on control of cats with the Council area.*
3. *That the report include:*
   - *Options for control of cats within the Council area*
   - *Details of other council by-laws on cat control in South Australia*
   - *Community engagement strategy*
   - *Any other information that the CEO deems appropriate.*
4. *That the report be returned to Council at the first Council meeting in May 2023.*

At its meeting on 9 May 2023, having considered the report titled "Cat Management and Control", Council resolved:

1. *Commences community engagement in relation to cat management and control within the City of Tea Tree Gully as outlined in the Community Engagement Strategy titled 'Cat Management in the City of Tea Tree Gully' (Attachment 4);*
2. *The community engagement survey includes questions covering the following potential provisions and other aspects relating to cat management and control:*
   - *a) Mandatory registration of cats, and views on reasonable fees*
   - *b) Microchipping of cats*
   - *c) Wearing of collar and identification tag when off owner's property*
   - *d) Containment of cats to owner's property at night/prohibition on wandering at large*
   - *e) Containment of cats at all times*
   - *f) Implementation of penalties and expiation fees if a cat causes a nuisance (eg noise, odour, aggression)*
   - *g) Compulsory desexing of cats (younger than six months)*
   - *h) Overall level of support/opposition for rules/legislation to address cat management*
   - *i) Views on a limit of two cats per property (owners can apply for permission to have more)*
   - *j) Determine experiences with nuisance cats on properties*
   - *k) Identify current behaviours undertaken by cat owners eg registration, microchipping, confining cats during the day/night*
   - *l) Any other issues or factors CEO should consider in relation to cat management*

At its meeting on 22 August 2023, having considered the report titled "Community Engagement Outcomes – Cat Management", Council resolved:

1. *Request the CEO write to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water stating:*
   - *a) Council remain supportive of Statewide Cat Management legislation;*

b) Eighty percent (80%) of survey respondents are supportive of having rules or legislation to address cat management and control within the City of Tea Tree Gully;
c) Council awaits the draft legislation; and
d) Provides a copy of the "Community Engagement Outcomes Report – Cat Management (inclusive of verbatim comments).

2. *Upon receipt of the draft legislation, responds to the appropriate entity with data from the Community Engagement Process on Cat Management in the City of Tea Tree Gully.*
3. *Awaits any further decisions on Cat Management for the City of Tea Tree Gully until the proposed legislation is passed through both houses of the South Australian Parliament with the purpose of not duplicating or contradicting any incoming laws or regulations.*
4. *If Cat Management legislation is not progressed by 30 June 2024, a report back to Council be presented with draft By-laws and a further community engagement strategy for consideration.*

Council staff initially received the consultation paper "Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 (draft Bill)" and provided feedback to the Department Environment & Water (DEW) on the proposed amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act). It was noted that there was a missed opportunity within the current Bill with respect to cat management. Council have long been advocating for a statewide approach to this issue, which has been left to all councils to deal with on an individual basis by way of by-law, or not at all.

Council had understood that proposed amendments to the Act would include amendments addressing the challenges faced by local government with regard to cat management. The current approach to cat management in the state is ad-hoc and confusing for the community.

Council has since received proposed amendments to the Act through the "Dog and Cat Management (Cat management) Amendment Bill 2024 relating specifically to the management of cats. The proposed themed changes include:
Revising and updating local council powers and functions for seizing and detaining cats so council can implement their by-laws and manage cats
Clarifying the powers and removing barriers for landscape boards, National Parks and other stakeholders to manage feral cats better

The proposed changes may impact councils' approach to enforcement in the future. The current sections of the Act designed to manage cats creates operational barriers for Council in returning lost cats to owners and managing nuisance cat complaints.

Should council proceed with Cat By-laws the recommendation would be that the "Cat Management Policy" be revoked given it is in place in the absence of a suitable state government approach to cat management which is what the By-law looks to solve. The "Community Safety Policy' would require changes should the Cat By-Law proceed, mainly through how Council would deal with cat management. Upon receiving legal advice, a key change that will need to take place regardless of the introduction of a Cat By-Law is ceasing the practice of trapping cats and providing traps to residents for that purpose.

The draft Cats By-Law presented for Council's consideration for endorsement for public consultation contains deliberative provisions for the control and management of owned cats in the Council area by:

- Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two cats
- Specifying the prescribed manner required for cat identification
- Requiring mandatory registration and provision for a registration fee, noting that a maximum initial 2 year period leading up to the financial year would be proposed at $0
- Requiring cats to be confined to their owner's property between 9.00pm and 7.00am

Legislative requirements

If the proposed by-law is endorsed by Council for public consultation, this much be undertaken in accordance with Section 249 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Council's Public Consultation Policy and give reasonable consideration to a written or other acceptable submission made to the Council on a proposed by-law.

At least 21 days prior to commencement of public consultation, the draft by-law, along with a report (prepared by Council's solicitors) is to be provided to the Dog & Cat Management Board to satisfy the provisions of Section 90(5) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. Council must consider any recommendations of the Board relating to the by-law. It is recommended that consultation does not commence until the Board's response to the by-law is received to prevent the need to rework the consultation.

Community engagement

Community engagement was undertaken to understand the views of the broader community about Council's draft By-law 7 – Cats. All feedback provided will be presented to Council for consideration prior to the making of this by-law.

At a Special Meeting of Council on 30 July 2024 Council endorsed community engagement to be undertaken on this proposal in accordance with section 249 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the community engagement strategy presented to Council at this meeting. This strategy was developed in line with the City of Tea Tree Gully's *Community Engagement Public Consultation Policy*.

At this meeting, the resolution was amended to request that the community engagement include a section to assist in the development of an Education and Support program, seeking community interest and sentiment on elements which may include (but not be limited to):

- A registration fee-free period for the first two years
- Discounted registration fee for the life of the cat for cats registered prior to the conclusion of the registration fee-free period
- Rebate or grant program to assist with cat-proofing for residents with registered cats
- Assistance with desexing for cats born prior to 1 July 2018
- Education materials
- Information sessions or workshops
- Microchipping days

Key messages

The following strategic key messages and communication points will be highlighted throughout the engagement process:
(subject to any changes to the resolution of Council on 30 July 2024)

- Councils in South Australia can establish by-laws under the Local Government Act 1999.
- By-laws are local laws established by councils to deal with issues specific to the relevant council area.
- In June 2023, Council consulted with the community to understand views on cat management and control in the City of Tea Tree Gully.
- Over 3400 people participated in a survey about their views on cat management and control. The majority of survey respondents (80%) supported rules or legislation to address cat management and control in CTTG. 58% of those who own or care for at least one cat were supportive.
- At a Council meeting in August 2023, Council requested a report with a draft cat by-law if the state government did not progress state-wide cat control legislation by 30 June 2024.
- Council have long advocated for a state-wide approach to cat management, an issue which has been left to councils to deal with on an individual basis by way of a by-law or not at all.
- Council staff initially received the consultation paper "Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024" and provided feedback to the state government, noting there was a missed opportunity with the current bill with respect to cat management. Council had understood that the proposed amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act would include amendments addressing the challenges face by local government about cat management.
- Council has received further proposed amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act through the "Dog and Cat Management (Cat Management) Amendment Bill 2024". Proposed changes include:
    - revising and updating local council powers and functions for seizing and detaining cats to allow councils to implement their by-laws and manage cats
    - clarifying the powers and removing barriers for landscape boards, National Parks and other stakeholders to manage feral cats better
- There has been some progression on cat management through this latest amendment bill however the proposed legislation is yet to be passed. In the meantime, Council has decided to proceed with community engagement on a draft cat by-law, as per the previous decision of Council in August 2023.
- The draft By-law 7 – Cats notes the following requirement for cats:
    - Must be registered every 12 months with provision for a registration fee – a $0 fee is proposed for a maximum initial 2-year period
    - Identification by means of a collar around the cat's neck with a tag setting out the name of the owner and address or phone number of the owner
    - Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two (2) cats (unless in a prescribed premises, ie cattery, veterinary practice, pet shop or with Council permission)
    - To be confined to their owner's property between 9.00pm and 7.00am
- The following are already legislated requirements for cats:
    - To be microchipped
    - Desexed before it is six months old
    - Not allow cats to cause a nuisance
- Should the Cat By-Law proceed Council's "Community Safety Policy" would require changes in relation to how Council would deal with cat management.

- Council's "Cat Management Policy" would also likely be revoked given it was established in the absence of a suitable state government approach to cat management and which is now what a cat by-law looks to solve.
- Based on legal advice provided to Council, a key change that would need to take place regardless of the introduction of a cat by-law is to cease the practice of trapping cats and providing traps to residents for this purpose.
- As per the Local Government Act, community engagement is required prior to the making of any by-laws. We are now seeking community feedback on the draft By-law 7 – Cats.
- All feedback provided will be presented to Council for consideration prior to Council making any decisions about adopting the By-law 7 – Cats.

Overview of community engagement activities

From 21 August to 17 September 2024 the community was invited to provide feedback on a proposed Cat By-law for the management & control of cats in the City of Tea Tree Gully.

Various marketing and communications methods were undertaken to advise the community of the opportunity to provide feedback including:

- Emails to stakeholders - private sector, community organisations, service providers and interest groups including:
    - Animal Welfare League (AWL)
    - RSPCA
    - C.A.T.S Cats Assistance to Sterilise Inc
    - SA Cat Rescue
    - Ginger Ninja Animal Rescue
    - Cat Adoption Foundation
    - Paws & Claws Adoptions
    - Friends of Anstey Hill Recreation Park
    - Friends of Dry Creek Trail
    - Friends of Cobbler Creek Recreation Park
    - Veterinary surgery owners/managers
    - Local cat breeders
    - Local cattery owners/managers
    - Community gardens (Wynn Vale and Dernancourt)
    - Local sporting clubs
    - Local schools
- A notice to the public in *The Advertiser* on 21 August 2024 (see Appendix 9)
- Email/letter to respondents from Cat Management & Control Survey conducted June 2023
- Email sent to members of our online community Have Your Say Tea Tree Gully' (approx. 3k subscribers) inviting feedback
- SMS to registered cat and dog owners (approx. 17k) (with email and letter to those with no mobile with no mobile number recorded)
- Social media post via Council's Facebook account
- Gully Life e-newsletter – September edition (approx. 34k subscribers)
- Digital screens in the Civic Centre, Recreation Centres and Tea Tree Gully Library
- Display stands at the library and Golden Grove and Turramurra Recreation Centres.
- Signage with a QR code/URL placed onsite at key playgrounds with sandpits/nature play including Balmoral Reserve, Bendigo Reserve, Civic Park, Edinburgh Reserve, Golden Fields, Illyarrie Reserve, Jubilee Reserve and Solandra Reserve
- Posters with a QR code/URL placed onsite at Council's four Community Centres and provided to local veterinary surgeries, pet stores and catteries
- Council's website (relevant pages/home page)

All communications referred people to Council's 'Have Your Say" website where further information could be accessed. This included:

- key messages
- an online feedback form (see Appendix 12)
- a fillable PDF of the online feedback form which could be downloaded
- a 'Q&A' form where people could ask questions about the proposal. Once answered, these questions and Council's response are made public

Paper hard copy surveys and copy of the draft Cat By-law were available on request and from:

- Council's Civic Centre reception, 571 Montague Road, Modbury
- Tea Tree Gully Library, Modbury
- Golden Grove and Turramurra Recreation Centres
- Community Centres (Holden Hill, Surrey Downs and Jubilee)

Community engagement outcomes

Overall, a total of **609 responses** were received.

Feedback form responses

During the consultation period a total of 563 feedback form responses were received by Council regarding the proposed Cat By-law.

One feedback form response was omitted as insufficient contact details were provided[1]. This left a total of **562 feedback form responses** that have been considered valid for the purposes of this report.

Of these responses, eight (8) respondents provided additional or supplementary feedback via email. This feedback was incorporated into feedback form responses and considered as part of an individual's feedback form response.

Verbatim comments from the feedback form responses can be found in Appendices 1-7.

Some respondents also used the option to provide images or other attachments to support their online form response. These can be found in Appendix 8. Relevant comments that these attachments relate to are noted in the verbatim comments appendices as appropriate.

Late responses

Four (4) feedback form responses were received after the consultation period closed and are not included in this report.

Email/written submissions

Forty seven (47) email/written submissions were received from respondents who did not provide feedback via Council's feedback form and have been considered a written submission for the purposes of this community engagement outcomes report.

In addition to email submissions from residents, submissions were also received from the following organisations/individuals including:

- Cats Assistance to Sterilise (C.A.T.S Inc) (2 x submissions from President & Vice-President)
- Animal Justice Party
- Olivia Savvas MP, Member for Newland

[1] The feedback form noted that for feedback to be included, name and contact details needed to be provided.

Community engagement statistics

Our online community engagement website collects statistics on how people engaged with the consultation. The following table shows the number of people who were 'aware', 'informed' and 'engaged' online.

Total website visits = 8,000 **Maximum visits per day = 2,200**
Aware **6,000 people** Made one single visit to the project page
⬇
Informed **2,000 people** Taken the next step and sought to find out more information by clicking on something, ie documents
⬇
Engaged **518 people*** Provided feedback (n=510) and/or asked a question online (n=10) *2 people who asked a question also provided feedback

Note: The three categories of visits are subsets of each other. That means 'engaged' visitors are also informed and aware; 'informed' visitors are all aware but not all went on to become 'engaged'. 'Aware' visitors are always just aware, not 'informed' or 'engaged'.

Total respondents	**609**
Online feedback form	n=510
Hard copy feedback form	n=52
Email	n=47

Feedback form results

Analysis notes

Percentages
Due to rounding, some percentages in the Results section may add to 99% or 101%.

Rounding may also affect the combined total of strongly support/support, fully support/partly support and oppose/strongly oppose figures, where individual scores may not add together as expected.

For questions where people could select more than one option or provide more than one reason for a response, percentages will not add to 100%. These question types (multiple response) are noted where applicable.

n values
Where n= is noted, this refers to the number of respondents or responses.

Comments
Comments or reasons for a response were asked for most feedback form questions.

In some instances, respondents provided comments for a different question instead of or in addition to the question it was relevant to. Some reassigning of these comments has been carried out, however some comments in the verbatim comments sections may not relate directly to the question.

Profile of respondents

Gender

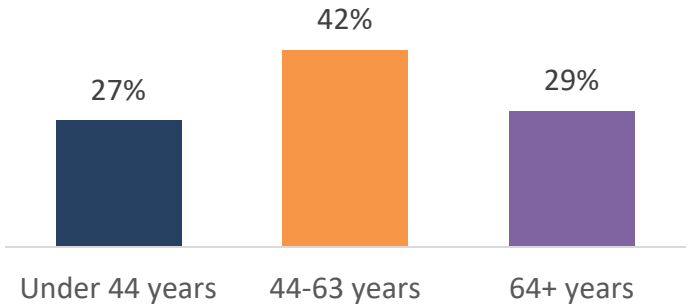
Female 64%



Male 34%

Non-binary/other 2%
Prefer not to say <1%
(n=555)

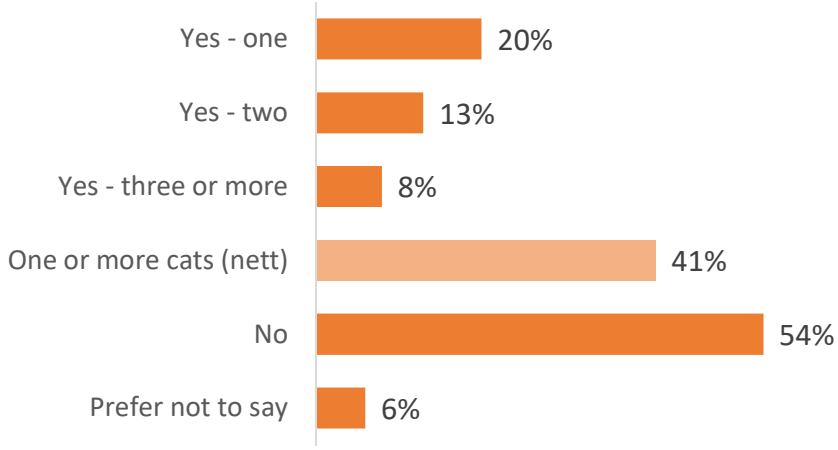
Age



(n=555)

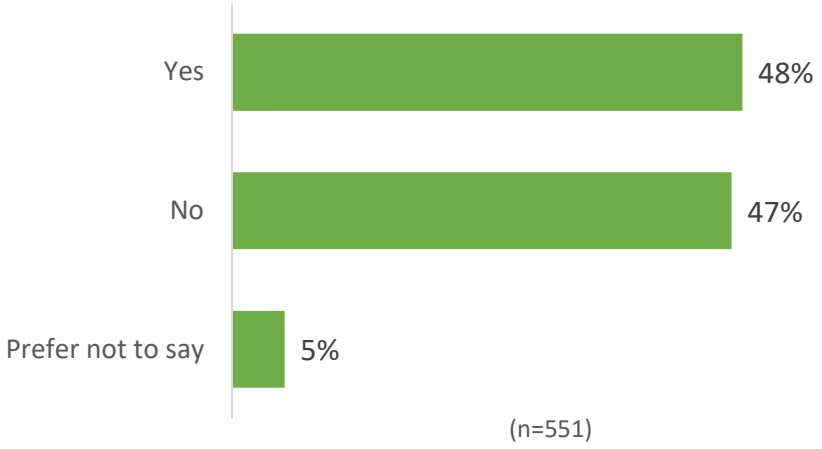
Prefer not to say 1%
(n=555)

Ownership/care of cats



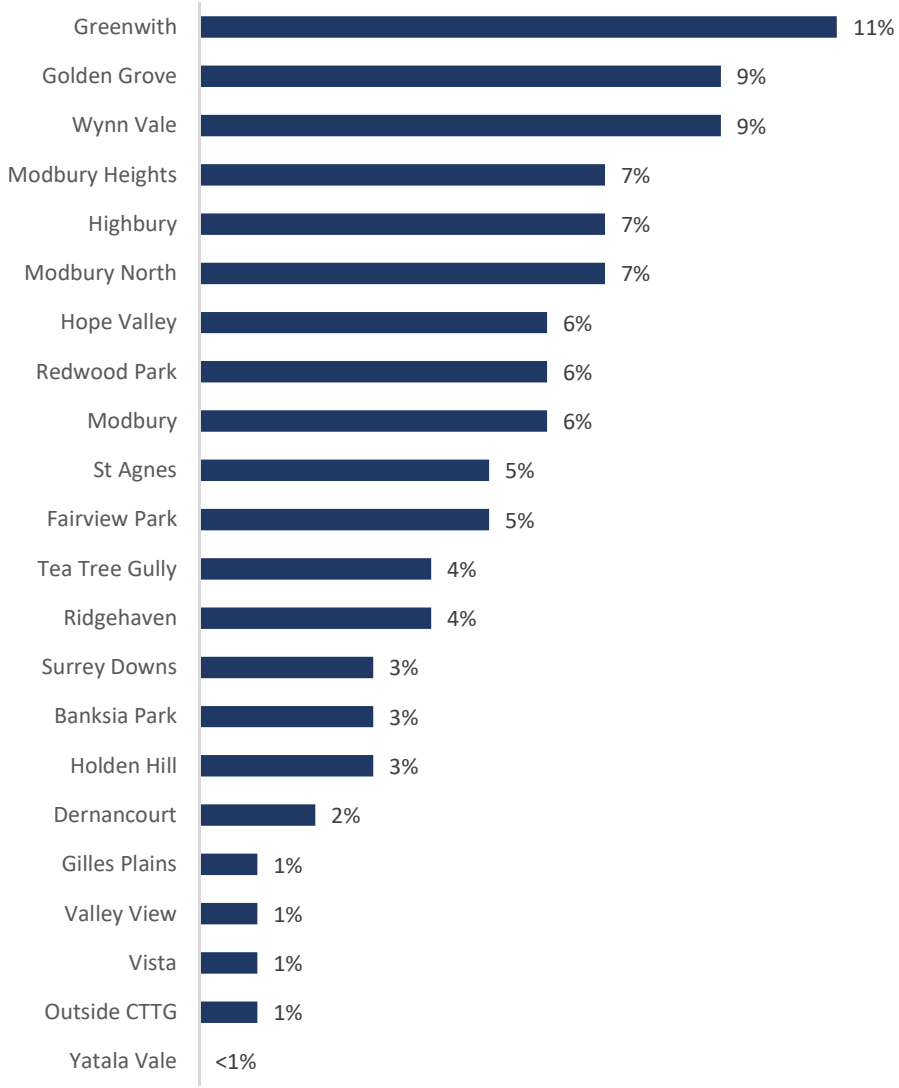
(n=553)

Ownership/care of dogs



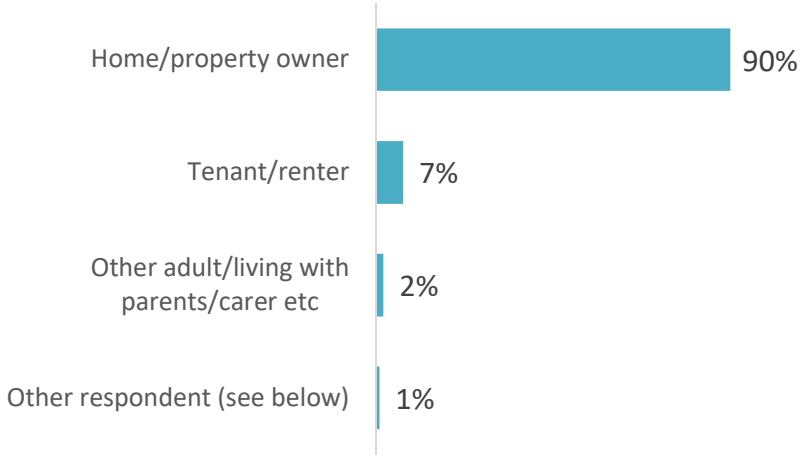
(n=551)

Suburb



Base: n=562

What best describes you?

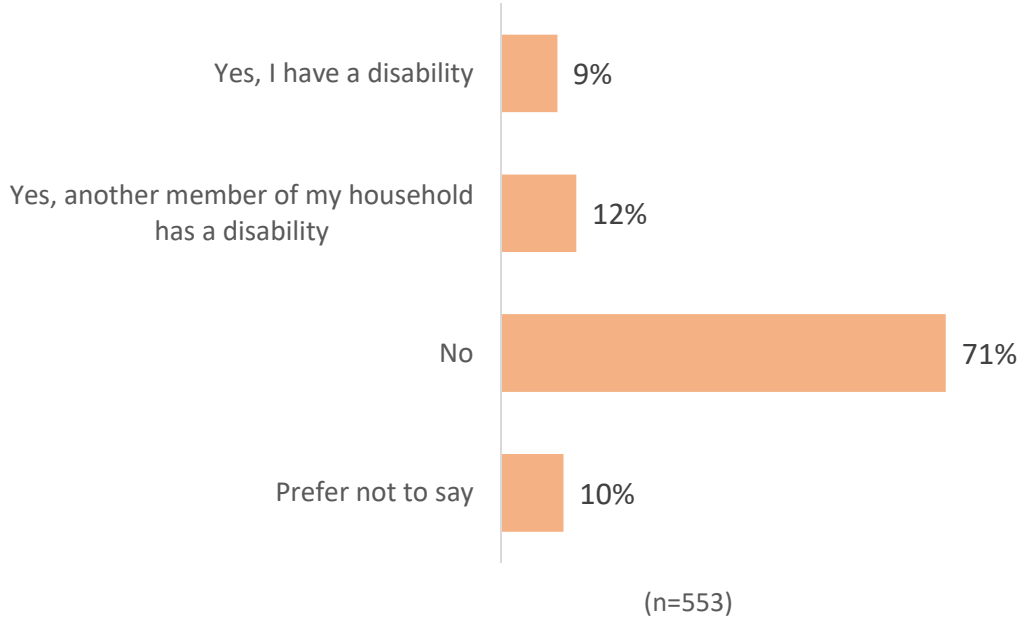


Other respondent:

- Representatives of a cat related business, association or advocacy group including Foreign Shorthair Cat Club and SA Cat Rescue Inc (n=3)
- Business owner or manager in CTTG (n=2)
- Employee of/vet at a veterinary surgery/practice in CTTG (n=1)
- Cat breeder (n=1)

Disability

Do you or any members of your household have a disability
(multiple response)



Overall: those who have a disability and/or someone in their household = 19%

Key findings

Overall views on the draft Cat By-law No. 7

Overall **87% of feedback form respondents** were **supportive** of the City of Tea Tree Gully draft Cat By-law:

- 42% Fully support
- 45% Partly support

Twelve percent (12%) stated they were **opposed** (do not support/do not want a Cat By-law).

Sixty six percent (66%) of those who provided a **written submission** were **supportive** of the draft Cat By-law[2]:

- 32% Fully support
- 34% Partly support

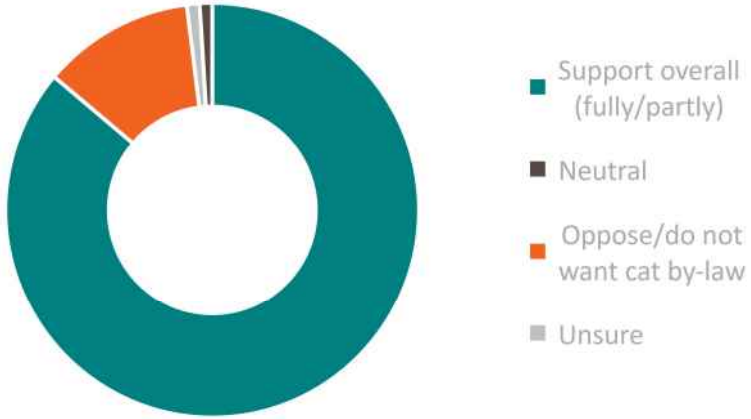
Twenty six percent (26%) of this group stated they were **opposed** (do not support/do not want a Cat by-law).

When considering views of **all respondents (feedback form and written submissions combined**), the support/oppose breakdown is:

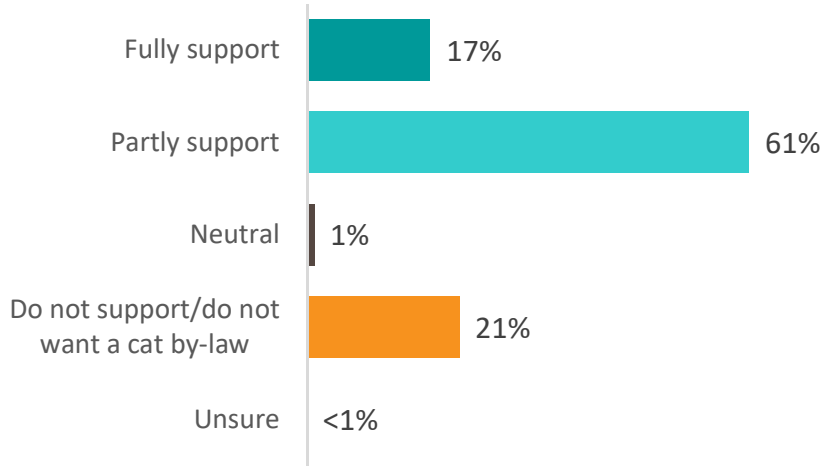
- 41% Fully support
- 44% Partly support
- 13% Do not support/do not want a Cat By-law

Those who **own or care for cats** were less supportive of the draft Cat By-law overall (**77% fully/partly support**). **Twenty one percent (21%)** stated they **did not support/want a Cat By-law**.

Support/opposition (feedback form responses, n=562)



Overall support/opposition (cat owners, n=226)



[2] Analysis of submissions was carried out to determine whether a view/position could be assigned based on the options provided in the feedback form. For four (4) responses this was unable to be determined.

Summary of key reasons for views on proposed Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Of the 562 feedback form responses, 536 responded to the question to provide **comments and/or any issues or concerns they had with aspects of the draft by-law**.

Key themes from comments of those who support (fully or partly support)

- Reduce visits from nuisance cats/damage to property, noise, fighting with pets etc
- Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property
- Protection of native wildlife and plants etc
- Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/safety issues

The main reason given for supporting (fully or partly) the draft Cat By-law was in relation to wanting to reduce instances of nuisance behaviour from unwanted cats on their property (30%).

The view that cats should be contained to an owner's property 24/7 (rather than the night curfew hours proposed) was mentioned by around a quarter of this group (23%).

The protection of the natural environment was also mentioned as a concern with respondents commenting on cats causing damage and harm to native wildlife (in particular) and plants (22%). Safety concerns were also raised in relation to cats wearing collars (16%).

Key themes from comments of those who oppose (do not support/do not want a Cat By-law

- Difficult/unnecessary to control cats/is detrimental to cats/are different to dogs
- Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/safety issues
- Registration should be free/minimal for contained/inside cats/existing cats
- Impact of cat limit (2)/owners may feel they'll be required to give up extra cats

The main reason for not supporting/not wanting a Cat By-law was concerns about difficulties in controlling cats and for cat welfare, particularly for cats used to being outside/not contained (30%).

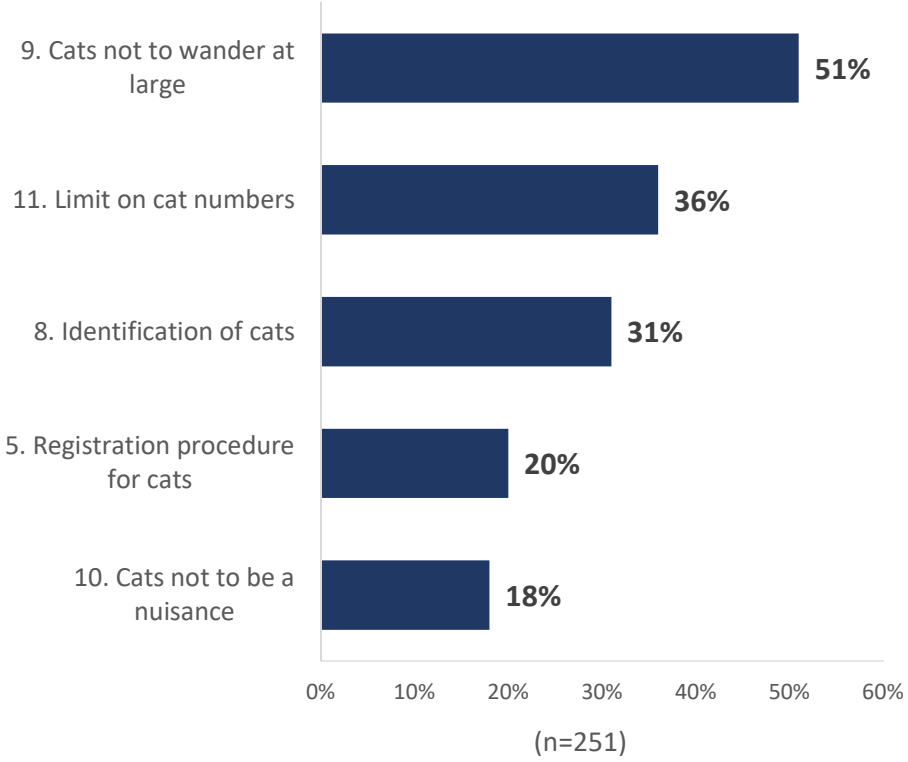
Other frequently mentioned reasons included reservations or safety concerns about collar wearing (28%) and objections to being charged a registration fee, particularly for cats that are contained or inside cats as it was felt these cats were not causing a nuisance and Council was not providing any facilities or services, such as those for dogs (28%).

There were also concerns raised about the proposed limit of two (2) cats; that people with more than two cats may believe they need to give up or abandon additional cats and that allowances/grandfather type clauses should be provided (24%).

Aspects of the draft Cat By-law where issues/concerns were raised

Where respondents indicated they 'Partly supported' the proposed Cat By-law, a follow up question was asked to about which aspect(s) of the draft by-law they had issues or concerns with, with the opportunity to provide further details about these selected aspects. This provides a guide for overall views as comments relating to some of these aspects were also provided by those who stated they 'Fully support', were 'Neutral' or 'Do not support/do not want a cat by-law'.

Top five aspects of draft Cat By-law selected relating to issues/concerns



Key comments made in relation to aspects of the draft Cat By-law

<u>Cats not to wander at large</u>

- Cats should be contained at all times/24/7 to owner's property

<u>Limit on cat numbers</u>

- Owners may think they need to give up additional cats/impact on shelters from abandoned cats

<u>Identification of cats</u>

- Collar wearing concerns/choking/hanging hazard/collars get lost
- Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification

<u>Registration procedure for cats</u>

- Registration should be free/minimal, particularly for inside/contained cats

<u>Cats not to be a nuisance</u>

- Cats should be contained at all times/24/7 to owner's property
- Nuisance cat definition requires clarity/additional conditions eg 'predates on wildlife/animals'
- Looking for/expecting by-law to reduce/prevent instances/experience of nuisance cats and encourage more responsible cat ownership

Views on potential Council education and support options

Additional questions were included in the feedback form as per the resolution of Council to gain feedback on aspects that Council may consider as part of an education and support program for the roll out of the Cat By-Law, should Council decide to proceed with a Cat By-law following community engagement.

Proposed $0 registration fee (no fee) for first two years of by-law coming into effect

As shown in the chart to the right, there was majority support from respondents for the first two years of the Cat By-law to have no registration fee.

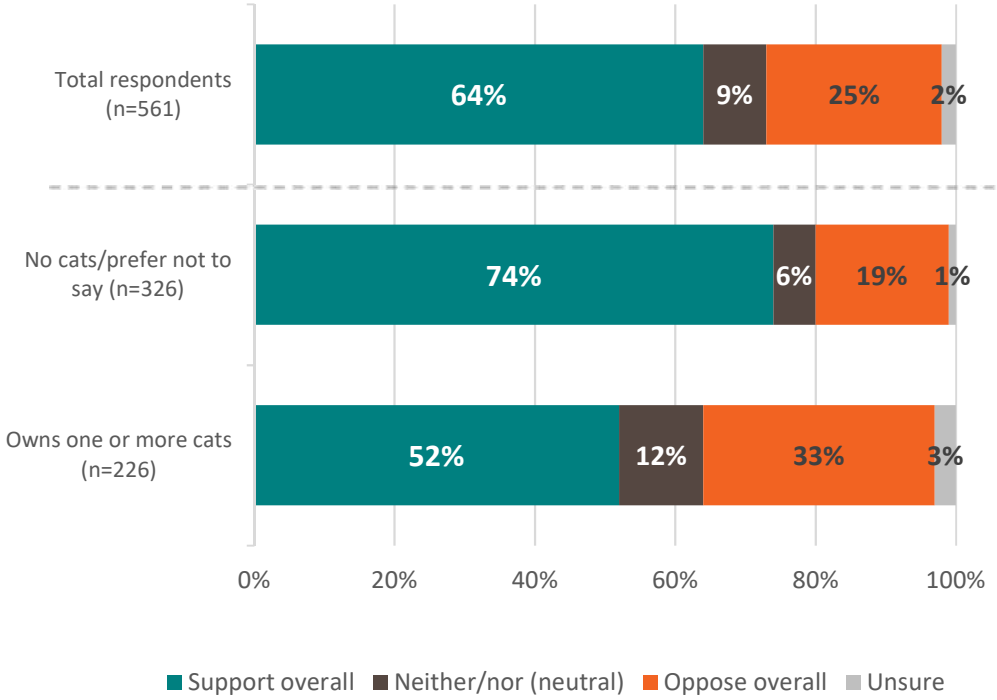
The key reasons and comments for supporting this included:

- General support for registration and/or fees/should be the same as dogs (12%)
- Agreement with having a transition period given a fee hasn't previously applied (7%)
- While supporting some also thought a fee should either:
  - come into effect earlier/within 6-12 months/have a reduced transition fee (6%), or start immediately/as soon as possible (6%)
  - continue to be free after two years, that cats being registered and microchipped was sufficient/no facilities or services provided for cats as they are for dogs (6%)

In relation to key reasons and comments for opposing:

- Similar to above, in that registration should continue to be free after the initial two years proposed (29%)
- Fees should start immediately/as soon as possible (19%)
- Registration fee is just or could become revenue raising/already pay enough in rates (17%)

As shown in the same chart, those who own or care for cats tended to be **less supportive** of this proposal. The most frequent reason or comment for both supporting and opposing (similar to above) was that there shouldn't be any ongoing registration fee or fee at all.



Note: The sum of n= for cat analysis figures does not equal 561 as not all respondents answered the cat ownership question

Provision of support & assistance | Education & information | Workshops & seminars

Just under half (45%) thought Council should provide **some level of support to cat owners** (for example discounted fees, rebates or other assistance).

A follow up question provided a list of four possible supports and asked respondent to select their three (3) most preferred.

The chart to the right shows the rate of preference overall (blue bar) and for cat owners specifically (green bar). Overall the most preferred option was a ***rebate or grant program for cat-proofing items***; while cat owners had the same preference level for this, the **most preferred option for cat owners was *discounted registration fee for the life of a registered cat*.**

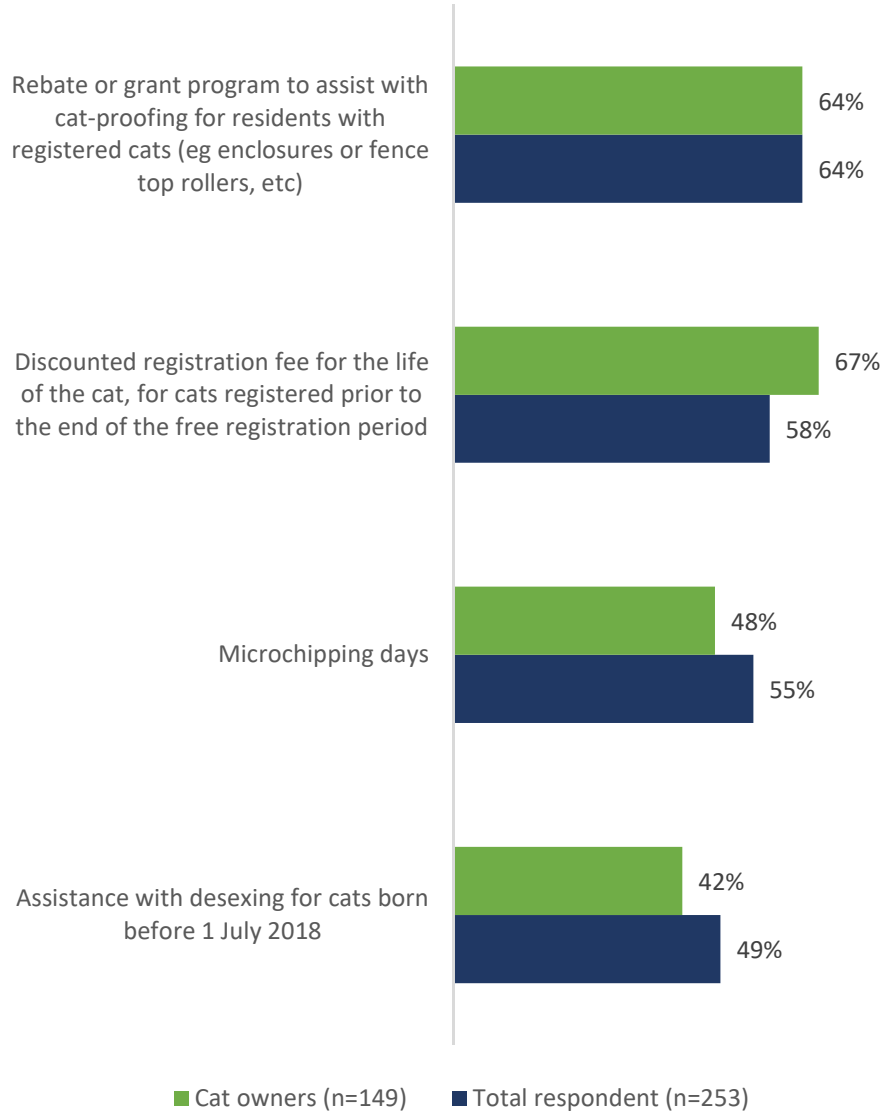
Having concessions and/or rebates available for the elderly, pensioners, low income earners etc was emphasised in comments (n=34), as well as having discounts/rebates for desexed and/or microchipped cats (n=26).

Education and information needs, in addition to a list of topics outlined in the feedback form, mostly related to or expanded on keeping cats at home and cat containment.

Around a quarter (26%) were interested in attending or would consider attending a workshop or seminar related to cat ownership or management. This was higher for cat owners specifically (41%).

From a list of topics provided, respondents were most interested in:

- Keeping cats at home (70%)
- Feral, unowned and stray cats (60%)
- Nuisance cats (51%)



Views on potential future Cat By-law requiring 24/7 containment in five years' time

As shown in the chart to the right, there was majority support (66%) from respondents for a possible introduction of a Cat By-law requiring 24/7 containment of cats, to commence in five years' time. When considering the views of cat owners only, views were evenly split between support and oppose (46% each).

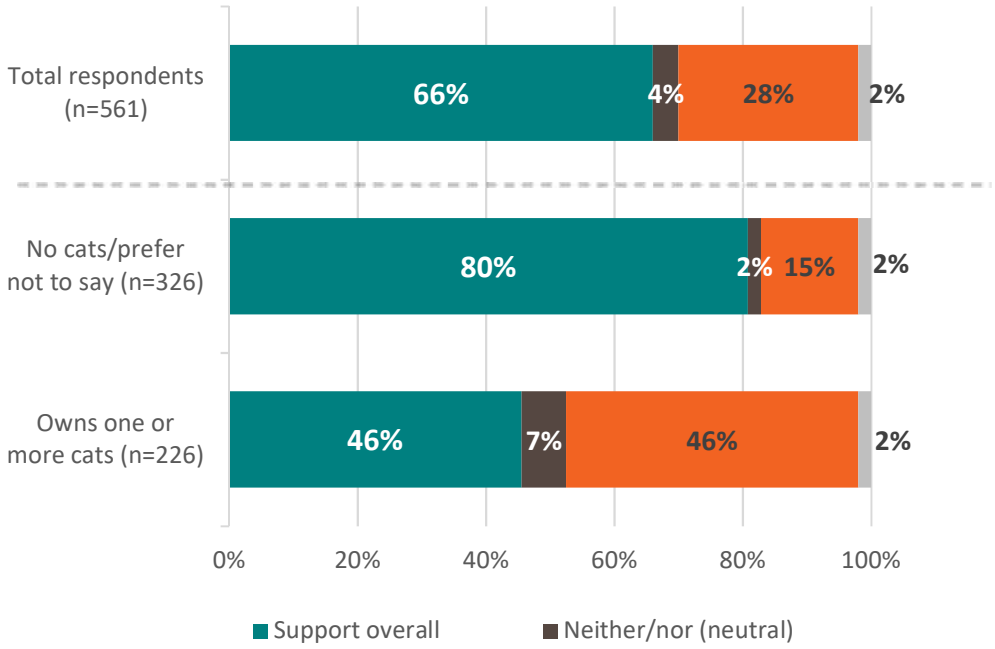
Around a quarter overall (23%) stated that they wanted this provision to start earlier than five years' time. This preference was split between those who stated they supported this proposal (but should be sooner, see below) and were the vast majority of this group, and those who opposed the proposal because of a preference for earlier introduction (around 10% of this group).

Key reasons/comments of those who supported this possible introduction:

- Support, but should commence sooner than five years (31%)
- Agree/support containment in general/24/7 containment/similar to dogs (13%)
- Needed for protection of wildlife (10%)

Key reasons for opposing this proposal:

- Difficulty in containing cats 24/7, is harsh/unreasonable/cruel, particularly for older cats used to being outside (34%)
- General opposition to cat by-laws not working/no evidence being provided to justify this measure (15%)
- There were some comments referring to containment being indoors/house containment and concerns raised about cats unable to go outside (15%) indicating different interpretations of what containment means
- Cost and affordability concerns with needing to create enclosed outdoor spaces/install enclosures etc (12%)
- Belief that a night curfew is enough (12%)

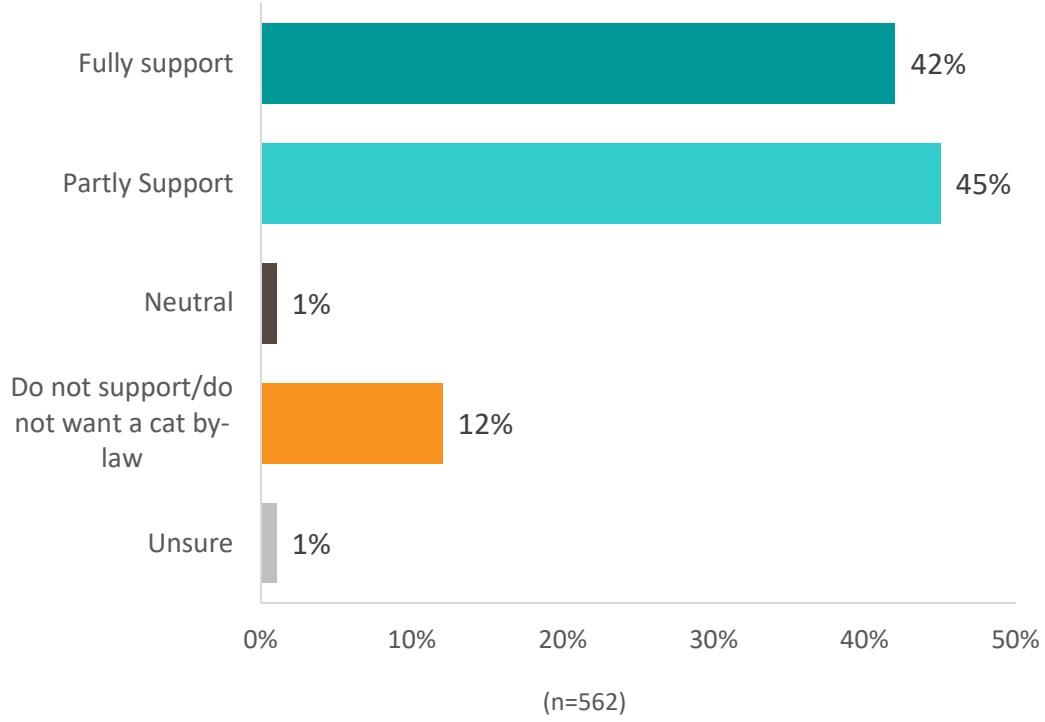


Detailed results

Views on the draft Cat By-Law no.7

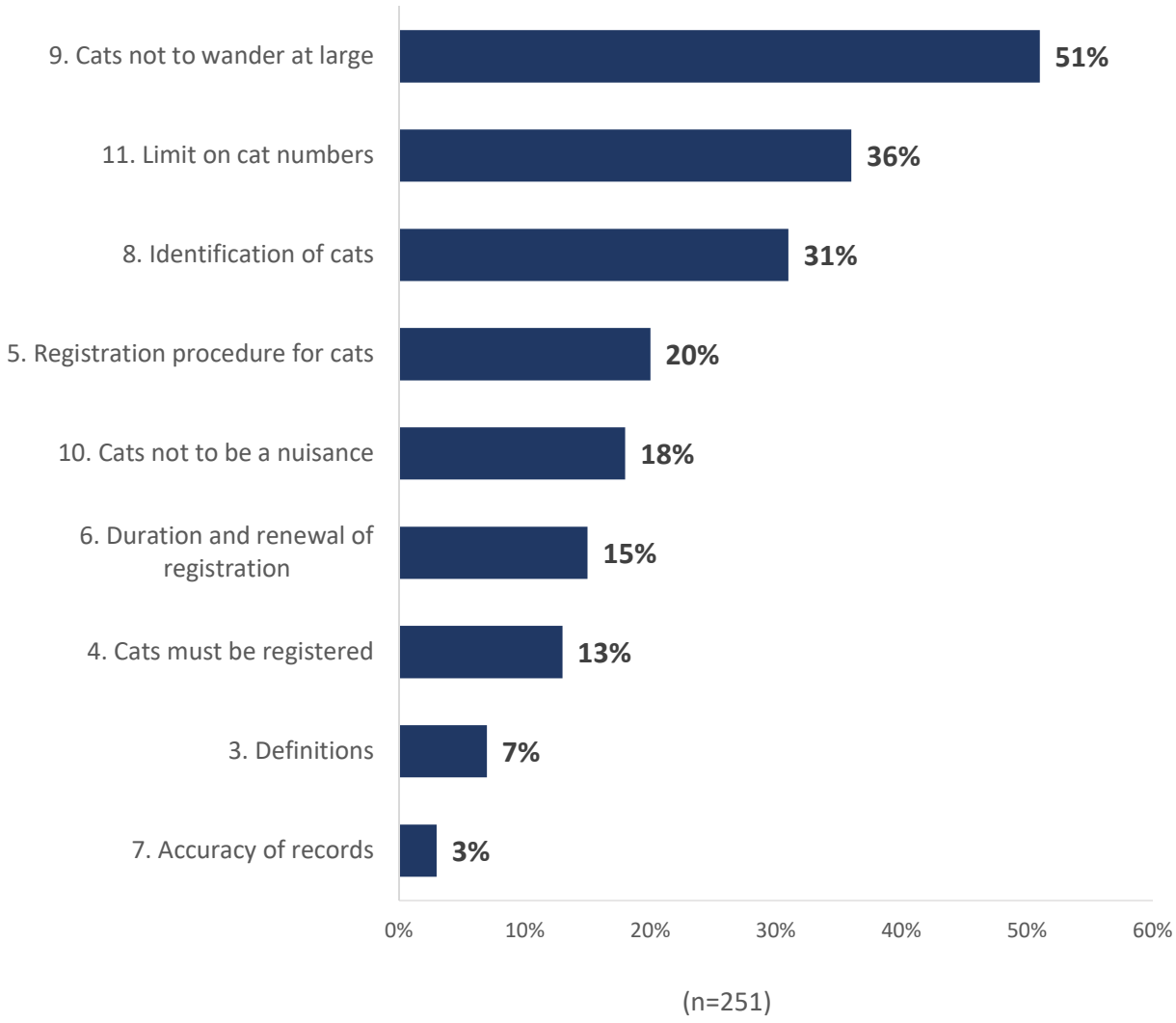
Which best describes your level of support or otherwise for the City of Tea tree Gully draft Cat By-law?

Response	No. of responses
Fully support	237
Partly support (have concerns/issues with one or more aspects)	251
Neutral	4
Do not support/do not want a Cat By-law	67
Unsure	3
Total	**562**



	Overall	Cat ownership/care			
		Owns one cat	Owns multiple cats	Owns one or more cats (Nett)	No cats/prefer not to say
Fully support	42%	20%	14%	17%	61%
Partly support	45%	52%	69%	61%	33%
Support overall	87%	72%	83%	77%	94%
Do not support	12%	27%	16%	21%	5%
Base	562	111	115	226	327

Aspects of the draft Cat By-law where there were issues or concerns (those who indicated 'Partly support) *(multiple response)*



Analysis of key themes for those who supported the draft Cat By-law (Fully support and Partly support) *(multiple response)*

	Fully support (n=237)		Partly Support (n=251)		Total (n=488)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reduce/prevent instances of cats roaming/ causing nuisance/damage to property, noise, fighting with/disturbing pets etc	133	56	13	5	146	30
Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a leash or supervised/then section 10 not needed/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day	36	15	78	31	114	23
Need to protect native plants and wildlife	98	41	10	4	108	22
Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/ collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained	1	0	77	31	78	16
General/overall support of by-law as proposed/common sense/seems fair/good balance/will be beneficial/need something to address issues	60	25	7	3	67	14
Encourage/support more responsible ownership/same rules/requirements as dogs	49	21	13	5	62	13
Impact of cat limit/owners may think they have to give up cats/impact on shelters from abandoned cats if unable to foster/adopt/ increase limit to 3-5/have grandfather clause/allowances/for responsible cat owners	1	0	55	22	56	11
Registration should be free/minimal/ particularly for inside or contained cats/existing cats/is revenue raising/cash grab by Council/no service provided for cats/revenue from fines enough	1	0	46	18	47	10
Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification/don't need registration/collars			47	19	47	10
Agree on/support cat containment to some degree/at night/solve many issues	23	10	14	6	37	8
Would like information/clarity around enforcement/registration fee/penalties that may apply/leniency provisions/how revenue will be spent/confused about wandering at large/5.4 wording"	1	0	29	12	30	6
To address/give Council power to control stray/feral cats in council area/better manage cat population/strengthen efforts/reduce burden on RSPCA/AWL, vets	18	8	7	3	25	5
Already responsible for own cats/most owners responsible/happy to/already contain cat(s) at night/to property	9	4	14	6	23	5
For safety of cats/peace of mind for owners that their cats aren't at risk/not causing a nuisance/risk of traffic hazard	22	9	1	0	23	5

	Fully support (n=237)		Partly Support (n=251)		Total (n=488)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No limit/higher limits on cat numbers/for indoor only cats/microchipped & desexed cats/for those involved with rescue or			22	9	22	5
Additional costs/financial burden on cat owners/low income households for registration/containment measures/during cost			21	8	21	4
Reservations/questions about effectiveness of/ability for council to enforce rules/curfew/permission to exceed cat limit/how this will be done/resourced	2	1	18	7	20	4
Blank/no response	*16*	*7*	*4*	*2*	*20*	*4*
Difficult/unnecessary/detrimental to contain or control cats/that are used to being outside/are different to dogs			19	8	19	4
Curfew/containment should start earlier/be increased/10pm too late	5	2	11	4	16	3
Responsible cat owners shouldn't be punished/penalised with undue fees/rules/because of minority not doing so/unowned cats that roam			16	6	16	3
(How) will Council deal with feral/nuisance/ stray cats/humanely/respond to complaints/ now trapping no longer available/serious concerns about colony cats/is a bigger issue than owned cats'	1	0	12	5	13	3
Agree with desexing/should be mandatory unless registered breeder/add compulsory desexing of cats/kittens to by-law	4	2	7	3	11	2
Nuisance cat definition requires clarity/add to section 10 'predates on birds and other wildlife/animals'/trespass on other property/causes property damage/person is guilty of an offence	1	0	10	4	11	2
Cats great companions for everyone/including vulnerable people/important for wellbeing for all/value of this not highlighted/by-law requirements impact these groups			10	4	10	2
To enable enforcement/management of cats/avenues for those impacted by cats			9	4	9	2
Heavy fines as deterrent should apply/stricter penalties/same as for dogs/for cats out at night/abandoning cats	2	1	6	2	8	2
Gradual/transitional introduction of by-law/to allow owners/older cats to adjust to confinement/requirements/consider ex	1	0	7	3	8	2
Is overdue/longstanding issue for Council	6	3	1	0	7	1
Have free/cheap/desexing days/vans/offset cost to residents/cat rescue groups	2	1	4	2	6	1
Concerns about impact on rodent control/increase in vermin with less cats about			6	2	6	1
Registration fees shouldn't be waived for two years/start immediately/same as dogs			6	2	6	1

	Fully support (n=237)		Partly Support (n=251)		Total (n=488)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Concern for safety of cats/from those who dislike/hate cats/say owned cats are 'stray'/may lead capturing/violence against cats/hate mail or calls to owners			5	2	5	1
Irresponsible owners won't comply/care if there are rules/law anyway			5	2	5	1
Should be once-off registration fee/not every year			5	2	5	1
Disagree with night curfew/containment/ domestic cats will occasionally wander/will return home/any issues discussed between neighbours instead			4	2	4	1
Do not support containment of cats at all time			4	2	4	1
Cat laws should be same across different councils/statewide for consistency/animals don't know boundaries/how will cats from other councils be treated	1	0	2	1	3	1
Agree with containment at night but prefer later/11pm to earlier/5am to allow for those who work late/leave early			3	1	3	1
Encourage 24/7 containment by educating about responsible cat ownership/more effective than regulations/fines			3	1	3	1
Previously responded to cat management survey/sent letter to Council	3	1			3	1
Prefer to have cat outside for health/wellbeing/can be stressed if always indoors/no litterbox inside			3	1	3	1
Restraint of cats with chain etc cruel/delete word 'chain'			3	1	3	1
Cat owners should have purpose built cat run/within certain timeframe/to enforce cat control 'properly'	2	1			2	0
Too much regulation/authoritarian approaches/more important issues for Council to focus on			2	1	2	0
Ensure no trapping/baiting allowed/for domestic cats/by public/prosecute instances			2	1	2	0
Privacy concerns/name and phone number or address required on tag/not required of dog owners			2	1	2	0
Registration fee same as dogs			2	1	2	0
Collars with identification help return of wandering cats	2	1			2	0
24/7 containment within 12 months/24 months/provide adjustment time/similar to Campbelltown Council			2	1	2	0
All domestic animals should managed in appropriate manner	1	0			1	0
Should have trap neuter release/rehome programs in place/to deal with unowned/stray cats			1	0	1	0
Cats should also be required to wear a bell/to alert native animals of presence			1	0	1	0

	Fully support (n=237)		Partly Support (n=251)		Total (n=488)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Any policy needs to be based on scientific studies/evidence/research/more consultation with experts etc			1	0	1	0
Need to find middle ground/more tolerance/harmony with neighbour/issue creates us and them feeling/division in community			1	0	1	0
Requirement for microchipping not included in by-law			1	0	1	0
Address ongoing dog issues/barking etc instead/more significant issues compared to cats			1	0	1	0
Desexing programs (like C.A.T.S.) needed/low cost or free desexing for stray, semi-owned cats/should be supported/funded by council instead/follow their recommendations			1	0	1	0
Number of cats for breeders no more than 10			1	0	1	0
Registration interferes with rehoming organisations work/transportation of unowned cats			1	0	1	0
Redefine 'cats not to wander at large' in terms of distance from owner's property/ban from National Parks			1	0	1	0
Limit of one cat per household/particularly if cats not fully contained			1	0	1	0
Concerned about how elderly will complete online registration/digital literacy issues			1	0	1	0
Estimates of wildlife predation by cats flawed/overstated/not significant issue/ humans/other wildlife have more impact than cats			1	0	1	0
Have no issues/with how cat management currently handled/not needed/CTTG doesn't have a cat management problem/not an issue in my area			1	0	1	0
Need more information/depends on what's intended/problem trying to solve/is insufficient justification			1	0	1	0

Analysis of key themes for those <u>did not support/want</u> the draft Cat By-law *(multiple response)*

	(n=67)	
	n	**%**
Difficult/unnecessary/detrimental to contain or control cats/that are used to being outside/are different to dogs	20	30
Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained	19	28
Registration should be free/minimal/ particularly for inside or contained cats/existing cats/is revenue raising/cash grab by Council/no service provided for cats/revenue from fines enough	19	28
Impact of cat limit/owners may think they have to give up cats/impact on shelters from abandoned cats if unable to foster/adopt/ increase limit to 3-5/have grandfather clause/allowances/for responsible cat owners	16	24
Too much regulation/authoritarian approaches/more important issues for Council to focus on	13	19
Additional costs/financial burden on cat owners/low income households for registration/containment measures/during cost of living crisis/could lead to abandonment/pressure on shelters/will council help	11	16
Cats great companions for everyone/including vulnerable people/important for wellbeing for all/value of this not highlighted/by-law requirements impact these groups	10	15
Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification/don't need registration/collars	9	13
Have no issues/with how cat management currently handled/not needed/CTTG doesn't have a cat management problem/not an issue in my area	8	12
Reservations/questions about effectiveness of/ability for council to enforce rules/curfew/permission to exceed cat limit etc/how this will be done/resourced	7	10
Already responsible for own cats/most owners responsible/happy to/already contain cat(s) at night/to property	6	9
Agree on/support cat containment to some degree/at night/solve many issues	5	7
Prefer to have cat outside for health/wellbeing/can be stressed if always indoors/no litterbox inside	5	7
No limit/higher limits on cat numbers/for indoor only cats/microchipped & desexed cats/for those involved with rescue organisations/foster carers/should be individual choice	5	7
Desexing programs (like C.A.T.S.) needed/low cost or free desexing for stray, semi-owned cats/should be supported/funded by council instead/follow their recommendations	5	7
Cat legislation/regulation does not work/to manage & control cats/measures suggested won't address current issues	5	7
Blank/no response	*5*	*7*
Any policy needs to be based on scientific studies/evidence/research/more consultation with experts etc	4	6
Concerns about impact on rodent control/increase in vermin with less cats about	4	6
(How) will Council deal with feral/nuisance/stray cats/humanely/respond to complaints/now trapping no longer available/serious concerns about colony cats/is a bigger issue than owned cats	3	4
Responsible cat owners shouldn't be punished/penalised with undue fees/rules/because of minority not doing so/unowned cats that roam	3	4
Concern for safety of cats/from those who dislike/hate cats/say owned cats are 'stray'/may lead capturing/violence against cats/hate mail or calls to owners	3	4
Would like information/clarity around enforcement/registration fee/penalties that may apply/leniency provisions/how revenue will be spent/confused about wandering at large/5.4 wording	3	4
Vocal minority/cat haters pushing for this/extreme measures/laws/appeasement	3	4

	(n=67)	
	n	**%**
Need to find middle ground/more tolerance/harmony with neighbour/issue creates us and them feeling/division in community	3	4
Address ongoing dog issues/barking etc instead/more significant issues compared to cats	3	4
By-law is cruel to cats/will lead to execution of cats	3	4
Estimates of wildlife predation by cats flawed/overstated/not significant issue/humans/other wildlife have more impact than cats	3	4
Agree with desexing/should be mandatory unless registered breeder/add compulsory desexing of cats/kittens to by-law	2	3
Cats should be contained at all times/to owners property/not wandering/unless on a leash or supervised/then section 10 not needed/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day	2	3
Privacy concerns/name and phone number or address required on tag/not required of dog owners	2	3
Do not support containment of cats at all time	2	3
Need more information/depends on what's intended/problem trying to solve/is insufficient justification	2	3
Cat laws should be same across different councils/statewide for consistency/animals don't know boundaries/how will cats from other councils be treated	1	1
Council should support/encourage local rescue groups/foster carers/non-profit cat groups/paying vet costs before adoption	1	1
All domestic animals should managed in appropriate manner	1	1
Should have trap neuter release/rehome programs in place/to deal with unowned/stray cats	1	1
Should be once-off registration fee/not every year	1	1
Restraint of cats with chain etc cruel/delete word 'chain'	1	1
Limit of one cat per household/particularly if cats not fully contained	1	1
Registration fee same as dogs	1	1
Concerned about how elderly will complete online registration/digital literacy issues	1	1
Stray cats and feral cats are different/need different management strategies	1	1
Should be longer time for by-law to take effect/10 years/for older cats to die out/newer cats trained for curfew	1	1
New registration system/by-law will create administrative/financial burden to cat rescue charities/no exemptions referenced	1	1

Analysis of key themes for those stating <u>neutral</u> to the draft Cat By-law *(multiple response)*

	n=4	
	n	**%**
Neutral towards By-law/do not see cats in my area	2	50
Already responsible for own cats/most owners responsible/happy to/already contain cat(s) at night/to property	1	25
Difficult/unnecessary/detrimental to contain or control cats/that are used to being outside/are different to dogs	1	25
Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification/don't need registration/collars	1	25
Blank/no response	*1*	*25*

Analysis of key themes for those stating <u>don't know</u> to the draft Cat By-law *(multiple response)*

	n=3	
	n	**%**
Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a leash or supervised/then section 10 not needed/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day	1	33
All domestic animals should managed in appropriate manner	1	33
Difficult/unnecessary/detrimental to contain or control cats/that are used to being outside/are different to dogs	1	33
Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained	1	33
Impact of cat limit/owners may think they have to give up cats/impact on shelters from abandoned cats if unable to foster/adopt/ increase limit to 3-5/have grandfather clause/allowances/for responsible cat owners	1	33

See Appendix 1 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Views on education and support

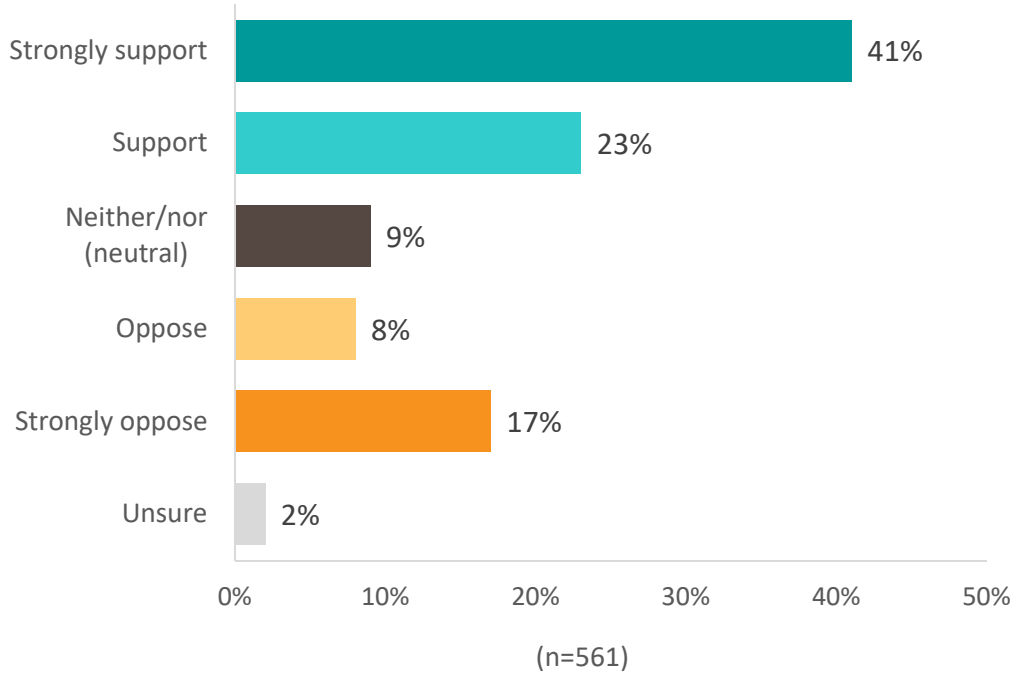
Should Council proceed with a Cat By-law following community engagement, there are a number of aspects that Council may consider as part of an education and support program for the roll out of the by-law.

Council is keen to better understand the community's view and preferences on the following.

The draft by-law would require cats to be registered every 12 months. Council is proposing a $0 fee (fee free) period for the first two years of the by-law coming into effect.

To what extent do you support or oppose this proposed approach for registration fees?

Response	No. of responses
Strongly support	230
Support	131
Neither/nor (neutral)	51
Oppose	45
Strongly oppose	94
Unsure	10
Total	**561**



	Overall	Cat ownership/care			
		Owns one cat	Owns multiple cats	Owns one or more cats (Nett)	No/prefer not to say
Support overall	64%	50%	54%	52%	74%
Oppose overall	25%	38%	28%	33%	19%
Base	561	111	115	226	326

Reasons for <u>supporting</u> a $0 fee for first two years of cat by-law *(multiple response)*

	n=361	
	n	**%**
Blank/no response	*175*	*48*
General support for registration/fees/sooner the better/same as dogs/allow proper management of cats/commence registration as soon as practicable/make cat owners more responsible/accountable	43	12
Agree with transition period/fee hasn't applied before/get people on board/encourage registration/allow time to raise	26	7
Fees should come into effect earlier/within 6-12 months/only first year should be free/ discount second year/reduced transition fee	21	6
Should be no (ongoing) registration fee/should be free/registered and microchipped sufficient/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	21	6
Fees should start immediately/as soon as possible/as soon as by-law passed/reduced transition fee/have to pay for dogs	20	6
Registration fee should be nominal/small/$10/enough to cover admin/lower than dogs/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	19	5
Fees should be scaled/discounted if desexed/microchipped/cat run installed/indoor/ contained cats	13	4
Should be (small) fee to cover cost of/appropriate amount to help council manage cats/for control officers/enforcement/cat holding facility/with no impact on rates	12	3
(Then) Fee to be at least the same/equal to that for dogs	7	2
Ensure discounts/concessions available/for pensioners etc	7	2
Registration helps identify owned cat/understand cat numbers in community	7	2
How will it be governed/enforced/clarity on process/reservations about management	4	1
(High) Fee/need to register may lead to dumped/abandoned cats	4	1
Use portion of registration funds to assist rescue shelters/desexing programs	4	1
Clarity on what fee/revenue will be used for/purpose of registration/cost to ratepayers/benefit to cat owners/cats not like dogs	3	1
Would like/provide details of fee after two years/before commenting/assume there'll be a fee after two years	3	1
Offer same fee waiver to dog owners too/if fee not introduced at the start	2	1
Cat already registered with DACO/microchipped/responsible cat owner	2	1
Registration should include proof of permanent cat run/catio/in place prior to purchase of cat	2	1
May encourage residents to have only two cats	2	1
Cat registration already administered by state government/DACO/national database/all done online by owner/little impact	2	1
Consider no fee for existing cats/start paying for new cats	2	1
Oppose any fee if cat always contained/indoors/unlikely to wander/what is cost to Council of these cats	1	0
Registration fee is just/or could become revenue raising/already pay enough in rates/another tax/won't affect roaming cat	1	0
Don't support registration if used to justify killing unowned/unregistered cats	1	0
Process to register online could be made simpler/digital literacy concerns	1	0
Two years not long enough/need to consider impact on three generations of cats	1	0

Reasons for <u>opposing</u> a $0 fee for first two years of cat by-law *(multiple response)*

	n=139	
	n	**%**
Should be no (ongoing) registration fee/should be free/registered and microchipped sufficient/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	41	29
Fees should start immediately/as soon as possible/as soon as by-law passed/reduced transition fee/have to pay for dogs	26	19
Registration fee is just/or could become revenue raising/already pay enough in rates/ another tax/won't affect roaming cat numbers/solve cat problem	24	17
Blank/no response	*17*	*12*
Oppose any fee if cat always contained/indoors/unlikely to wander/what is cost to council of these cats	14	10
Clarity on what fee/revenue will be used for/purpose of registration/cost to ratepayers/benefit to cat owners/cats not like dogs	11	8
General support for registration/fees/sooner the better/same as dogs/allow proper management of cats/commence registration as soon as practicable/make cat owners more responsible/accountable	8	6
Cat registration already administered by state government/DACO/national database/all done online by owner/little impact	8	6
Would like/provide details of fee after two years/before commenting/assume there'll be a fee after two years	7	5
Fees should come into effect earlier/within 6-12 months/only first year should be free/discount second year/reduced transition fee	6	4
(High) Fee/need to register may lead to dumped/abandoned cats	6	4
Introducing fee hinders work of animal welfare/adoption agencies/deter cat rescue/ fostering/will end up with more stray	5	4
Registration fee should be nominal/small/$10/enough to cover admin/lower than dogs/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	4	3
How will it be governed/enforced/clarity on process/reservations about management	4	3
Desexing should have more priority over other measures/provide financial assistance/vouchers for desexing instead/partner with CATS Inc	4	3
Already pay enough in rates/do not want to pay additional fees to fund enforcement etc	4	3
Offer same fee waiver to dog owners too/if fee not introduced at the start	3	2
(Then) Fee to be at least the same/equal to that for dogs	2	1
Registration fees lead to more work/expense for council/efforts/budget put towards rehab of wandering cats instead	1	1
Registration cost should be higher than dog registration/cause more nuisance than contained dogs	1	1
Fees should be scaled/discounted if desexed/microchipped/cat run installed/indoor/contained cats	1	1
Registration helps identify owned cat/understand cat numbers in community	1	1
Consider no fee for existing cats/start paying for new cats	1	1
Two years not long enough/need to consider impact on three generations of cats	1	1
Use extra funds with earlier introduction of fee to educate public/enforce by-law	1	1
Waive expiation fees for first year/use opportunity for education	1	1

Reasons for stating <u>neutral</u> to a $0 fee for first two years of cat by-law *(multiple response)*

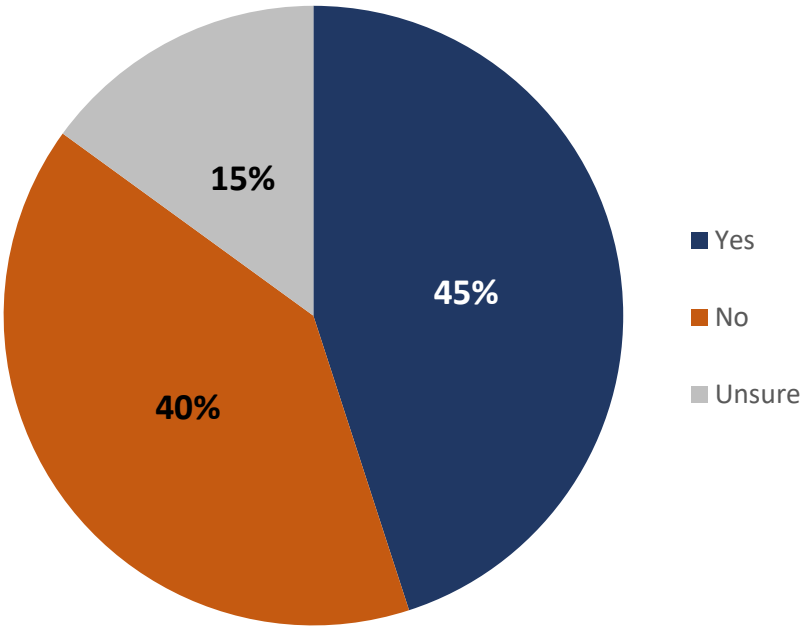
	n=51	
	n	**%**
Blank/no response	*21*	*41*
Should be no (ongoing) registration fee/should be free/registered and microchipped sufficient/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	6	12
Clarity on what fee/revenue will be used for/purpose of registration/cost to ratepayers/ benefit to cat owners/cats not like dogs	6	12
General support for registration/fees/sooner the better/same as dogs/allow proper management of cats/commence registration as soon as practicable/make cat owners more responsible/accountable	3	6
Registration fee is just/or could become revenue raising/already pay enough in rates/ another tax/won't affect roaming cat numbers/solve cat problem	3	6
Would like/provide details of fee after two years/before commenting/assume there'll be a fee after two years	3	6
Registration fee should be nominal/small/$10/enough to cover admin/lower than dogs/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	2	4
Fees should start immediately/as soon as possible/as soon as by-law passed/reduced transition fee/have to pay for dogs	2	4
Should be (small) fee to cover cost of/appropriate amount to help council manage cats/for control officers/enforcement/cat holding facility/with no impact on rates	2	4
Use portion of registration funds to assist rescue shelters/desexing programs	2	4
(Then) Fee to be at least the same/equal to that for dogs	1	2
How will it be governed/enforced/clarity on process/reservations about management	1	2
Offer same fee waiver to dog owners too/if fee not introduced at the start	1	2
Cat already registered with DACO/microchipped/responsible cat owner	1	2
Cover cost of compliance/enforcement through fines etc /registration fees for admin only	1	2
Introducing fee hinders work of animal welfare/adoption agencies/deter cat rescue/ fostering/will end up with more stray	1	2

Reasons for stating <u>don't know</u> a $0 fee for first two years of cat by-law *(multiple response)*

	n=10	
	n	**%**
Registration fee is just/or could become revenue raising/already pay enough in rates/another tax/won't affect roaming cat numbers/solve cat problem	4	40
Registration fee should be nominal/small/$10/enough to cover admin/lower than dogs/no facilities/services like dogs/affordability concerns for vulnerable/elderly/low income earners/cost of living pressures/will deter registration	3	30
Would like/provide details of fee after two years/before commenting/assume there'll be a fee after two years	2	20
General support for registration/fees/sooner the better/same as dogs/allow proper management of cats/commence registration as soon as practicable/make cat owners more responsible/accountable	1	10
Oppose any fee if cat always contained/indoors/unlikely to wander/what is cost to council of these cats	1	10
Fees should be scaled/discounted if desexed/microchipped/cat run installed/indoor/contained cats	1	10
Introducing fee hinders work of animal welfare/adoption agencies/deter cat rescue/fostering/will end up with more stray cats	1	10
Two years not long enough/need to consider impact on three generations of cats	1	10
Blank/no response	*1*	*10*

See Appendix 2 for comments provided in relation to this question.

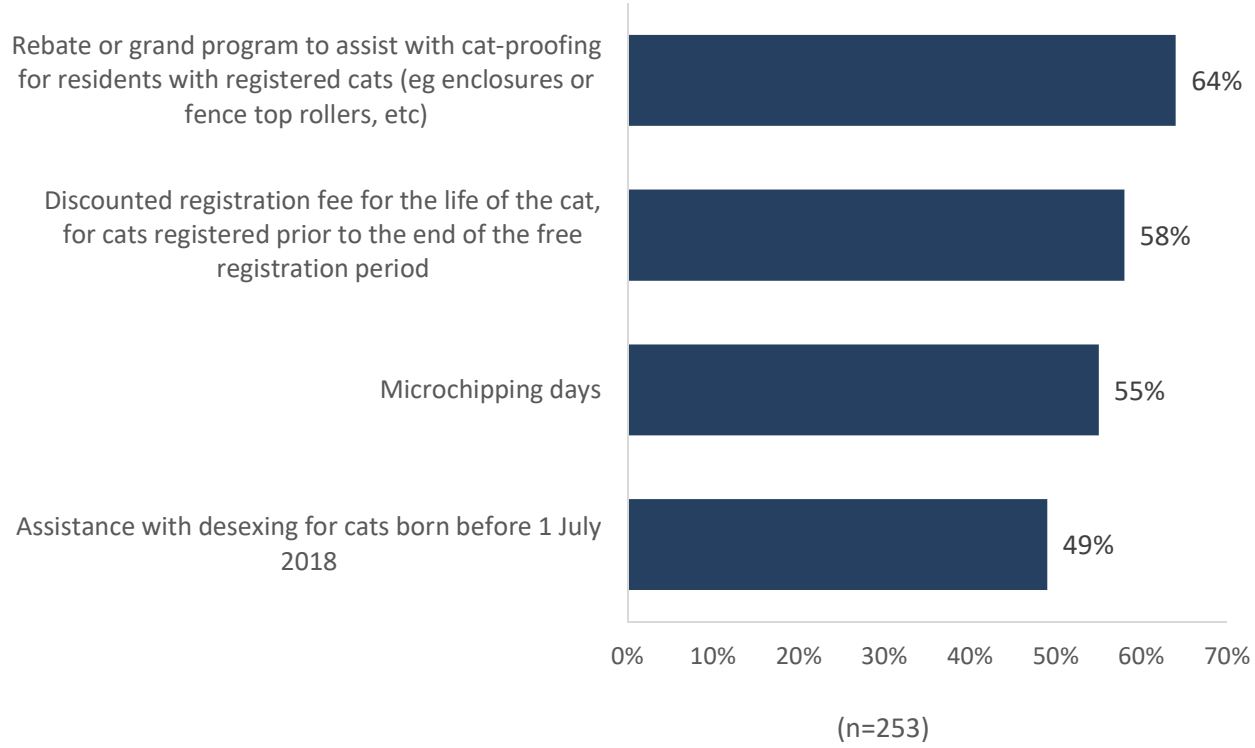
Do you think Council should provide some level of support to cat owners, for example discounted fees, rebates or other assistance?



(n=559)

	Overall	Cat ownership/care			
		Owns one cat	Owns multiple cats	Owns one or more cats (Nett)	No/prefer not to say
Yes	45%	60%	71%	66%	30%
No	40%	24%	14%	19%	55%
Unsure	15%	15%	15%	15%	14%
Base	559	111	115	226	326

Which of the following supports of assistance that Council could consider providing are of interest to you?



Other supports mentioned:

- Concessions/financial supports/rebates/assistance for low income earners/pensioners/concession card holders/vulnerable/renters, etc (n=34)
- Owners who desex/microchip/contain cats should get registration discount/free/for life (n=16)
- Should be mandatory for all cats to be desexed/provide assistance for all cats/cats born until 2027/don't support/disagree with date of birth cut off proposed (n=7)
- Annual community education days/opportunities/education programs/diy on how to build enclosure (n=4)
- Initiatives with local businesses to offer discounted pet products (n=1)
- Get volunteers to make cat enclosures/help those in need (n=1)
- Consider incentive to own female cats/not male (n=1)
- Work with shelters/vets for financial assistance (n=1)
- Council based adoption program (n=1)
- No costs for rehoming registered cats (n=1)
- Free registration for households with no more than 2 cats (n=1)

Other comments made in relation to supports and assistance noted agreement and general support to assist people with the transition. Cost of living and affordability concerns were also noted again in relation to financial impact associated with the requirements of the by-law for cat owners (see following page).

For respondents who owned one or more cats and stated they would like Council to see Council provide supports or assistance, the most preferred option was

- Discounted registration for the life of the cat (67%)
  followed by:
- Rebate or grant program (64%)
- Microchipping days (48%)
- Assistance with desexing (42%)

Other comments relating to supports or assistance that Council could consider providing *(multiple response)*

Note: includes some topic related comments from those who disagreed that Council should provide support to cat owners

	n=259	
	n	**%**
(Agree) free/discount/rebate for desexing/microchipping/if lead to reasonable fees/could be incentive to register/desexing days	26	10
General support/for assistance/support transition/for others/myself/would take advantage of these/for all or most suggestions	22	8
Cost of living/affordability concerns	14	5
Assistance/incentive will encourage compliance/responsibility/participation	7	3
Don't support fees for registration/punishing people with fees/why didn't select	7	3
Similar supports not provided for dog owners/council shouldn't provide assistance to cat owners/ratepayers shouldn't subsidise pet ownership/have anything to do with pets/don't support by-law	7	3
Remove assistance after few years/cat owners should be responsible/pay for those things/eventually	5	2
Owners property should be cat proofed/fenced/prior to owning cat/preferable to indoor confinement	4	2
Dog owners should have access to same supports/assistance equal for dogs and cats	4	2
Use/council to support other existing organisations to provide free/discounted cat services	3	1
Assistance/clarity cover anyone looking after strays/encourage TNR programs	3	1
Assistance in above areas will help control cat population/minimise colony cat numbers	3	1
Registration shouldn't be required for indoor only cats	2	1
Discounted registration – excellent option/suggest time limit on discount	2	1
Unsure what dealers/tradies to use to install cat runs/enclosures/council to have details of trialled methods of cat friendly yards	2	1
Portion fee/free should go towards cat rescue organisations/desex/help control feral cats	1	0
Measures don't help owners who contain cats indoors fully already	1	0
Registration payments be charged quarterly/to provide financial assistance	1	0
Registration fee at level so can contribute assistance towards cat proofing/ containment	1	0
Penalise those who don't desex cats/instead of creating problems for people who care for cats	1	0
Difficult to implement/some cat owners may not comply/believe their cat(s) is causing a nuisance	1	0
Would pay lifetime registration upfront/if assured money goes towards desexing/microchipping drive	1	0
Support cat parks/off leash areas/similar to dog parks	1	0
One registration fee for life of the cat	1	0
Free/not compulsory microchipping & registration	1	0
Support for cat runs etc not applicable currently/full containment not endorsed	1	0
No costs for rehoming registered cats	1	0
Prefer registration fees kept low instead of rebates/subsidies towards other measures	1	0

See Appendix 3 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Should Council decide to proceed with a Cat By-law, we would provide information or refer to sources of information about aspects of owning a cat or managing cats including (but not limited to):
Registration

- **Identification of cats and collars**
- **Desexing**
- **Microchipping**
- **Keeping cats at home**
- **Nuisance cats**
- **Feral, unowned and stray cats**

Are there any other topics related to cats that you think information or educational materials should be available for?

	n=562	
	n	**%**
Education/information on indoor cat ownership/cat runs/how to build one/keep cats safe/health/wellbeing/for older cats not accustomed to containment	87	15
Information/education about impact/diseases to animals/wildlife/property from roaming cats	52	9
Information on consequences/enforcement with incompliant cat owners/bylaw management	23	4
Cat colony/feral/stray cat plan/assistance/education	14	2
Information on vaccinations/worming/cat flu	4	1
Information/assistance cat advocacy groups/shelters/desexing organisation	3	1

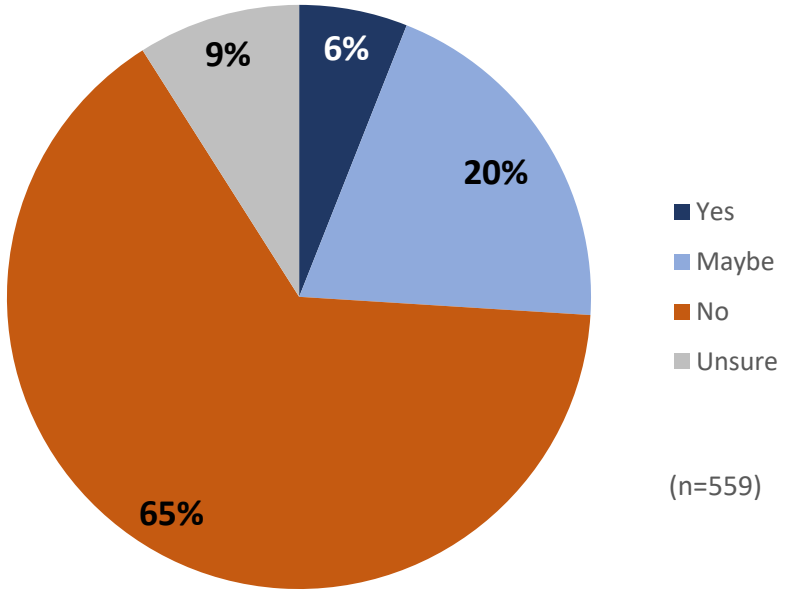
Other comments provided

	n=562	
	n	**%**
Create online portal/information on process to manage/report nuisance cats	25	4
Cats should wear bells on collar	3	1
No need to develop materials/don't support proposal	3	1
Plenty of information online regarding cat care/suggested responsible owner practices	1	0

See Appendix 4 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Would you be interested in attending a workshop or seminar related to cat ownership or management?

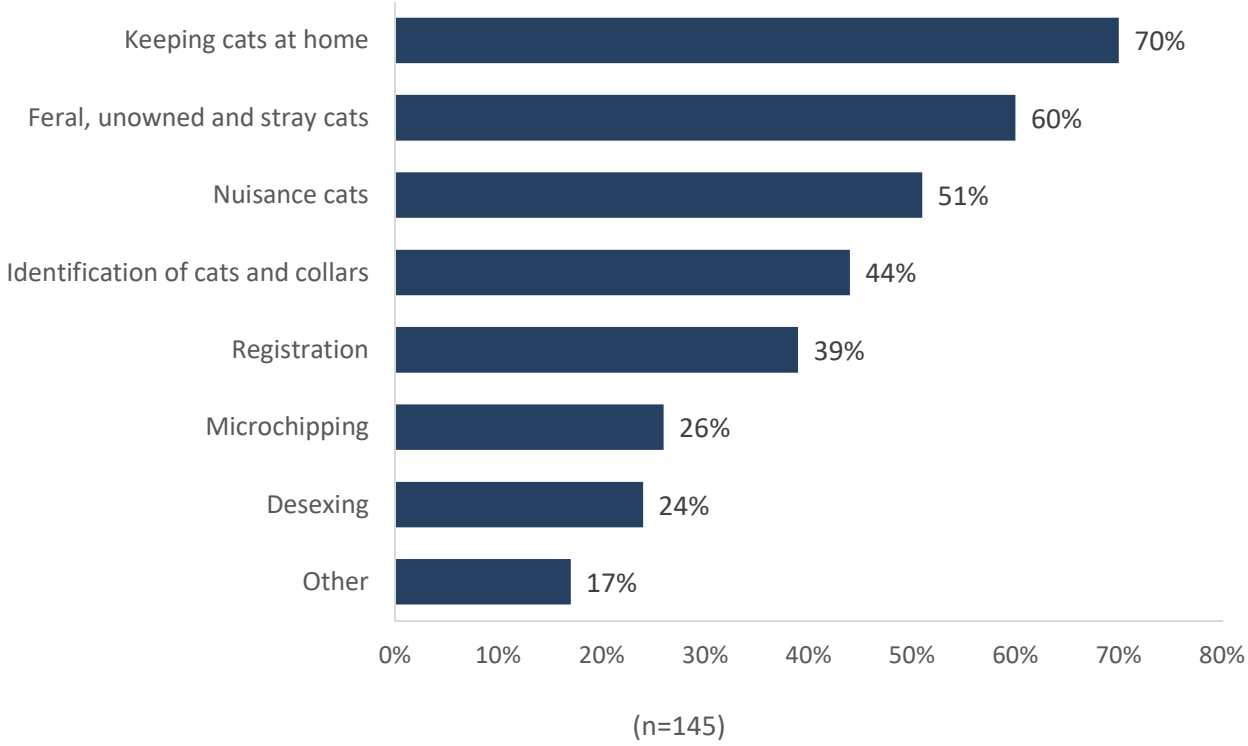
Response	No. of responses
Yes	34
Maybe	111
No	364
Unsure	50
Total	**559**



Amongst **cat owners specifically** there was a higher level of interest in attendance:

- Yes (12%)
- Maybe (29%)
- No (49%)
- Unsure (10%)

What topics would be of interest to you?



(n=145)

Some 'other' mentioned built on topics already listed, particularly in relation to:

- Keeping cats at home – containment services, how to create outdoor cat enclosures, benefits of keeping cats contained and ways to keep them entertained, making toys etc, how to contain cats which are used to going outside an owner's property
- Dealing with nuisance cats
- Options for neighbours of those with cats and 'cat proofing', property owner's rights when cats enter their property, communication skills for how to have conversations with neighbours whose cats cause a nuisance

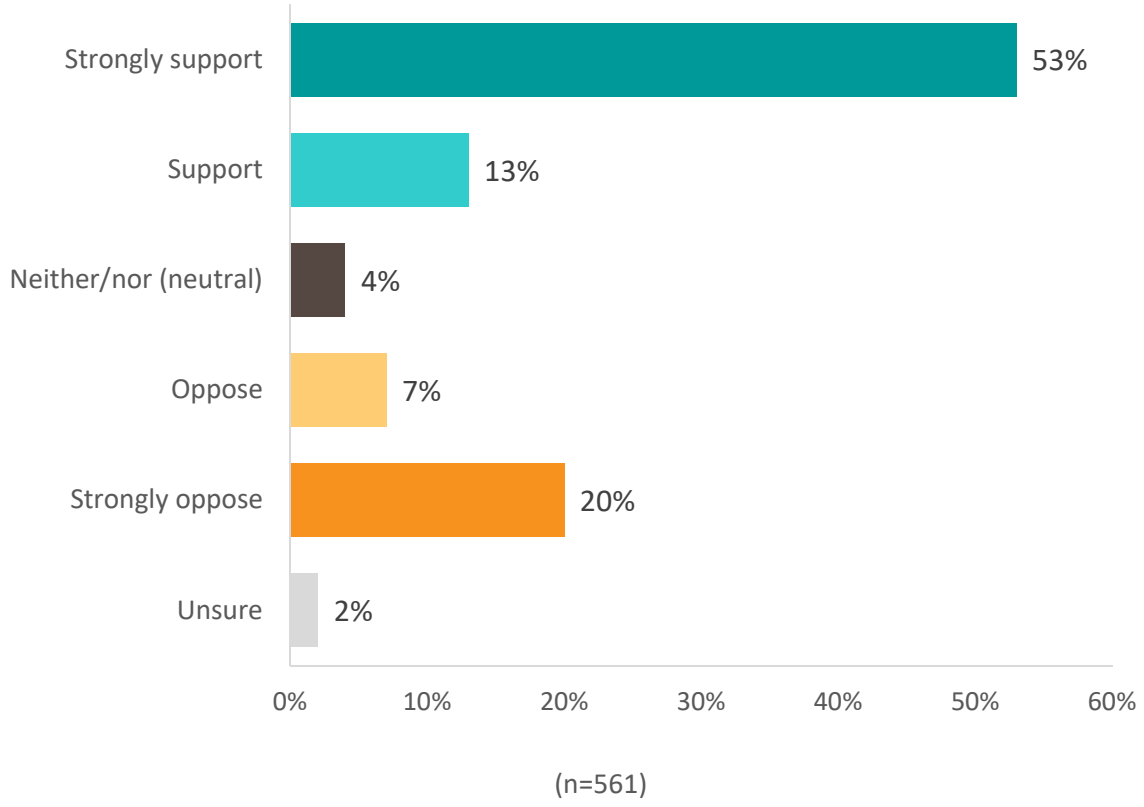
Additionally, some other comments included providing more assistance to local cat rescue organisations – how people can help and for Council to work with and assist them.

See Appendix 5 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Views on potential containment at all times in the future

How strongly do you support or oppose the possible introduction of a Cat By-law requiring 24/7 containment of cats, to commence in five (5) years' time?

Response	No. of responses
Strongly support	297
Support	75
Neither/nor (neutral)	22
Oppose	42
Strongly oppose	113
Unsure	12
Total	**561**



	Overall	Cat ownership/care			
		Owns one cat	Owns multiple cats	Owns one or more cats (Nett)	No cats/prefer not to say
Support overall	66%	43%	49%	46%	80%
Oppose overall	28%	50%	41%	46%	15%
Base	561	111	115	226	326

Reasons for <u>supporting</u> possible 24/7 containment of cats in 5 years' time *(multiple response)*

	(n=372)	
	n	**%**
Blank/no response	*118*	*32*
24-7 containment should commence straightway/in 1 year/2 years/3 years/why wait 5 years/the sooner the better	114	31
Agree/support/containment to owner's property in general/24-7/same as dogs are required to	49	13
Environmental/wildlife protection/important	37	10
Cats should be regulated/treated same as dogs	27	7
Reduce impact of nuisance cats	21	6
Indoor/contained cats are healthy/safe	16	4
More responsibility from cat owners/who allow their cats to roam	12	3
Already complying/inside only cat/responsible owner/watch when cat outside	11	3
Enforcement of by-law/education concerns/queries/leniency provisions for owned cats	9	2
Extend night curfew timeframe	8	2
Difficulty in containing cats 24-7/unreasonable/hard adjustment for cats used to roaming/need freedom to explore/stressful for owners	8	2
Cost/concerns/for cat enclosures, fencing, kitty litter etc/make more affordable/rebates/discounts/partnering/hard to contain cats without structures	7	2
Cat wellbeing/health/concerns/still need fresh air/exercise/are no 'cat' parks'	6	2
Feral/roaming cat concerns (instead)/how will this be managed/ensure humane treatment/not being addressed	4	1
Longer timeframe for by-law commencement/longer than 5 years for transition	2	1
Transition period/for education/time for cat owners to prepare etc is good	2	1
Concerns about by-law potentially impacting cat ownership/benefits of/for children/those living alone, elderly	1	0
Queries/concerns about impact on renters	1	0
Registration would no longer be necessary with 24-7 containment	1	0
Concerns about cats being dumped/abandoned/due to containment requirements	1	0
Neighbouring councils need similar by-law to be effective	1	0
(Desexed) cats don't tend to cause nuisance/stay around own property during the day/keep feral cats away/not an issue	1	0
Night curfew good base to start/review 24/7 containment proposal in five years' time/using data collected in meantime about effectiveness/re-consult	1	0
Comments reference containment as indoors/house containment/24-7/unable to go outside	1	0
Further information/education/support required	1	0

Reasons for <u>opposing</u> possible 24/7 containment of cats in 5 years' time *(multiple response)*

	(n=155)	
	n	**%**
Difficulty in containing cats 24-7/is harsh/unreasonable/cruel/unhygienic/ hard adjustment for cats used to roaming/need freedom to explore/stressful for owners	53	34
Blank/no response	*36*	*23*
General opposition/cat by-laws do not work/too harsh a measure/no evidence to justify measure	23	15
Comments reference containment as indoors/house containment/24-7/unable to go outside	23	15
Cost/concerns/for cat enclosures, fencing, kitty litter etc/make more affordable/rebates/discounts/partnering/hard to contain cats without structures	19	12
Night curfew containment sufficient/agree with this	18	12
Cat wellbeing/health/concerns/still need fresh air/exercise/are no 'cat' parks'	15	10
24-7 containment should commence straightway/in 1 year/2 years/3 years/why wait 5 years/the sooner the better	13	8
Enforcement of by-law/education concerns/queries/leniency provisions for owned cats	13	8
Rodent/pest control/concerns	7	5
Feral/roaming cat concerns (instead)/how will this be managed/ensure humane treatment/not being addressed	6	4
Concerns about by-law potentially impacting cat ownership/benefits of/for children/those living alone, elderly	6	4
(Desexed) cats don't tend to cause nuisance/stay around own property during the day/keep feral cats away/not an issue	5	3
Already complying/inside only cat/responsible owner/watch when cat outside	4	3
Concerns about cats being dumped/abandoned/due to containment requirements	4	3
Cats not as problematic as dogs/penalties/consequences seem harsher for cats	4	3
Cats should be regulated/treated same as dogs	3	2
Focus on cat desexing/TNR for management of cat population	3	2
Support but only for newly registered cats/when by-law comes into effect/cats born after July 2027	2	1
Enjoy seeing neighbourhood cats around/in my garden	2	1
Indoor/contained cats are healthy/safe	1	1
Agree/support/containment to owner's property in general/24-7/same as dogs are required to	1	1
Longer timeframe for by-law commencement/longer than 5 years for transition	1	1
Not everyone has outdoor space for suitable containment/challenges in providing space	1	1
Registration would no longer be necessary with 24-7 containment	1	1
Other proposed provisions/nuisance, cat limit etc are sufficient response	1	1
Exemptions for foster/cat agencies	1	1
Further information/education/support required	1	1

Reasons for stating <u>neutral</u> to possible 24/7 containment of cats in 5 years' time *(multiple response)*

	(n=22)	
	n	**%**
Difficulty in containing cats 24-7/is harsh/unreasonable/hard adjustment for cats used to roaming/need freedom to explore/stressful for owners	9	41
Cat wellbeing/health/concerns/still need fresh air/exercise/are no 'cat' parks'	5	23
Blank/no response	*4*	*18*
Agree/support/containment to owner's property in general/24-7/same as dogs are required to	3	14
Cost/concerns/for cat enclosures, fencing, kitty litter etc/make more affordable/rebates/discounts/partnering/hard to contain cats with structures	3	14
Already complying/inside only cat/responsible owner/watch when cat outside	2	9
Concerns about cats being dumped/abandoned/due to containment requirements	2	9
Environmental/wildlife protection/important	1	5
Enforcement of by-law/education concerns/queries/leniency provisions for owned cats	1	5
Feral/roaming cat concerns (instead)/how will this be managed/ensure humane treatment/not being addressed	1	5
Longer timeframe for by-law commencement/longer than 5 years for transition	1	5
Not everyone has outdoor space for suitable containment/challenges in providing space	1	5
Enjoy seeing neighbourhood cats around/in my garden	1	5
Night curfew containment sufficient/agree with this	1	5
Only enforce once cat has been deemed nuisance	1	5
(Desexed) cats don't tend to cause nuisance/stay around own property during the day/keep feral cats away/not an issue	1	5
More of a phase in period with multiple extended curfews/gradually increase containment	1	5
Night curfew good base to start/review 24/7 containment proposal in five years' time/using data collected in meantime about effectiveness/re-consult	1	5
Comments reference containment as indoors/house containment/24-7/unable to go outside	1	5
Further information/education/support required	1	5

Reasons for stating <u>unsure</u> to possible 24/7 containment of cats in 5 years' time *(multiple response)*

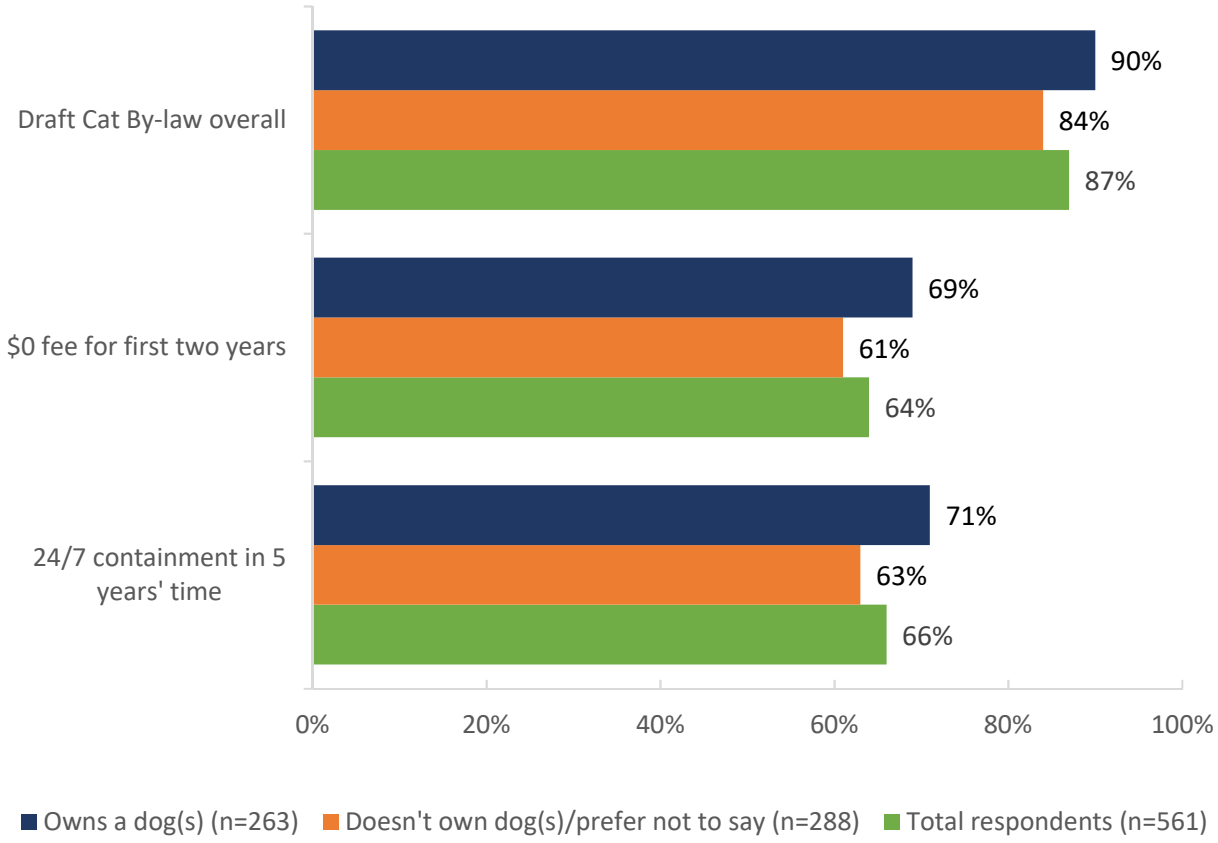
	(n=12)	
	n	**%**
Blank/no response	*3*	*25*
Enforcement of by-law/education concerns/queries/leniency provisions for owned cats	2	17
Already complying/inside only cat/responsible owner/watch when cat outside	1	8
Agree/support/containment to owner's property in general/24-7/same as dogs are required to	1	8
Neighbourhood aesthetics/cat structure concerns	1	8
Cat wellbeing/health/concerns/still need fresh air/exercise/are no 'cat' parks'	1	8
Cost/concerns/for cat enclosures, fencing, kitty litter etc/make more affordable/rebates/discounts/partnering/hard to contain cats without structures	1	8
Difficulty in containing cats 24-7/is harsh/unreasonable/cruel/unhygienic/ hard adjustment for cats used to roaming/need freedom to explore/stressful for owners	1	8
Concerns about cats being dumped/abandoned/due to containment requirements	1	8
Focus on cat desexing/TNR for management of cat population	1	8
Night curfew good base to start/review 24/7 containment proposal in five years' time/using data collected in meantime about effectiveness/re-consult	1	8
Comments reference containment as indoors/house containment/24-7/unable to go outside	1	8

See Appendix 6 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Additional analysis

Dog ownership/care

Analysis by dog ownership/care has been carried out on the main three questions in relation to the draft Cat By-law overall, proposed $0 fee approach for the first two years and the possible introduction of 24/7 containment to comments in five years' time.



Note: The sum of n= for dog analysis figures does not equal 561 as not all respondents answered the dog ownership question.

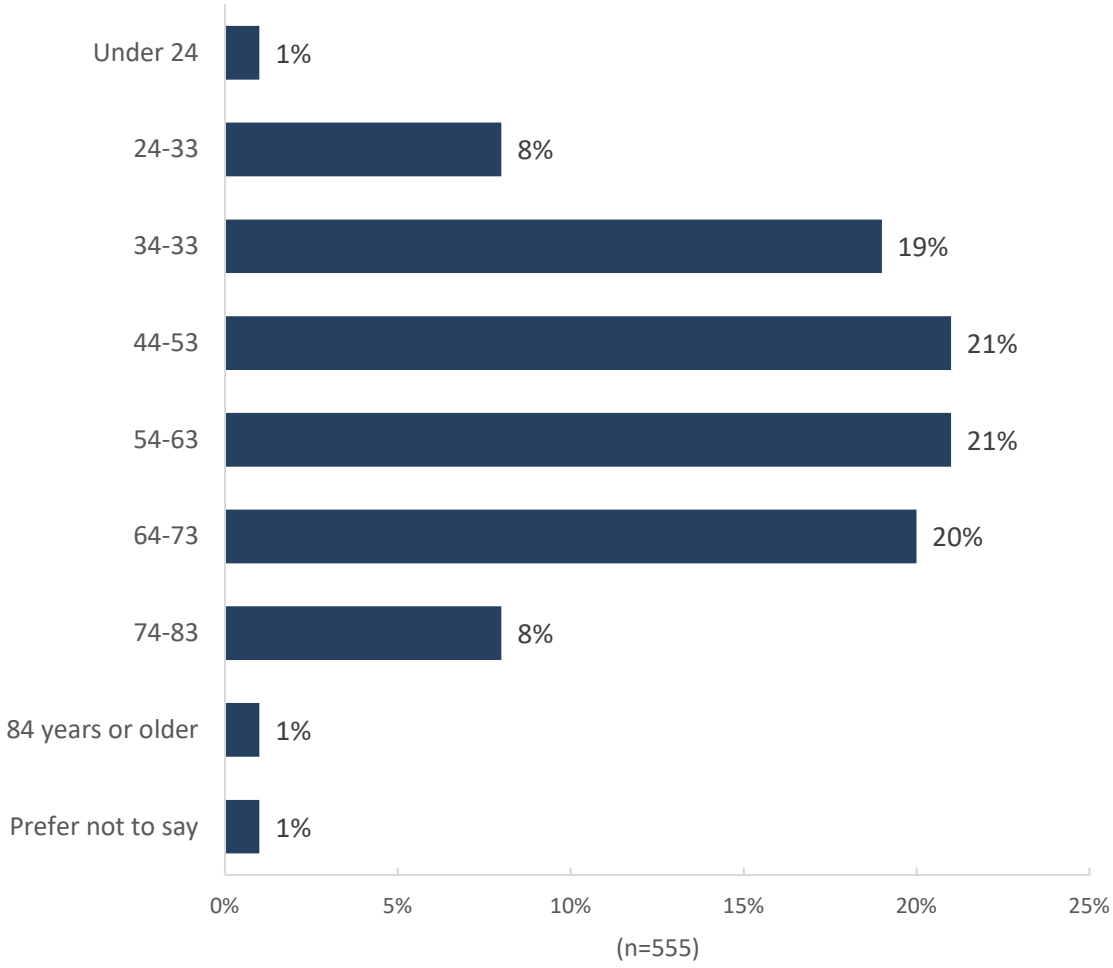
When considering the views of those who own dogs and those who don't own dogs there tended to be slightly higher levels of support compared to those who don't have dogs/didn't say or overall.

Analysis was carried out to determine crossover of dog and cat ownership.

Of those who own a dog(s) (n=263), 39% also own at least one cat.

Of those who don't own a dog/preferred not to say (n=288), cat ownership was slightly higher, with just under 43% owning at least one cat.

Age category breakdown



Other comments

Are there any other issues in relation to cat management and control in the City of Tea Tree Gully that you believe Council should consider?

Just under half (45%) of respondents provided other comments for this question. These comments predominantly cover issues/concerns/reasons outlined earlier in the report regarding the draft Cat By-law overall, fees and containment.

Areas with the most frequent mentions included:

- Cat By-law is overdue/happy to see Council considering this
- Dealing with unwanted, stray and feral cats
- Having more clarity, information and education around how the By-law will be implemented and enforced

See Appendix 7 for comments provided in relation to this question.

Written submissions

Forty-seven (47) email submissions were received during the consultation process and have been considered written submissions for the purposes of this community engagement outcomes report. Two (2) submissions received were from respondents from the Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc (C.A.T.S) organisation.

Analysis of the feedback determined the following positions (based on the overall view question options available in the feedback form):

- Fully support (32%, n=15)
- Partly support (34%, n=16)
- Do not support/do not want a Cat By-law (25%, n=12)
- Unable to be determined (9%, n=4)

Of those where a '**fully support'** position of the draft Cat By-law was determined, the main themes in these submissions included:

- Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a farm for rodent control/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day (n=8)
- Need to protect native plants and wildlife (n=6)
- Queried how Council will deal with feral/nuisance/stray cats/humanely/respond to complaints/now trapping no longer available/serious concerns about Greenwith cat colonies/is a bigger issue than owned cats (n=4)

For those who '**partly support'** the draft Cat By-law the main themes in these submissions included:

- Encourage containment by educating about responsible cat ownership/more effective than regulations/fines (n=6)
- Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained/when inside (n=5)
- Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a farm for rodent control/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day (n=4)
- Would like information/clarity around enforcement/registration fee/penalties that may apply/leniency provisions/how revenue will be spent/wandering at large/nuisance cat section (n=4)

Of those where an **opposed** position to the draft Cat By-law was determined, the key points made in these submissions included:

- Desexing programs (like C.A.T.S.) needed/low cost or free desexing for stray, semi-owned cats/should be supported/funded by council instead/follow their recommendations (see next page for additional commentary in relation to CATS Inc) (n=8)
- Registration should be free/minimal/particularly for inside or contained cats/existing cats/is revenue raising/cash grab by Council/no service provided for cats/revenue from fines enough (n=7)
- Cat legislation/regulation does not work/to manage & control cats/measures suggested won't address current issues (n=4)

Of those opposed, eight (8) submissions associated themselves with C.A.T.S. or noted the work of the organisation. Key points made in these submissions are noted above, but also included:

- Preference for cat desexing programs instead of regulations or legislation
- Laws or bylaws relating to cat management are unable to be enforced
- 'Vacuum effect' if cats are unable to defend their territory due to containment or removal and other cats moving in
- Ineffectiveness and low uptake of current cat registration and microchipping requirements due to fear of getting caught/fined/issues with privacy/not doing the right thing
- Reference to a trial between C.A.T.S and the City of Tea Tree Gully

For the remaining submissions where a position was unable to be determined (n=4) the main points from these submissions included:

- Waste of time to complete survey/previously provided feedback
- Request further clarity and information around by-law enforcement/registration
- Cost concerns/low income households/registration/containment measures required
- Support for containment/cats not to wander
- To address/better manage feral/stray cats in Council area
- Already responsible for own cats/contained at night

The following three pages includes further analysis of the written submissions as full coded tables.

The written submissions in full start on page 53.

Full coded tables (written submissions)

Analysis of key themes for those whose submission was determined as 'fully support' to the draft cat by-law (n=15)*(multiple response)*

	No. of responses
Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a farm for rodent control/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day	8
Need to protect native plants and wildlife	6
Queried how Council will deal with feral/nuisance/stray cats/humanely/respond to complaints/now trapping no longer available/serious concerns about Greenwith cat colonies/is a bigger issue than owned cats	4
Reduce/prevent instances of cats roaming/causing nuisance/damage to property, noise, fighting with/disturbing pets etc	3
General/overall support of by-law as proposed/common sense/seems fair/good balance/will be beneficial/need something to address issues	2
Curfew/containment should start earlier/be increased/10pm too late	2
Would like information/clarity around enforcement/registration fee/penalties that may apply/leniency provisions/how revenue will be spent/wandering at large/nuisance cat section	2
Encourage/support more responsible ownership/same rules/requirements as dogs	1
Is overdue/longstanding issue for Council	1
To address/give Council power to control stray/feral cats in council area/better manage cat population/strengthen efforts/reduce burden on RSPCA/AWL, vets	1
Agree on/support cat containment to some degree/at night/solve many issues	1
Cat owners should have purpose built cat run/within certain timeframe/to enforce cat control 'properly'	1
Concerns about impact on rodent control/increase in vermin with less cats about	1
Nuisance cat definition requires clarity/add to section 10 'predates on birds and other wildlife/animals'/trespass on other property/causes property damage/person is guilty of an offence	1

Analysis of key themes for those whose submission was determined as 'partly support' to the draft cat by-law (n=16) *(multiple response)*

	No. of responses
Encourage 24/7 containment by educating about responsible cat ownership/more effective than regulations/fines	6
Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained/when inside	5
Cats should be contained at all times/to owner's property/unless on a farm for rodent control/similar to other council by-laws/proposed by-law means cats can still wander during the day	4
Would like information/clarity around enforcement/registration fee/penalties that may apply/leniency provisions/how revenue will be spent/wandering at large/nuisance cat section	4
To address/give Council power to control stray/feral cats in council area/better manage cat population/ strengthen efforts/reduce burden on RSPCA/AWL, vets	3
Registration should be free/minimal/particularly for inside or contained cats/existing cats/is revenue raising/cash grab	3
Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification/don't need registration/ collars	3
Encourage/support more responsible ownership/same rules/requirements as dogs	2
Need to protect native plants and wildlife	2
Queried how Council will deal with feral/nuisance/stray cats/humanely/respond to complaints/now trapping no longer available/serious concerns about Greenwith cat colonies/is a bigger issue than owned cats	2
Difficult/unnecessary/detrimental to contain or control cats/that are used to being outside/are different to dogs	2
General/overall support of by-law as proposed/common sense/seems fair/good balance/will be beneficial/need something to address issues	1
To enable enforcement/management of cats/avenues for those impacted by cats	1
Curfew/containment should start earlier/be increased/10pm too late	1
Cat laws should be same across different councils/statewide for consistency/animals don't know boundaries/how will cats from other councils be treated	1
Agree with containment at night but prefer later/11pm to earlier/5am to allow for those who work late/leave early	1
Gradual/transitional introduction of by-law/to allow owners/older cats to adjust to confinement/requirements/consider exemptions for older cats/waive fines for period of time	1
Disagree with night curfew/containment/domestic cats will occasionally wander/will return home/any issues discussed between neighbours instead	1
Responsible cat owners shouldn't be punished/penalised with undue fees/rules/ because of minority not doing so/unowned cats that roam	1
Cat owners should have purpose built cat run/within certain timeframe/to enforce cat control 'properly'	1
Irresponsible owners won't comply/care if there are rules/law anyway	1
Any policy needs to be based on scientific studies/evidence/research/more consultation with experts etc	1
No limit/higher limits on cat numbers/for indoor only cats/microchipped & desexed cats/for those involved with rescue organisations/foster carers/should be individual choice	1
Impact of cat limit/owners think they have to give up cats/impact on shelters from abandoned cats if unable to foster/adopt/increase limit to 3/have grandfather clause/allowances/for responsible cat owners	1

Analysis of key themes for those whose submission was determined as 'do not support Cat By-Law' to the draft cat by-law (n=12) *(multiple response)*

	No. of responses
Desexing programs (like C.A.T.S.) needed/low cost or free desexing for stray, semi-owned cats/should be supported/funded by council instead/follow their recommendations	8
Registration should be free/minimal/particularly for inside or contained cats/existing cats/is revenue raising/cash grab by Council/no service provided for cats/revenue from fines enough	7
Cat legislation/regulation does not work/to manage & control cats/measures suggested won't address current issues	4
To address/give Council power to control stray/feral cats in council area/better manage cat population/strengthen efforts/reduce burden on RSPCA/AWL, vets	2
Reservations/concerns about cats wearing collars/tags/can be choking/hanging hazard/collars can break/be removed/lost/not necessary if kept contained/when inside	2
No limit/higher limits on cat numbers/for indoor only cats/microchipped & desexed cats/for those involved with rescue organisations/foster carers/should be individual choice	2
Disagree with night curfew/containment/domestic cats will occasionally wander/will return home/any issues discussed between neighbours instead	1
Responsible cat owners shouldn't be punished/penalised with undue fees/rules/because of minority not doing so/unowned cats that roam	1
Should have trap neuter release/rehome programs in place/to deal with unowned/stray cats	1
Irresponsible owners won't comply/care if there are rules/law anyway	1
Too much regulation/authoritarian approaches/more important issues for Council to focus on	1
Cats great companions for everyone/including vulnerable people/important for wellbeing for all/value of this not highlighted/by-law requirements impact these groups'	1
Address ongoing dog issues/barking etc instead/more significant issues compared to cats	1
Concerns about impact on rodent control/increase in vermin with less cats about	1
Microchipping all that is needed/sufficient for identification/don't need registration/collars	1

Submission 1

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 9:56 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

The two cat limit is bullshit. I have three cats and I am not killing any of them just to please you. My cats are contained and don't leave the property.

NSW has lifetime registration for cats and dogs. It is paid for once and once only and follows the cat and dog from owner to owner for life. This means no one has to keep paying year in year out. If NSW can do it, so can SA. I am NOT going to pay year in year out, and neither will anyone else. Why do you think so many animals are unregistered and not microchipped? Because people can't afford it. They CAN afford one-off lifetime fees, but not this money grab year in year out.

Microchips should be compulsory, not registration if it has to be paid for every year. That's bullshit. You will get even less compliance than you have now.

Council should pay for ALL cat rescues and pay for ALL trap/neuter/desex of ALL colony cats.

[redacted]

Submission 2

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:04 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

I have reviewed the proposed Council By-law relating to control of cats.
The 2 issues I have are:
- the start time of 10.00pm for cats to be inside is too late. I believe to safeguard native animals, birds etc all cats need to be locked inside at sunset - if a time is needed then say 6.00pm.
- If there is a requirement to cease trapping of cats (apart from Council activity) what is to happen with all the feral cats currently in the council district. If this issue is not addressed now and ongoing then the whole proposal will fail as these feral animals will just continue to breed and be a threat to native animals and birds. How will unregistered cats be controlled if outside during "curfew" hours.

[redacted]

Submission 3

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:07 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat problem

Good morning
It's about time something was done about the cat problem we are experiencing in greenwith .
I live on olde coach road at greenwith and have had enough of the ferals which all day everyday roam the streets and live in every residents gardens, I've done all can to deter the cats bit have had no success.
The council need to step up and prune or remove all the verge bushes on the corner of olde coach road and Ruben Richardson road also attend number [redacted] Waterfield Lane (where the cats are being fed and looked after)on any day 6 to 8 strays are just roaming around, along with the urinating and defecating in everyone's yard It's time the council whom I pay rates to actually did something about this problem instead of just sitting on their hands and talking about it

Kind regards
[redacted]

Submission 4

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:20 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat laws

Hi there,

My name is [redacted]. I have lived at [redacted] Pisani Court, Golden Grove for the past 9 years.

I have been following the cat laws and I think it is a brilliant idea.

The strata complex we are part of has many cats that roam around. The cats are always triggering my Ring camera multiple times 24/7 as well as them jumping on the fence multiple times a night and into the early hours of the morning and it makes a loud bang noise next to my bedroom window.

I have had a dog for 7 years now and the cats drive her insane. They constantly come down the side of the house before the gate she can go too. She is always barking at them for sitting on our fence, sitting on our window sills and looking into our house and sitting on our shade cloth in the back yard.

The laws you are bringing in are definitely needed as I have my dog always registered, secured in my back yard and always on a lead when on a walk.

Plus the management of cats will also help with our wildlife as well.

Thank you so much for your time for reading this.

Regards,

[redacted]

Submission 5

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:45 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject:

It's a good idea. Cat management has been a long time coming. I think there should be a complete band on cat roaming anytime night or day as they are very destructive and kill a lot of wildlife. So if the cat is caught and is micro chipped then the owner is given one warning only. And told if it is caught again it will be destroyed. As for the ones without a chip then need to be held in the pound for 7 days idmf not claimed the euthanasia

Submission 6

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:51 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-laws Feedback

Cats should be contained on their owners property at all times.

Thanks
[redacted]

Submission 7

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 11:21 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cats

If you have a cat then it should confined to your property at all times. No exceptions!

Sent from my iPhone. [redacted]

Submission 8

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 11:26 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Thank you so much. I think the proposed by-law is very considered and I'm excited to see it come to fruition.

My only feedback would be that continuing to allow cats to roam at large during the day will not solve the considerable issue of their destruction of native wildlife.

It's clear that the by-law has been designed to mimic those imposed on dog owners, which is fair. However, I highly doubt the council would be happy for my dogs to roam during the day.

Submission 9

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 11:43 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hi,

Why is this being offered again ?
I've already completed the last survey & the results were ignored ?
Just another time wasting exercise.

Submission 10

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 12:12 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: cat law feedback

Hi

My cat is predominantly kept inside. Occasionally she escapes through an external door that is not latched properly, usually by the kids. She does not wear a collar and it seems on my reading that she doesn't need a collar and I'd tag unless she is outside. What would be the anticipated result if my cat escaped the house at night through a door accidentally without a collar and we could not capture the cat for several hours noting she has never wandered more than a couple of houses and is microchipped.

I think a couple of basic scenario's would help residents understand the application of the new council rules.

Regards
[redacted]

Submission 11

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 12:38 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Cat By-Law

1.
Although already legislated, the identification requirement to be microchipped should be stated in the By-Law section 8. with due reference to the legislation.

2.
Under 9.3 In this paragraph designated span of hours means between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day.
The **designated span of hours** should be defined under section 3. Definitions.

3.
Sections 9 and 10 are the crux of the matter and these appear to be very bland and lacking in definition, clarity or positivity.

Opponents to this process would claim that the purpose of the By-Law is primarily to require the registration of cats rather than the control of them. This cynically implies that the whole exercise is one of revenue raising and burocracy rather than improving the community by control of cats.

Regards
[redacted]

Submission 12

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 1:04 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: NO.

I have read the by laws and this just honestly seems like a way to tax the honest, good guys. Why is there an ongoing registration fee to keep an animal anyway? What business is it yours who is living in my property? Dogs who are walked outside of the home and use council facilities are completely different to my cat who is indoors only and does not use council facilities. I'm happy to register him, at worst, pay a once off fee, but why should I have to pay for him moving past that? This will just cause people not to register their cats and won't solve anything because like me, I'm sure many other cat owners will agree, this just seems like a punishment or a way for you to make more money for no reason at all. I am very disappointed in this.

Regards,
[redacted]

Submission 13

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 1:15 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Feedback Cat by-laws

Thankyou for the opportunity to reply to this proposal.
I do not support a cat registration requirement largely because those who do not behave responsibly now aren't likely to do so with the implementation of a by-law, despite a potential for fines to be imposed.
However should the by-law come in to effect I support the following:
1. Reductions in fees relevant to level of individual responsibility an owner has taken, similar to dig registration.
e.g. desexing, microchipping and an approved perimeter fencing keeping cat(s)confined to the house.
Kind regards
[redacted]

Submission 14

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 1:55 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Draft cat by law feedback

Hi and thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback
I am very pleased to see the council being proactive on cat laws. I have also been impressed by the planting along the Redwood Creek and hope that small birds will eventually find their way back there. I have been surprised not to see any small birds return as yet. I did see a tawny frogmouth though.
Back to the draft cat by laws, my feedback is that
- great to see the proactive approach
- great that in future complete curfew on cats is being considered
- I believe that a10pm start to the daily curfew is too late. This allows cats to hunt throughout dusk all year when many vulnerable species are active. 6pm to 6am curfew would be more effective. Winter 5pm would be even better
- re Council no longer trapping cats, would that include public land?
Thanks again
[redacted]

Submission 15

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 3:27 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

As someone with a cat who was a rescue from a farm, and who is over ten years old, having to put a night time curfew in place with her would be impossible. She has always wanted to be an outside cat and we do our best to keep her home but if she gets out (which is often with kids opening doors) she doesn't just come home when we call her.

If the regulations about cats being outside at night came in to play, It would be beneficial to consider a staggered approach to any fines or curfews. Particularly for cats who have spent their whole lives without it. We have no issue keeping a cat inside, and understand the reasoning, but if a cat hasn't grown up with that lifestyle it is very difficult to enforce and our cat will absolutely still get outside despite our best efforts.

Submission 16

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 4:41 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hi there.

I've had some issues with the online feedback form despite signing in, so I will reply by email.

I do not agree that cats should need to wear identification around their necks. Our cats frequently remove or lose the collars we place on them and this becomes a costly exercise. Our cats should be sufficiently identified via microchip.

I would also like to suggest an amended time indoors at night to 12-6am - as a shift worker it can be difficult to get back in time to lock up my cat by 10pm.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

Submission 17

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 9:13 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Draft cat management bylaw

Hello
1 I believe the definition 'cats creating a nuisance' should include the killing or maiming of birds and other fauna eg lizards on property other than their own.
2. The capture of recalcitrant cats should be facilitated by council providing cages. How else are they to be identified and their owners fined?
3. The hours of wander time are too long. They should be from 8pm to 7am and cats should be limited to their own property at all times no matter what.
Regards
[redacted]

Submission 18

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 5:47 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat management

Dear Sir /Madam

I have no problem with Cats and if I visit a friend/individual with Cats it's welcome on my lap.

We do not allow any other animal to roam other people's property, we do not arrive home to find our neighbours relaxing around our pool. Why does council find this at all acceptable??? My front door mat gets to a point where it stinks of cat urine, loud noises as they run across my roof or the horrendous noise they make outside your bedroom window at 3am during a fight.

I'm not bothering again with logging in to compete a survey as there is never a sensible result, this issue will go on and on with thousands wasted.

So please delete me from this ongoing saga unless you intend to rectify the situation.

In my opinion the only resolution would be to keep your animals (whatever you choose) in your own property.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Submission 19

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 9:22 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hello,

My previous emails below. There have been many emails and communication back to 2015 with Wendy Hickman. The problem is extreme in our street. They are defecating/mating/fighting in my front yard. The house at the end of our street has dozens at any time of day – this is where they are fed.

WE have been dealing with this and suffering for 10 years next year!

Thanks
[redacted]

(Email trail with Community Safety team re: Waterfield Lane cat situation)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 August 2024 5:17 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: CATS ON WATERFIELD LANE

Hello Council Team,

Further consideration for your cat bi-laws feedback.

This is just a regular day on Waterfield lane. 4-5 cats in groups and there are multiple groups, kittens, under cards and mating right there in front of our house.

There are also “cat” ladies who are coming into the street multiple times a week and parking in our street and streets behind us providing tins of food behind bushes.

The black and white one is happily mating with several in these pictures so we can expect kittens in the coming weeks for Spring.

Thanks
[redacted]








S867 CKV


S867 CKV

Submission 20

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 10:00 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat by-law

I love cats, but strongly agree with cats being enclosed overnight. This will protect our local wildlife and it's also safer for the cats.

Submission 21

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 1:24 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat by-laws.

Regarding number of cats and cat registration

I currently have 6 cats. All are vaccinated, desexed , chipped, wear collars with ID.
Some of them are pedigree because I used to show them, some are rescued.

A couple were abandoned kittens born to a fed but not desexed mum by my neighbour's family , when she went into a home and they sold the house. Knowing about the kittens because I had seen them in my property, I set traps with the help of a rescue and trapped 6 adults I didn't know were there-and 1 kitten- couldn't get the other ,fortunately male- desexed and vaccinated them all, and found homes for all.

MOST IMPORTANTLY MY CATS HAVE 2 CAT RUNS ATTACHED TO THE HOUSE AND WOULD ONLY BE OUTSIDE OF THOSE IF THEY ESCAPED, WHICH HAS NEVER HAPPENED IN 13 YRS.
If they did escape I would set a trap and search until I found them, offer reward, etc.

Why should I who do the right thing be punished because of others like my neighbour , who didn't desex the kitten dumped on her property, fed it but left it outside, and ended up with a colony? Education and financial help if needed to get that kitten desexed would have prevented the colony that arose.

My neighbours would have no idea how many cats I have because they never roam. In terms of environment and nuisance, my 6 do less damage than my neighbour's free roaming 1, which turned into 9.
Restricting the number without enforcing the cats to stay on their property 24 HRS A DAY is POINTLESS and will do nothing to solve the problems of wandering cats.

Paying registration fees will do nothing if cats are not confined to their property, except raise money for the council. What will those funds be used for? Desexing vetting and feeding colonies or supporting rescues who do this? Nope? Payrises for the councillors? Probably !

Unless you conduct house to house inspections where you actually come in and search the house- and good luck getting voted back in if you do that- you cannot know how many cats a person has anyway. Again, punishing those who comply while doing nothing to discourage those who dont.

Instead of restricting numbers you should make it mandatory that cats be confined to their own homes 24 HRS A DAY whether that is by having runs or fence overhangs, or being kept inside. Be aware that much loved desexed cats kept on their property will sometimes get out and their owners will be distraught and desperately searching, so a free roaming cat should not be automatically euthanised if found. A loved and friendly cat will also be frightened and may appear wild if trapped or cornered or handled by strangers.

Council should financially support rescues to trap feed desex and vet colonies . Trap, neuter, return works to reduce feral colonies and is a humane solution to the problem of irresponsible owners who let their cats roam. Given the rodent problems in this area a well-managed colony is an asset and council assistance to the rescues who do this would portray the council in a positive light.

Furthermore, restrictions on numbers if brought in should NOT apply to cats owners already have, because trust me, owners will not give up their excess cats ("Sophie 's Choice", anyone?). I personally would conduct an online campaign, organise a petition, contact the media, contact my MP, get a letter from a psychologist that they are emotional support animals, and picket the council premises with my most adorable cats in a cage with a big sign saying something like " Evil Council wants to KILL me even though I have never left my yard". And I woul organise as many people as possible, eg rescues, to do it with me. And unless council conduct house searches - which would require legal backing- a number restriction and registration is completely unenforceable anyway.

What about people who rent? Legislation now prevents landlords from refusing pets, and rightly so, but they can stipulate that pets are not allowed inside. So renters must confine their cats in some way between certain hrs but the landlord will evict them if they bring them inside, or may not allow them to build a catrun? So those people have to kill or rehome or dump their cats because of Council? Please answer yes or no to this question, which I will then post to social media.

To sum up, I totally agree that all cats should be confined to their premises 24 hrs a day, just as dogs are required to be. However if they are confined, there is absolutely NO justification to restrict numbers.

Happy to speak in council meeting re this.

Yours sincerely,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 1:32 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: CM: Cat by-laws.

Thank you. I would suggest that proof that the cats do not roam eg catruns or fence overhangs be grounds for exemption.

Submission 22

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 1:38 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hi Guys
Thanks for this opportunity. We own 2 indoor ragdoll cats. We think the proposed new regulations (specifically the night curfew) may cause considerable distress amongst some cat owners. Sometimes it is helpful to offer suggestions on how they may cope. We made an outside run which is secure. They can access it via a cat door, inside. Our cats often sleep out there watching all that goes on but no threat to the wildlife or themselves..

Its being called responsible ownership. See attached. We would be happy for you to use this as an example for those who are concerned by the curfew. If you wish to take better pics &/or see it for yourself, please give mark a call

Kindest regards

[redacted]







Submission 23

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 10:36 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-Law

I have read the proposals and would like to query why it is necessary to place a tag on the cat's collar when the cat is microchipped? My reason for the query is that young cats in particular are notorious for losing collars and engraving is not a cheap procedure.
I have no objections to the confinement of cats after 10pm to 6am in the morning but would like to point out that cats who have had their freedom for over 10 years are not going to suddenly cope with full confinement in 5 years time.
Thankyou for considering my concerns. Kind regards
[redacted]

Submission 24

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 3:54 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hi,

While I am supportive of the overall *intention* of your proposed cat management, I do not believe it adequately addresses all of the issues with regards to cats.

It would appear you have elected to take an enforcement first approach with almost no responsibility taken by the council. Presumably this is to avoid extra costs, but it could reasonably be considered a 'cheapskate' solution. You want to have the appearance of doing something about the issue without actually taking a holistic approach to the issue.

I would like to draw your attention to the join RSPCA/AWL cat management document from late 2019 at https://www.rspcasa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/RSPCA-AWL-Cat-Management-Plan-for-South-Australia.pdf
Their document provides a more in-depth analysis of the issues at play, and the actions needed to effectively address cat management.

Mandatory registration and microchipping has been a massive step forward, but it's still a relatively new requirement that I don't think people are taking very seriously.

As a personal anecdote, I found a cat last year in the wetlands near the busway. It was tired, dirty, distressed and approached me for help. I took the cat in and gave it food and shelter, and took it to the vet the next day for identification. This kicked off two days of enquiries. A microchip was fitted to the animal, however it was not registered. I then spent the two days calling every vet I could within the metro area, starting with those closest to where I found the cat, until I eventually found the vet who implanted the chip. The implant had been done for a cat adoption service, but not a person. I called the adoption service to try and get details of the owner to return the cat, who reluctantly offered contact details for the owner, citing privacy rules. They were very confused as the address they had was in Enfield, but the cat was found in Dernancourt. The only detail that was up-to-date was the phone number, and so I was finally able to contact the owner and return the cat to its home in Highbury, two weeks after it first went missing. I provided the address to the cat adoption agency so they could update their details, and reprimand their client for out-of-date details.

I'd be pretty confident in saying that most people wouldn't be willing to invest that much time and effort to try and find an owner. Realistically, I think this should be a council responsibility that is funded by fees on cat registration as I assume it is for dogs.

This ties in to the next issue: visible identification. You are requiring that people put personal information on an animal, which opens them to abuse and fraud. It also goes against the Information Privacy Principles (https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars/DPC-Circular-Information-Privacy-Principles-IPPS-Instruction.pdf). While this is not explicitly information collected by the council, it is encouraging the unnecessary disclosure of personally identifiable information (name, address, phone number). Why isn't it necessary? First, the animal is microchipped. Second, a method already exists that doesn't compromise privacy: registration discs. Why can't we have registration discs for cats the same we

do for dogs? Why two systems? Obviously we'd need to scale the disc down a bit for cats, but the idea is already there.

Lastly on the visual identification, the amount of information required to be present on a tag of appropriate size for a cat would have very small text which may not be readable for those with impaired vision. A simple registration ID (as with the dog discs) would serve the same purpose with much larger lettering.

With regards to confinement requirements, I would encourage the council to subsidise cat confinement products to increase uptake. I have spent thousands of dollars on confinement products to keep my cat in my yard, but it is still not a perfect system, because (as the RSPCA /AWL note), cats are excellent climbers and very adept at finding holes. I've spent years patching gaps and rendering plants/structures unclimbable in my yard in a battle for containment, and my cat only has three legs left. Imagine the difficulty in containing a fully-able cat! Reconditioning an inside/outside cat to be indoors only is extraordinarily difficult, and escapes are frequent.

In saying this, I can see the writing on the wall: any cat I adopt in the future will be indoor only. Especially since someone in my area has been poisoning cats and birds with medication.

I've seen next to no attempts by the council to treat any part of cat management as an educational issue, which is very disappointing. Please consult with RSPCA and AWL directly, because the current plan looks foolish.

Regards, [redacted]

Submission 25

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 8:15 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat Management

The Council must take responsibility for cats that are unregistered, or which are obviously feral and survive by killing wildlife. It is all very well to point out to owners that they have a responsibility towards their animals but feral cats and cats without owners are the real problem and the Council must accept responsibility when these animals are handed in to them. It is not good enough to shrug shoulders and say "sorry, but there is nothing we can do about it." All cats should be registered and the fee should cover the cost to the Council of managing cats in the same way as it manages dogs.

Submission 26

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 24 August 2024 11:48 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-Law

We 100% support the new by-law.
Further we cant wait until it becomes a 24/7 responsibility of owners to control their cats.

[redacted]

Submission 27

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 24 August 2024 1:05 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: cats

I have 2 cats who have been de sexed, microchipped & tattooed. They are inside, outside cats.
I feed them 3 times a day so they won't go looking for food.
They do not wear collars as I had a previous cat who strangled on the collar & died, it was most distressing for me.
I try to keep them in at night but that does not always happen, but they do come in through the cat door during the night at some stage.
I think the cats are happy in their yard & wander down the street but always returns to their home, they have plenty of room to roam about in my garden.
If I had to have an enclosure built for them it would be a costly expense for me & I can see people letting their cats roam & not care for them as an economical expense for cat owners.
I think most cat owners are responsible people who care for their cats.
[redacted]

Submission 28

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 25 August 2024 10:50 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat laws

As I am a dog owner I am compelled by law to register and be responsible for my dog.
I feel cat owners should have to be responsible for their animal as well and have to have them registered, Microsoft's chip desexed and not allowed to roam around peeing in neighbours yard and front doors.

Submission 29

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 August 2024 10:26 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat Management

We feel all cats should be contained and not allowed to roam free unless the cat is housed on a farm for rodent control.

Submission 30

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 August 2024 3:53 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed New Cat By-Law-draft

Dear Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft By-Laws for Cat Management in CTTG Council.

If I may respond to the following;

1. Must be registered every 12 months with provision for a registration fee – a $0 fee is proposed for a maximum initial 2-year period

Agreed

2. Identification by means of a collar around the cat's neck with a tag setting out the name of the owner and address or phone number of the owner'

We currently have female and male (Brother and sister) cats-aged 3years. Both are microchipped.
Our female cat has managed to retain her collar since we took her in at 8 weeks, she is desexed and her ear is tattooed.
However our male cat, will wear his collar for a few days and then it is missing. The Golden Grove Vets for Pets have confirmed that the collars are made to detach on force, which is more than likely what has happened if he's been climbing.
He will be desexed this Friday the 30th August and his ear will then be tattoed also.
The Vet has assured that microchipping and tattooing should be sufficient for the council to identify cats in the instance that they do not retain a collar.

3. Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two (2) cats (unless in a prescribed premises, ie cattery, veterinary practice, pet shop or with Council permission)

Agreed

4. To be confined to their owner's property between 10.00pm and 6.00am

This is a hard one especially for cats that are now used to their garden environment when going to the toilet. I don't think they would then go back to using kitty litter during these hours.

I am happy to be reached by phone if you wish to discuss this further and I wish you all the best.

With kind regards

[redacted]

Submission 31

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 29 August 2024 12:44 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Have Your Say - Proposed new Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Hello TTG Community Team

I am supportive of the conditions laid out in the proposed Cat By-Law.

It reduces the inequality between cat owners and dog owners in terms of obligations to be responsible pet owners.

Restricting the number of cats per premise to two will hopefully make a positive difference - in terms of reduction in nuisance, but also reduction in impact to birds and wildlife in Tea Tree Gully.

In our street alone, we have two premises with four cats each, all of which wander at night and stalk birds in our front garden.

Will be interested to see what the penalties are for breach of the By-Law.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

Submission 32

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2024 7:02 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-law

The Curfew for cats' that is only for a third of the day. As if cats only hunt wildlife that is in our care, for a third of the day and be a nuisance to their neighbours for only a third of the day.
Residents have been asking for decades but little, to no response from TTG council.
Other councils in Australia and also other countries have had bans on cats at Large for decades.
We have allowed the greatest predator to wander, at large, with no consequence to their owners.
We have to wait another five years to preserve what little wildlife exists in our suburbs, and after the overpopulation has taken even more habitat away from them.

Submission 33

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 2 September 2024 10:52 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed Cat By-Law

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Cat By-Law.

Having read the proposal, there are some aspects that I object to and some I wish to comment on, as follows:

- There should be no "grace period" for cat owners regarding the cost of registration (proposal for $0 registration fee for a maximum of 2 years). Why should cat owners be treated any differently to dog owners? I have never been able to understand, nor has it been adequately explained to me by Council officers, why cat owners are privileged amongst the residents of CTTG, and the State, for that matter? It seems to be some sort of archaic preference for cats or else there are powerful people in this State who love cats.

- Cats and Dogs should be treated *exactly* the same. To pre-empt an argument used by cat owners that "cats need to be able to roam and can't be kept inside, or inside their own yard all the time.", I would counter that there are many cats around the world that are "inside-only" cats. One of my family members has owned a number of cats over the years that have been "inside-only" cats (only let out for toileting). These cats appear to be very well-balanced mentally and the vet has noted no ill-effects. If cats are provided with adequate mental stimulation (toys, runs, etc) inside, there is no need for them to roam outside.

- Roaming cats are well documented as one of, if not *the*, the top predators of native wildlife. If CTTG is really a Council which prides itself on its environmental consciousness and credentials, as it so often claims, then it should be a "no-brainer" that Council would unanimously support greater cat control.

- Roaming domestic cats damage the environment far more than roaming domestic dogs yet dogs are reported, caught and placed in dog pounds, owners are fined, and if the dog is not collected, it is destroyed. Why should cats be treated any differently?

- I have heard arguments that "cats are harder to catch and we would need to have patrols 24/7". I would counter that roaming dogs are also quite hard to catch but Council has persisted with this practice for many years. If it is difficult to catch roaming cats, then perhaps a professional trapper should be employed. I would be very happy for my Council Rates to be spent on employing a cat catcher rather than on parks, walkways and trees in the middle of major intersections (which reduce visibility and are another thing to potentially crash into) which, as someone who works long hours to make enough money to pay my rates (like many other residents) I never have the time to make use of.

- One of my dogs nearly had its eye taken out by a roaming cat that had entered our backyard. This is an avoidable injury if cats were kept inside their own property as is the requirement for dogs.

- Cats are well documented as being the carriers of diseases and parasites which are harmful to humans, particularly babies. The roaming cats in my street (at least 3 which all have collars and tags)) urinate all over my property, particularly garden beds, which not only smell like a cess-pit,

but have the potential to pass disease onto my family's young members who play in my garden or myself while gardening.

To conclude, it's about time, and long overdue, that cat owners take some responsibility for the cats they own - just like dog owners have been for many decades. Why should some residents/ratepayers be privileged above others? I, and I am sure that I speak for all other dog owners, want our Council Rates to be used/redirected to support greater cat control measures (without increasing the rates, of course 😉).

Let's finally have equality for cats and dogs.

Regards,

[redacted]

Submission 34

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 September 2024 2:25 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat laws

Hi,
I submitted my opinion on possible news cats laws previously.
I am satisfied with all that are proposed, except one. Why will there be a fee? What is it for? My cat lives indoors is microchipped and bothers no one, I strongly object to paying for nothing. We pay over $2000 a year council rates, take it out of that. It's not right that most people doing the right thing are penalised financially because of the irresponsible! I see there is a two year grace period but as far as I'm concerned, even with that, it's totally wrong. Cut your costs on some other unnecessary expenses, Regards [redacted]

Submission 35

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 September 2024 6:26 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Consultation on proposed Cat By Law -feedback provided - please find my feedback in blue. Keep my name confidential

The draft By-law 7 Cats notes the following requirement for cats: 1. Must be registered every 12 months with provision for a registration fee a $0 fee is proposed for a maximum initial 2-year period
I have no problem with the above.
2.ID with a collar around the cat's neck with the name of owner and address or phone number of the owner

I strongly disagree with this collar. Some cats cannot wear collars, they panic and get them stuck in their jaw, some have tragically died with a collar choking in a tree etc. If the cat is confined 24 hours a day as mine is on their property they do not have to wear a collar. I came from Campbelltown council and they agreed with this.
3. Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two (2) cats (unless in a prescribed premises, ie cattery, veterinary practice, pet shop or with Council permission)

I strongly disagree with this. There are responsible owners like myself who absolutely love cats, do not let them roam at all but have them confined at all times to their property and have purpose built catteries (enclosures) on their property that are accessed in and out the cattery by a cat door. People can comfortably have 5 or 6 cats and help home these gorgeous, companion animals. Please always grant exemptions for responsible, loving cat owners like me who help home cats and want more than one. Sadly I only have one now after her best friend my white kitty passed in 2021. In the past I have 5 but they all passed under vet care of old age etc and were always confined to my property and with an enclosed cattery - this was in Campbelltown council.

What about no kill cat rescues -these need exemptions and help cats, the AWL and RSPCA etc so much.

Re: Based on legal advice provided to Council, a key change that would need to take place regardless of the introduction of a cat by-law is to cease the practice of trapping cats and providing traps to residents for this purpose. Cat traps should NEVER ever be let out to the public. You can have some psychotic, cruel moron.

I can't recommend enough working with the AWL, RSPCA, cat rescue no kill groups,CATS and providing an implementation period for owners to get catteries (enclosures) on their property. They have to have a roof and not be too small and cats need to be introduced gradually to these and be in sheltered temperate evironments.

Ensure you create employment by having Cat Council Officers who will humanely trap and rehome.

Have the neuter and return as a desexed stray keeps away the undesexed ones.

Use the resources of Dr Kersti Seksel who wrote 'Train Your Cat'. Cats really are so gorgeous, with their beautiful eyes, paws and they are so the most intelligent animal and are gorgeous companion animals. They can be trained and there can be behaviour modification - not always but there can be.

There needs to be the highest accountability under the law for any animal cruelty to cats. There is no excuse for cruelty to strays, ferals etc

Councils need to be proactive in educating enriching environments, helpling with evidence for low income cat owners, subsidised catteries etc.

I am happy to be a resource to council with my name kept confidential.

Thanks

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

I have a Certificate in Feline Behaviour from an Animal Behaviourist in the UK too.

4. The following are already legislated requirements for cats: 1. To be microchipped 2. Desexed before it is six months old 3. Not allow cats to cause a nuisance Should the Cat Byto how Council would deal with cat management. of a suitable state government approach to cat management and which is now what a cat by-law looks to solve. Based on legal advice provided to Council, a key change that would need to take place regardless of the introduction of a cat by-law is to cease the practice of trapping cats and providing traps to residents for this purpose.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 6 September 2024 3:29 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Consultation on proposed Cat By Law -feedback provided - please find my feedback in blue. Keep my name confidential

Ps I do not agree with ropes and leads being used on a cat. If an owner trains from a kitten to walk in the backyard for a short time that is different but not for use and ropes overall - this is barbaric and cruel. They are not dogs - a different species.

Thanks

[redacted]Keep name confidential and email)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 9 September 2024 1:39 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Consultation on proposed Cat By Law -feedback provided - please find my feedback in blue. Keep my name confidential

Ps Proposed cat by law. I do not agree with any tethering of a cat by rope or lead. If an owner trains their cat to walk from a kitten for a short time on a cat harness in their back yard then this is appropriate.

The public needs to be educated that cats do not understand property division and they do not have the right to hurt or kill a cat, or trap them by steel jaws, cat traps etc and they are answerable under the fullest extent of the law.

Thanks

[redacted] -Keep my name and email confidential.

Submission 36

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 September 2024 1:51 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: cats

Hello….
I wholeheartedly agree with the statement that cats should be confined 24 hours a day in something like a “cat run” on the owners property.
I am tired of walking in cat poo and having the remains of birds that were killed by cats strewn around the yard.

Regards

[redacted]

Submission 37

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 September 2024 11:04 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-Laws

To who it may concern,

The proposed new cat management by-laws are about control, not management. Council needs to have more control of dogs that injure humans and other dogs!

The cat issue is with strays/ferals not loved domestic cats. A better model focuses on free and low-cost desexing as well as community engagement. The SA Government needs to fund desexing programs to manage cat populations effectively and reflects community values.

Council should recognise the crucial role of rescues and allow them to trap cats without needing council permits.

I've had a few cats over the 28 years I've lived in the TTG Council area. One cat used to get a rash around the neck from the collar. We took it to the vet and was told to leave the collar off. Another cat got caught in the backyard tree with her collar, and even though it was a collar that breaks free with force a part of it was caught on a branch and she was still trapped. If a cat is microchipped and therefore identifiable there should be no need for a collar.

All my cats have been desexed and microchipped, together with a tattoo on the year. Yearly vet consults I get them to check that the chip is still there and showing the correct contact details. A collar should not be a requirement.

I purchased my cat River through the Cat Adoption Foundation. He was caught in a trap and kept cruelly in a one metre cage with other cats and fed twice a week until he was five months old. He was rescued by the Cat Adoption Foundation. After the foster parent got him back to good health, they desexed and microchipped him.

River loves to climb trees and should be allowed outside 24/7 if not being a nuisance. He is a good cat that comes when called. The curfew restrictions that Council wants to implement are harsh. At a maximum a restriction should only be from 11pm to 5am to allow for daylight saving changes as a cat (and humans) body clock take a while to adjust. I don't think there should be a curfew at all. Fix the stray/feral cat problem!

I don't want to see paid registration for cats. They are an important part of society and don't harm humans like dogs. If there is compulsory registration it should be free for all cat owners.

If cats are cared for and not being a nuisance, there should not be a restriction on the number of cats allowed at a premise. If my elderly cat wants a companion, I'd like to be able to adopt sibling cats without issue.

Cat management needs to be in place for feral cats and their colonies. Council needs to consult cat rescues and do more to help them.

Please do not bring in ridiculous cat bylaws that have been motioned by cat haters. Get your dog control issues sorted!
Domestic cats aren't the problem.

The already legislated requirements for cats should be enough:

1. To be microchipped
2. Desexed before it is six months old
3. Not allow cats to cause a nuisance

I disagree with changes to the cat by-laws.

Please note my response accordingly.



Submission 38

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 15 September 2024 6:15 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to the Tea Tree Gully Council Public Consultation for the draft Cat By-law No. 7

Submission to the Tea Tree Gully Council Public Consultation for the draft Cat By-law No. 7

15 September 2024

From [redacted]
Cat Behaviourist and Cat Consultant
Former Councillor Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council
Former Member State Government Cat Consultative Committee to the Dog and Cat Management Board
Former TAFE instructor in Cat Management to Council staff and the public
Former teacher Dip KTC
Recipient of State Government Award for C.A.T.S. for "Service to Councils"
President C.A.T.S. Cats Assistant To Sterilise Inc
email [redacted]

Interests - Working in the Tea Tree Gully Council for over 35 years; including free negotiation and mediation to achieve amicable solutions between residents who have cat-related problems and those who have the cats, staffing the free Hotline for C.A.T.S. Inc for residents, site visits to the area, attending former Committee Meetings at the Council re cat management, delivering deputations to TTGC, running a very successful trial for Cat Management requested by TTG Council, and providing incredibly low-priced desexing to multi-thousands of TTGC cats, worth literally millions of dollars to the residents of TTGC through the goodwill which we have established with our cooperation veterinary surgeries.

I strongly oppose any plans for the introduction of draft Cat By-law No. 7 as it will undermine over 35 years of good, sound, successful cat management in this Council.

Many years ago there was strong agreement between the Tea Tree Gully Council and C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc for C.A.T.S. to manage the Council's cats and not have a cat bylaw.
This agreement followed many Council Committee Meetings set up for the purpose of how best to manage cats. Members of these Meetings included, C.A.T.S. Veterinary Surgeon [redacted], the Tea Tree Gully Cat Support Group and members of the TTGC community.
A trial was conducted and $1,000 was allocated fo this trial for C.A.T.S. to undertake it.
The trial was extremely successful and a large number of cats were desexed with the community and TTGC being very pleased.
As far as I remember, this would have been in the Agenda and the Minutes at the time and there would have been a resolution of Council regarding C.A.T.S. handling this Cat Management Program.
To my knowledge, there has never been a resolution of TTGC to repeal, rescind or revoke this agreement and I am asking if this is acceptable, considering C.A.T.S. has faithfully carried out everything which was agreed to plus a lot more, and by now the donated services which C.A.T.S. has organised for the residents of TTGC would be valued in the millions, given the minuscule prices for the desexing, through C.A.T.S. arrangements with vets and also the free service on the C.A.T.S. Hotline for good cat management advice and cat care, by trained staff, for your residents?
I fail to see how a cat bylaw could be considered when TTGC obviously has a far better record for high desexing rates and good cat management than any SA council which has a cat bylaw.
I also ask why none of this was included in the public consultation or recorded in any of the Council reports?
Cats cannot be managed by law and Susan Close now knows this, so she is trying to save face by duping the federal government and the councils into talking on an unenforceable, costly and time consuming job for staff, by passing the buck.
C.A.T.S. is a scientifically based organisation, its aims:
To reduce cat numbers through humane desexing methods. working with the residents, not against them
To reduce cat-related problems and
To reduce impact on other animals.

All C.A.T.S aims have been successful and all its goals have been achieved.
C.A.T.S. has evidence-based data which proves that the Desex and Return to Home Program provides the only method which has resulted in tangible evidence of success. All other methods have failed and been counterproductive.
Cats are not dogs and cats cannot be managed through legislation.
Adelaide Hills Council has had a blow-out in its Animal Management budget, caused by the cat bylaws, and [redacted], the Team Leader, stated on a zoom meeting that only 9% of cats in AHC were registered and most of those were designer cats (cats which had to be registered as breeding cats, to sell the kittens) and not moggie cats.
Campbelltown Council costs were, with surveys, staff time and expenses, over $100,000 just to get to the introduction of its cat bylaw. Now they have a minimal registration rate for cats and this will likely drop as most of those cats were obtained from Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). I wonder how many of those cats have already "died" on paper (as Councillor Bill Coomans of Alexandrina Council has already predicted as happening in his Council) or "runaway". We know, for a fact, that this retaliation has already started.
I am a former Councillor so I do know that cat bylaws, as proposed by Tea Tree Gully Council are not good for councils and they have already caused a massive amount of problems and large costs, for the few councils which have introduced them.
Nearly half of the 68 SA councils have never had any cat bylaws and don't want them. Many have already been through the process of considering these unenforceable and unworkable pieces of legislation, and have voted against them.
Most of the councils which have cat bylaws are simply limiting cats per household to 2 cats, which is obviously a mistake, also stated by the RSPCA, as it stops residents from taking responsibility for the estimated 200,000 unowned cats and getting them desexed. Limiting to 2 cats has increased the cat numbers in these council areas, as many more cats have been left undesexed, and have bred kittens.
The TTGC needs to compare the success of the councils which have never had any cat bylaws with those councils which do have cat bylaws, and it can clearly be seen the difference in success rates.

Councils like most of those in the eastern suburbs, and other local councils, plus many country councils which do not have cat bylaws, have a far lower rate of complaints and problems regarding cats.
Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council, for an example, has managed its cats through a partnership with C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc for over 35 years and has now progressed to being able to have free cat desexing for all moggie residents, for over 2 years.
Tea Tree Gully Council has also had the Priority Assistance of C.A.T.S. for over 35 years which the TTGC does not seem to realise or acknowledge, how fortunate your Council has been, as with C.A.T.S. assistance the amount of problems your council has had are minimal compared with councils with cat bylaws.
However, nothing in the paperwork was ever noted about the many thousands of cats that have been desexed for your Council at miniscule prices through the generosity of C.A.T.S. and its supporting Veterinary Clinics.
Why not?
Also nothing was included regarding the free advice on good cat management and cat care provided by C.A.T.S. 18 to 21 hours every week. Nowhere else is this kind of assistance available.
Where is the acknowledgement and gratitude shown by TTGC for this enormous donation to your Council for over 35 years?
Imagine what your Council's cat problems would be like now, without having had all this support, and all the low priced desexing which we have donated: 'Priority service for over 35 years!

I certainly agree with the State Government NOT to have any further state-wide cat legislation.

1/. I strongly agree with the decision to NOT proceed with any plans for state-wide cat management of cat confinement/containment.
Apart from the fact that it would have been ignored by almost all residents, it would have been a disaster as cats cannot be prevented from leaving owners' properties, due to their natural behaviour. And even if owned cats were to be prevented from "trespassing", unowned cats would have quickly taken their place as there is no such thing as a cat-free zone in an open system that sustains cats.
The idea that cat confinement/containment is going to keep cats from going on other peoples' property is simply "pie in the sky" and a fantasy

of those who have no idea of the situation as they have not undertaken the required research.
In actual fact the greater the area that a cat travels through, marks, and holds as his own, the lower the rate of intruder cats taking up residence. Where a strong, active, dominant cat controlling a large area is removed, the result is that a group of new cats moves in, as one new cat is not able to maintain possession of this large area. This means that, many more cats replace the one which was removed, and this increases the number of cats and the problems and also the impact on wildlife. Almost certainly, this group of new cats would include at least one undesexed cat, perhaps several, so the resulting increase of cats would be significantly higher again, when the multiple kittens are born.
Put simply, the more a cat travels and holds its territory the fewer the number cats per that area and the fewer the cat-related problems and lower the impact on wildlife.

2/. I strongly agree with the decision NOT to have state-wide cat registration fees as this would have been the last straw in reducing cat desexing; cat desexing would have fallen to an even lower all-time low. It is obvious that a very low proportion of the cat owning residents of SA are having the microchips and recording their details on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) even though DACO is currently free of registration fees. So it is obvious that if fees were to be introduced as well as law, this number on DACO would plummet to an infinitesimal number. Furthermore, it would also deter even more residents from, not only desexing their own cats, but also from desexing unowned cats, which is the only way to control the unowned cat population, estimated to be 200,000.

3/. I strongly agree with the decision to NOT to have state-wide legislation for limiting cats per property as this was also a counterproductive move. The more cats that can be desexed and returned to a property, the fewer undesexed cats can move in and breed kittens, also adding to the cat-related problems and impact on wildlife. Any limits on numbers reduces the likelihood of residents to take responsibility for more unowned cats, getting them desexed, feeding and caring for them: This being the only way to successfully reduce the population of the 200,000 unowned cats. Residents in fear of being seen as owners and therefore in breach of the law, will be much less likely to be forthcoming with their assistance.

I also agree with the recent banning of cat trapping cages to the general public, and after decades of lobbying the State government to ban the provision of cat trapping cages to the public, and our warnings to Councils that they risk litigation by using these cages and by providing residents with these lethal, weapons of torture, it appears that the State government has finally done something right!
It is a real shame that this did not happen decades ago before all the suffering, torture and death that these cages have caused in the wrong hands, and also the countless cats which have been taken to the bush and hills and released to fend for themselves, to suffer terribly, most dying or being killed trying to get back home, or arriving home skin and bon: Also, the native wildlife which have been threatened by these poor cats desperately struggling for survival.
There is no organisation in SA which has tried as hard as C.A.T.S. to get these diabolical cages banned to the general public: So success at last!
C.A.T.S. sent the Press Release, to "The Advertiser" which was followed by the article published, so we also got this information out to the Councils and the public regarding the risk of using these diabolical traps.
Given that tens of thousands of residents are feeding unowned cats in their gardens, and will continue doing so, as this is a worldwide activity for compassionate people who have a hungrycats come begging for food, and I can assure you that nothing will stop the feeding. That is not a problem, as these cats are actually an asset to the community, provided that the cats are desexed and returned to its same garden where they continues to be fed and cared for by the feeder.
My first question is**… Are organisations such as C.A.T.S. going to be designated as authorised officers so that we can help residents who want to get the cats desexed, to transport timid cats to the vet for the all-important desexing operation, or are the cats going to be left undesexed, to breed litter after litter after litter until there are hundreds of thousands of these kittens overflowing the council areas, the RSPCA , the AWL and the adoption organisations?**
Obviously, we don't want authorised officers being able to trap cats unless it is for desexing them and returning them to their home. We are only asking for organisations which have shown responsibility and

compassionate care for these cats, and have proved their reliability not to be harming the cats.
The information which has been supplied by government is incomplete as it just says… "Furthermore it is illegal to release a cat".
This should have been written in a complete sentence with the full meaning, "Furthermore it is illegal to release a cat into the wild where it has to fend for itself".
Legally, the statement as it stands is incorrect, as it would make every person who takes a cat, in a cage, to the vet for desexing and returns the cat to their home and lets the cat out of the cage into their garden, guilty of breaking the law, as they would be releasing a cat.
Unless this wording is corrected that mean that nobody can legally take a cat to the vet in a cage, the generally accepted method, and bring it home and let it out of the cage.
Timid cats which cannot be picked up need to be caught and the trapping cages are required for this if the cats are to be desexed to prevent the unwanted litters. These cages are no different to taking a tame cat to the vet in a carry cage, when used by qualified animal orientated people who care for the cats and follow the instructions: The cages have to be supervised and watched and that the cats, when caught are well cared for and taken to the vet. The cats HAVE to be returned to the exact point where they are caught and then fed and cared for. Unless the residents care dearly for the cats they would not go to all the trouble to get them desexed in the first place, which they do, and most even pay for them as well.
These cats also must be on private property and returned to the same private property and also with the cooperation of the owner or manager of the property, who wants the cats desexed.
C.A.T.S. has already formulated a Policy that complies with the former Natural Resources Amendment Act and the updated following Act, which has been in operation for 35 years and in the early days before cat legislation, when full scale, mass desexing was working, reduced the cat numbers being destroyed at the main shelter at the time to virtually half. (At that time the AWL was receiving 3 to 4 times the number of cats than the RSPCA). After the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 the numbers started increasing as the legislation stopped people from desexing the cats.

Thank you for stopping the open slather of cruelty and destruction which has been occurring by allowing and promoting these weapons of torture and let us hope that we can work around this legislation for those, the only people who are achieving anything, in increasing the rate of cat desexing by authorising organisations like C.A.T.S. to operate smoothly and successfully under the changed laws.

I strongly DON'T agree with Councils being encouraged to waste time, money and effort on enforcing unenforceable and unworkable cat legislation.

No matter what funding is made available by the National Cat Plan, it will not be cost-neutral to the rate payers.

Furthermore, even if the funding is for desexing, it will NOT be taken up in enough numbers of the general population, as most residents are now aware that, if it is government or council funded (this does not apply to C.A.T.S.) it will come with a mandatory microchip. This ,means most residents now know the dangers of having a microchip, as it includes recording names and addresses on Dogs and Cat Online (DACO) so that governments and councils can track down the person responsible.

Who now, is stupid enough to do this as the legislation comes with fines, registration fees, and seizure of cats over the limit set per council. And who is going to desex the estimated 200,000 thousand unowned cats and take on this responsibility, even if it is government or council funded?

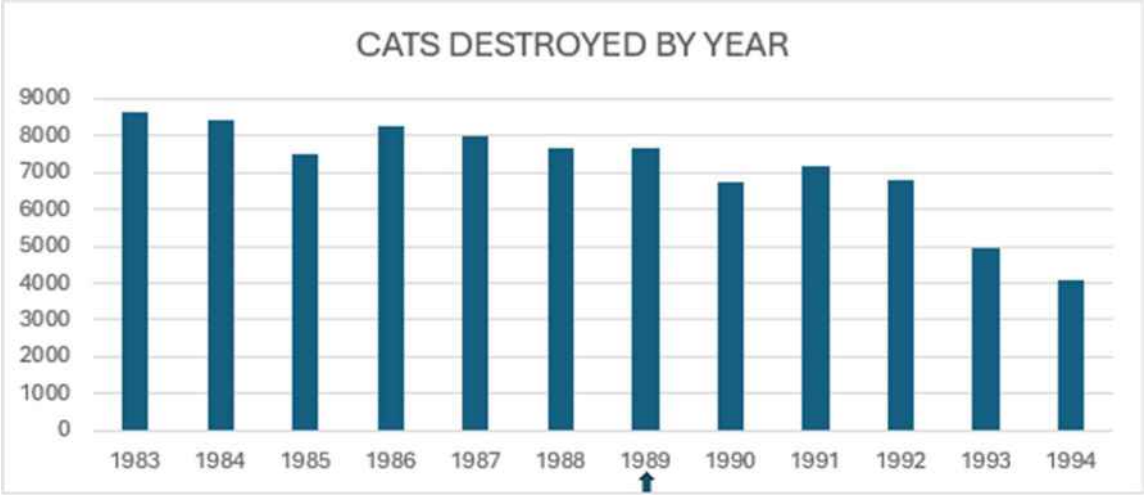
And having to pay registration fees every year and be liable for fines for cat trespass and any other infringement is going to be far more expensive than just the cat desexing operation in the first place. So the relatively small number of residents who do support the cat desexing fund would be petty short sighted – wouldn't they?

The now failed Onkaparinga free desexing (the RSPCA has now referred the cats to C.A.T.S. through our low-rate desexing) but while it was in operation, the RSPCA reported that half the residents who booked their cats in for the free desexing did not even turn up for the appointment. Well this is pretty obvious if they found out they also had to have the microchip on the same day and it would be recorded on DACO. Come on – most people know this now and that is why they do not have the microchips and that is why many of them have stopped desexing.

Isn't this obvious?

It was to the writer of this letter published in “The Sunday Mail”…
“The Sunday Mail 11/8/2024
Microchips have issues “
Lost cat is back home”, (SM, 4/8) makes microchips sound great but there is a lot more to this so-called good news.
Because microchips are now mandatory, most owners won’t have them because they won’t record their names on DACO (Dogs and Cats Online) This seems obvious by the very low number listed.
Because of this, many people won’t desex them for fear of being fined for not having the microchip.
So in reality, microchips have been responsible for the overbreeding and deaths of countless thousands of kittens which never would have been born if it were not for the cat laws forcing microchips.
To return to mass cat desexing, as it was before the failed cat legislation, microchips need to be made a matter of choice, not compulsory.
Desexing is 100 per cent more necessary than microchipping.
Carol Patricia James, Kensington Park

I frequently wonder if politicians and councillors consider the cat supporters have no brain. Believe me, cat supporters are like cats: They have the sharpest brains – they are not stupid. Just check the minuscule number of them that have recorded cats on DACO from the estimated 400,000 SA cats.
1/. I strongly DON'T agree with any legislation for cat management, as it is not only a proven massive failure, but it is dangerously counterproductive.
Before any cat laws were in force C.A.T.S. Inc began to desex cats with its low price desexing scheme. After the significant fall in cat numbers between 1989 and 1994, during the first 5 years period when C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc mass desexed, both owned and unowned cats, in their tens of thousands through its low-priced desexing scheme, a reversal occurred when cat laws came into play in 1995.



C.A.T.S. Inc was incorporated in late 1989. Note the significant drop in cats being destroyed after C.A.T.S. began its mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned in the 5 years after C.A.T.S. was incorporated on 1 November 1989.

In addition, in 1992, REARK Research conducted a survey which found that SA had the highest rate of desexed cats for any state

Had this undeniable success not been undermined by the state government Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 which brought to a halt the successful downturn of cat numbers and instead, started these numbers to increase again, we would not have had the catastrophe which later followed in 2018, when the disastrous legislation was passed to make microchips mandatory.

This one major law with its associated fines, fees and threats of seizure of cats has been the overarching reason why cats desexing plummeted and the cat population skyrocketed.

Although the decision to NOT have cat management controls for state-wide confinement/containment, registration fees and limits per property, the recommendation for encouraging councils to undertake this counterproductive approach is NOT acceptable. Continuing with forcing the mandatory microchipping and encouraging councils to introduce cat bylaws is still going to be an insurmountable problem to desexing of cats in large enough numbers as to return to the days when the cat population was dropping due to C.A.T.S. mass desexing of all cats.

This plan to encourage the councils to introduce cat bylaws is not a wise or acceptable decision, as it has already been proved as a fruitless and costly undertaking. The introduction of cat registration fees has never

been cost-neutral, and the rates increase, affecting residents, both ratepayers and those renting as the landlords increase the rent, is not a popular move for councillors seeking re-election. In addition, nothing is going to be achieved in any case; on the contrary, it will result in even more cats left undesexed and the number of kittens escalating.
And, although I agree that the right decision has been made at a state-wide level, regarding NOT limiting numbers of cats per property, this is still included in cat bylaws and is therefore; still to be encouraged under the cat bylaws so I certainly do not support this. As mentioned before it is obvious, it will limit the numbers of cats that residents will desex, especially the unowned cats which can only be managed through DRH.
To continue with recommending that councils be encouraged to introduce these counterproductive cat bylaws is ridiculous as it is not supported by any logical thinking, or evidence-based data showing any success, and it is promoting an unenforceable law. I certainly do NOT agree with any plans to encourage councils to undertake such a pointless action.
There is no justification in encouraging councils to impose cat bylaws as they do not achieve the desired result of reducing cats numbers, problems and impact on wildlife, and the RSPCA has stated that "although some councils have introduced cat bylaws, there is no tangible evidence of success".
What the RSPCA did not say, but must know if they have done the necessary research, is that there is no tangible evidence of success with ANY legislative cat management, at a local, state or federal level. All legislative approaches to cat management have failed.
Cats are not dogs and cannot be managed like dogs, Cats are a different species with a different set of behaviours, and it is an affront to those of us having studied cats, to say it is possible to manage them like dogs. It is an affront to anyone who cares about a cat to say they can be managed like dogs.
Encouraging councils to try and enforce an unenforceable cat management bylaw is ludicrous. Just think about the consequences that this action is creating, in not only financial costs to the councils and residents, but emotional costs to the residents who love the cats, especially the elderly and disabled whose only companion may be a cat because they cannot manage to exercise a dog.

TTGC has obviously not done the required research to know that cat bylaws do not work. These bylaws undermine good cat management and they stop most people from desexing cats, particularly the unowned cats which can only be managed by residents taking responsibility for them. Removing or killing these estimated 200,000 cats, simply results in the vacuum effect ensuring that new cats fill the vacated spaces and breed to not only replace, but increase, original numbers. (Evidence can be supplied).

How is Council going to enforce an unenforceable cat bylaw?

One (a) How can it be prove a cat is owned without a microchip and as MOST owners WON'T microchip and record their names and addresses? This is proved by the less than a quarter of the estimated OWNED SA cats, ownership cannot be proved and without proof of ownership the courts won't convict.

One (b) Ownership of cats cannot be proved by seeing a cat on a property because cats can't be kept off a property without a cat-proof fence.

One © Ownership cannot be proved by food being left out as this food could be left out for birds... many birds eat food that cats eat.

Two (a) How can an inspector get near enough to a cat to scan it when 95% of cats will not let a stranger get near them, let alone close enough for it to be scanned?

Two (b) Is government aware of how a cat is scanned? The scanner has to be run all over the cat as microchips move about in the cat's body. So just scanning quickly where the microchip was inserted is not sufficient, as the microchips have been found in the chest, the base of the tail and even the brain.

Three Even if photographs are taken of the cats, even with installed cameras, there are many cats which are almost identical, and I do not believe anybody can accurately and positively tell the difference between black cats of similar size, and there are many black cats. Even tabby cats can be hard to distinguish differences, as so many are so alike, particularly when in groups of related cats So how can it be possible to positively identify these cats?

Four If a cat bylaw is imposed, most cat supporters will go underground and compliance will be extremely low, just check the compliance rate on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) if you doubt this. Also check the compliance rate on Adelaide Hills Council records: Last I heard it was

only 9% of the estimated owned cats in that Council: And, Team Leader Matt Ahern stated on his webinar that most of these cats were "designer" cats (meaning breeders breeding cats which have to be registered so they can sell the kittens) NOT moggie cats. Also check the registration records on any of the councils which have registration and compare it with the estimated number of cats per council area. The compliance rate is extremely low.
Even if these councils have not yet brought in fees, as per DACO, the rate is extremely low so if fees are to be applied the rate will drop even lower.
The government knows that the cat registration has failed as there are no plans at this stage to introduce cat registration fees as it KNOWS this will mean even a lower rate for desexing. Why not admit this and stop trying to pass the buck to the councils?
And don't think it will be any better with a National Cat Plan with bribery money offered. Councils need to be very careful that they do not fall into this trap set by the State government to catch ill-informed councils. This Plan will not be cost-neutral and residents and ratepayers will foot the bill.
Five So if, finally, after all the reasons why the cat can't be identified, the cat is identified, and it is NOT an owned or microchipped cat. What is then going to be done with this cat? That is in the event that the cat can be caught? So how is the cat going to be caught when 95% of cats won't let a stranger pick them up? And also how is it going to be caught as the likelihood of litigation against catching the cat in a trapping cage can never be fully ignored.
Have you any idea of how hard it is to catch the RIGHT cat?
It took 16 nights of working all night to catch one particular RIGHT female cat to get it desexed. Do you have any idea of what the animal supporters who do desexing and returning to home do, to get the right cats and desex thousands of cats?

Perhaps TTGC should investigate the work that these people have done for 35 years before writing them off without a mention. And all the research it takes before the catching to identify the RIGHT cat. And this needs to be done with the cooperation of the people who care for the cats which won't be forthcoming under a cat bylaw. The last thing they will do it help a council that has a cat bylaw.

Six How is a cat bylaw going to stop cats going onto other peoples' properties? Even if you remove one lot of cats another lot of cats from the estimated 200,000 unowned cats are going to restock the empty spaces. There were no mentions in the reports about the Vacuum Effect. This is a scientifically proved phenomenon of nature which cannot be changed by humans. With the high reproduction rate of cats, there is no way sufficient cats can be contained, removed, or killed to surmount the overall breeding rate and more cats simply fill the vacuum and breed to restore, and it can be proved, increase original numbers.
Cat bylaws do NOT result in a cat free zone. They simply increase the problems and the numbers of cats.
Seven Has government obtained any valid, tangible evidence to prove that anything in its cat bylaw has been proved to reduce cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on wildlife? Not just the unsubstantiated word of staff from other councils or government offices?
Re Campbelltown Council. Remembering too, that many, possibly most, of the small number of cats recorded so far as being registered in Campbelltown Council, were already recorded on the government Dogs and Cat Online (DACO) base, well before the cat bylaw was passed. It will be interesting to see how many of these cats have "died" or "run-away" (on paper that is) before the actual fees start to bite! We already know that this has started!
We already know that this Council had obtained the list of cats in its Council from DACO before the cat bylaw even began. Is it any wonder that cat supporters won't record their details on DACO? Who trusts councils or government these days?
Eight How are councils going to prove that the formerly recorded cats on DACO that are in a council which imposes a cat bylaw and have got these details from DACO have not "died" or "run-away" before they can get these recorded cats and have them on their data bases? As Councillor Bill Coomans at Alexandrina Council states- there are going to be a lot of cats which have "died" (on paper) as stated in the Mt Barker newspaper, "The Courier".
Remember too, that cat people are not stupid. They have had nearly 30 years to outwit councils and government over these cat bylaws.
They also know that very few cats with microchips are even returned to owners. That is why when one with a microchip is returned to an owner

it makes the news in the papers. Most cats trapped and taken by cat-haters will not be taken to authorised officers. These cats will be killed, likely tortured as the RSPCA warns, or dumped in the hills and the bush to suffer and slowly die, but in their desperate struggle for survival they become a threat to native wildlife. Fortunately the cat trapping cages which have been so freely available, and C.A.T.S. has long campaigned against letting them out to the general public, including cat-haters, are now being restricted.

This article, published in "The Advertiser" (23/8/2024) is what is happening due to the government promoted cruelty of persecuting and killing cats. These are just a few of many examples, published in “The Advertiser”..

“The Advertiser” 23/8/2024

GRIM FIND AS DEAD CATS DUMPED LYNTON GRACE

Seven dead cats have been found dumped in the Barossa, sparking urgent warnings to cat owners to keep their pets on their properties.

The RSPCA has launched an investigation, saying it had received a report this week about the seven cats, which were found beside the unsealed Sturt Rd, in Ebenezer, about 10km north of Nuriootpa.

The RSPCA is urging cat owners in the region to contain their pets to their properties.

The cats were beside the section of Sturt Rd between Carrara Hill and Pipeline roads. Six cats were adults. Their genders are unknown, but their colouring is tortoiseshell, three short-haired tabby and white, one short-haired tabby and one long-haired tabby. The seventh cat was a white-coated, short-haired juvenile. The RSPCA said all the cats appeared to be domestic and their good body conditions indicate they may be owned cats.

It has been unable to verify if any of the cats were microchipped. The local council has collected the bodies. Anyone with any information that will assist this investigation is asked to contact RSPCA SA on 1300 477 722. SAPOL referred inquiries to the RSPCA.

Just urging people to contain cats to their properties is not enough and it certainly is not the answer. This cruelty must be addressed and the government must be stopped from promoting it.

Cats are no longer safe on their own property as these cat-haters are able to kill them through the fences, as has had has already happened.

“The Advertiser” 7/1/2023

CRUELTY DOESN'T STOP AT XMAS, EVEN IF YOU'RE CUTE Talara McHugh

FIVE dead kittens found trapped in a box in Woodcroft are among 23 animals dumped across the state since Christmas, the RSPCA has revealed.

The four-week old kittens were found huddled together about 5pm on December 29 by two Onkaparinga council officers after a report about a suspicious-looking box. It is believed they were alive when dumped after 4pm on December 28 because there were scratch marks inside the box.

RSPCA SA chief inspector Andrea Lewis said it was "alarming and tragic "people treated live animals like garbage. "The total absence of compassion and empathy in most of these acts is shocking," she said.

The RSPCA is pleading for people with unwanted animals to either find them a good home or surrender them to an animal welfare organisation.

An emaciated dog on a road in Salisbury, a guinea pig left outside the Avenues Shopping Centre in a shoebox and two newborn kittens in a box in Elizabeth South are among the latest dumped animals. Anyone with information should contact RSPCA Lonsdale on 1300 477 722.

"The Advertiser" 21/5/2022

Cats left to chill outside RSPCA Evangeline Polymeneas

TWO cats and a kitten could have frozen to death after they were abandoned outside an RSPCA shelter on Friday night, an animal care manager said.

The two-year-old cats and nine-week-old kitten were dumped at the Lonsdale shelter where manager Stuart Timmins spotted them as he was leaving late for the night. "Something caught my eye as I drove past the main gate, so I turned back to check," Mr Timmins said.

"I found two young cats and a kitten in a filthy carrier that had no cover over it, and no blanket, food or water inside.

"It's just pure luck that I happened to be working late and noticed that carrier in the dark."

The temperature at the time Mr Timmins found the animals was 10C and dropping.

One of the cats is missing an eye. RSPCA South Australia urges people with animals they can no longer care for to either rehome them or surrender them to a reputable organisation during opening hours.

Abandoning an animal is an offence and anyone found guilty can face up to two years' imprisonment or a $20,000 fine.

"The Advertiser" 12/1/2022

Kittens dumped on road

AT LEAST six dead kittens had to be removed from a busy northern suburbs road after they were believed to have been dumped in a "despicable act" of cruelty.

Tracy Vine was driving along Burton Rd at Paralowie about 7am on Tuesday when she saw kittens strewn across the road.

"It looked like someone had plonked them on the road alive and let them run, before running them over," Ms Vine, of Paralowie, said. "It was absolutely horrifying. It brought me to tears."

She immediately notified Salisbury deputy mayor Chad Buchanan.

Mr Buchanan said he would doorknock residents to see if they had CCTV that could be passed on to the RSPCA. "This is a despicable act of animal cruelty and I hope those responsible are caught," he said.

Nine (a) How much is it going to cost the councils for each impounded cat?

The RSPCA states that it costs them $1,000 per cat to rehome each cat. Ask Matt Ahern at Adelaide Hills Council just how much it has cost that Council for their cat bylaw regarding impounded cats. The last I read was there had been a huge blowout of the Animal Management budget and obviously that was caused by the cat bylaw. The facts need to be presented to the residents when public consultation is undertaken, not hidden up as it was at Campbelltown Council, which outraged the residents as ratepayers will pay for this, and so will residents as landlords increase the rent.

These letters are an example of what happened after that Council, led by a new Mayor and Councillors, undermined the highly successful Council/C.A.T.S. mass desexing and good cat management program which Council had asked for, and had been running for many years.

"The Advertiser" 17/5/2023

Pet fury

War against Campbelltown City Council heated to boiling point when the conditions of the Cats By-Law 2022 appeared on council's Facebook page.

Such was the abuse and colourful language that the posts were removed and the site was closed for comments with a warning posted.

Most residents know nothing of the impossible conditions being unleashed upon them in two weeks, as most of the bylaw groundwork

occurred while the council chamber was closed during the pandemic, and people urged to stay home.
Residents here have worked hard for decades to achieve a high standard of cat care with high desexing rates, and there was no excuse for their success to be undermined by this unfair treatment of their beloved cats.
They have paid to desex the cats, both their own and unowned cats, feed and care for them, and now many have multiple cats and will be forced to apply to even keep them.
Also they will be charged registration fees for the cats if council finds their names from microchips, and fines of $312.50 if the cats trespass.
Geraldene Hannah, Kensington
---------- “
"The Advertiser" 6/5/2023
Cat lovers object
We are the ones devastated by the “Claw and order: Cats locked up”.(The Advertiser, Tuesday)
We have spent three decades working with the previous Campbelltown Council’s wonderful cat management program, desexing all our cats, both our own and unowned.
Between our community, council and Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) we have organised more than 6000 cat desexings, and together have got most of the cat-related problems reduced to a minimum.
Our success was such that we were next to have free cat desexing like our neighbour Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council through CATS.
We are heartbroken that this has all been scrapped because of this cat bylaw to be imposed by a different mayor and councillors.
Even if CATS helps desex, we can’t cope with registration fees, fines of $312.50 if our cats trespass and limits of only two, or expensive cat runs.
We are upset and some are physically ill with fear that our beloved cats will be trapped and killed.
We beg the new mayor and councillors to stop this cruelty to us and our cats.
Peter Benson, spokesman, Campbelltown Cat Management and Welfare Group
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“The Advertiser”10/5/2023
Cat lovers complain

Thank you to the Campbelltown Cat Management and Welfare Group for outlining our devastation at cat bylaws that Campbelltown Council have announced (Letters, The Advertiser, Saturday).
Many of us did sign petitions and sent in submissions against the council cat bylaw, which were ignored.
What will happen to those of us who have desexed unowned cats and are now caring for them when the council will restrict us to two per household? They haven't thought this through at all.
Our elderly, disabled and disadvantaged cannot comply with the impossible conditions and are fearful of the consequences.
How can they do this when the motion to disallow is still going through parliament?
Lisa Roberts, Magill

"The Advertiser" 13/5/2023

Rule will cause feuds

Responding to "Cat lovers complain" (The Advertiser, Wednesday), I can verify thousands of Campbelltown Council residents have desexed former unowned cats, which they now have taken responsibility for, and their own cats.
As well, we have the veterinary records of the desexing to prove this from CATS' (Cats Assistance to Sterilise) low-priced desexing scheme.
There are also many disabled and elderly residents who cannot possibly bring these cats inside or keep them in enclosures, and fear they will now be trapped, injured and killed.
This cat bylaw has caused enormous stress and anxiety, but council does not want to know.
Instead of improving relations between neighbours, it is going to create feuds.
Imagine living next door to someone who trapped your beloved cat!
Christine Pierson, president C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise

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"The Advertiser"5/5/2023

No restraining cats

Councillor Therese Britton La-Salle is correct. Taking cats on leads is "ludicrous" and it is very dangerous for both the cats and the walkers ("Claw and Order: Cats Locked Up", The Advertiser, Tuesday).
The RSPCA has stated that when cats get frightened they head for

something high, so when restrained on a lead they climb up the person holding the lead.
As the walker's head is the highest point, this risks blinding and severe injuries, particularly to the face.
Cats are also at risk as they cannot get away and, if the lead is dropped it can catch in an obstacle, preventing escape from an attacker.
Councillors pushing this crazy cat bylaw obviously have no experience with cats and are trying to legislate for something which is unworkable and unacceptable.
The only solution that has proved to be successful in reducing cat numbers is desexing and returning cats to their home territory to keep undesexed cats at bay
Janet Allan, Mallala
Nine (b) Can the residents afford these cat bylaws and the high-priced vet rates in this financially crucial time?
Ten (a) How is TTGC expecting to address the desexing issue?
Has Council checked the prices being charged in SA by the vet surgeries which are not working with C.A.T.S? If not, then why not?
Nobody has been able to do what CATS has done as the prices they have worked to achieve are the envy of the other states. And the dedication of its supporters is next to none. There is something wrong in the reports for the public consultation that the achievement from the DRH method has been totally ignored.
For the state government to pass legislation that all owned cats are to be desexed, and then support the high-priced vets to keep the desexing rate high, is appalling. For government to oppose C.A.T.S. because it provides low prices through excellent vets is unacceptable - but it is the case. If it were not for C.A.T.S. the vet prices would be even higher. A former government Minister stated that C.A.T.S was keeping down the overall desexing prices.

Cat collars risk litigation to councils

Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, and the Amendments to this Act 2017, there is no provision for Councils to force the collaring of cats.
This is due to the risk of cats being hanged by the collars and also the multiple injuries which these collars cause, so identification is specified to be by microchip as cats cannot be safely collared.

In a report to the Campbelltown Council prior to its unpopular Cat By-law 2022, the RSPCA warned of the dangers of including this in its bylaw, but this was ignored, and Cats By-law No 6 forcing identification “by means of a collar around its neck”, was passed by Parliament.
Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) has long warned of this danger, as multiple cats have suffered horrendous injuries from collars being caught across the mouth requiring expensive vet treatment including stitches, (*Advertiser* article with photo) eating into the flesh of the neck, caught under the forelegs and cutting into the body resulting in amputation of the leg, and also euthanasia, and death by hanging.
This is surely enough evidence to support risk of litigation to the Councils that force this dangerous law, so state government should not be passing these dangerous cat bylaws..
When is the TTGC going to start living in the REAL world and stop living in a fantasy world where they think they are going to solve the problems of cats being a problem to residents by a cat bylaw, and save all these native animals?
Council needs to start facing reality that they need to do the necessary research. This research can be obtained from the people who actually do work with the cats, the cat supporters and in the community where the cats actually live.
Keeping cats on owners’ properties does not solve the problem, as cats are not safe now, even at home behind cat-proof fences.
One report C.A.T.S. verified by a post mortem, revealed that the poor cat, found dead just inside the cat-proof fence, had been attacked with a toxic spray. This kind of spray is used in Felixer grooming traps, which deliver a dreadful poison, which when the cat licks it, dies an agonising death, as was the verdict of the vet who did the post mortem.
These Felixer grooming traps were encouraged and subsidised by government money and now are to be used by their thousands.
TTGC should be making their Council a safer place for cats, <u>all cats</u>, owned and unowned. Not encouraging more cruelty and persecution by having cat bylaws.
The Mt Barker Council is currently under fire from its residents over the killing of native wildlife by spreading baits. The baits are killing rabbits, rats and mice and also native wildlife. Regardless as to how the baits are spread there is no way they can be safe. Even f the native animals can't get to the actual bait the baited animals run around and the wildlife

catch and eat them or ingest the carcasses and die from secondary poisoning.
Had the cat been left to live freely and control the rabbits, rats and mice, instead of being confined under the cat bylaw, there would not have been the need for this baiting in the first place.
The following letter from a Mt Barker resident clearly illustrates what is happening in her council area.
"The Courier" 14/8/2024 (Mt Barker)

The following letter explains why this has happened.
"The Courier"21/8/2024 (Mt Barker)

What about the scientifically proved phenomenon of nature called the Vacuum Effect, which is the underlying reason why the previous TAP failed. And the reason why any further TAP action will fail?
There is no such thing as a cat free zone in an open system like Australia that supports cats. Removal of one lot of cats results in another lot of cats infiltrating and breeding to not only restore original numbers but actually increase numbers.
Although, when a youngster, I did not know there was a name for this natural phenomenon, I knew it was happening, I could even see it happening in my own backyard. When our resident cat died and we did not plan on getting another cat, within three weeks a new undesexed cat arrived in the backyard, one we had never seen before, and shortly after, it produced four kittens.
So that one cat that died was replaced with five new ones.
This is happening on a large scale everywhere that your misguided and cruel plans are being undertaken.
How is it that you can't see this happening and realise that you have to work with nature to solved the problems and not against nature, if you want to achieve success?
Everybody who has done the research knows cat legislation has not achieved the goals that they claimed to attain but still TTGC is disseminating ill-conceived, non-evidence-based data and expect residents to believe it. The public is becoming much better educated on the subject now and it is well past the time that most people believe this propaganda anymore. Even our Adelaide papers don't support cat

legislation anymore, and have published nearly 50 letters opposing this plan for legislation and killing and persecution of cats.

It is time to stop persecuting cats and start supporting the only methods that do reduce cat numbers, cat related problems and impact on wildlife and good welfare outcomes for the cats - that is Desex and Return to Home of all cats, friendly, timid, pet, free-living, farm cats, cats in business sites, cats in industrial complexes and feral: owned and unowned and semi-owned, which is evidence-based, has all the data to substantiate that it does work and that applying DRH is the only method which has proven tangible evidence of success.

C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc has been successfully operating, in spite of the State government'ss refusal to acknowledge the success and resounding support from the community. The reason for this is that state government supports keeping the vet prices for cat desexing as high as possible for the high priced vets who oppose the C.A.T.S. low priced desexing scheme. These wonderful cooperating vets support the desexing of all cats at affordable rates so that mass desexing of cats, both owned and unowned, can continue. However, due to the overriding influence of the Australian Veterinary Association on the Dog and Cat Management Board, with vets on the Board and also one vet closely associated with the Board, who want to keep the vet prices for cat desexing high, regardless as to the fact that most people can't afford them, C.A.T.S. low priced desexing scheme is never mentioned.

Thank goodness for C.A.T.S. and the fact that the harder the government has tried to stamp them out the harder they have fought back and won. This is due to the overwhelming support of the community and the willingness for residents to get the cats desexed, as long as they are able to scrape together the small amount required just to cover the costs, due to the generosity of the vets who donate their time to desex the cats at cost.

C.A.T.S. has got the assistance of the wider community and with over 135,000 cats desexed and tens of thousands of happy clients, and with plenty of strong support, I do not consider that the government is going to get far with trying to force councils into undertaking cat bylaws that threaten fines, fees and seizure of cats and killing of all cats which are not deemed domesticated.

A few of the many letters follow, illustrating that the C.A.T.S. non-legislative DRH method, is the proven way to go forward and if promoted, instead of the current failure of the Dog and Cat Management Act, regarding cats, this would be the solution to the cat catastrophe caused by trying to manage cats like dogs under legislation.
Councils concentrating on cat desexing are the Councils who have the fewer problems and a lot happier residents.
"The Advertiser" 29/7/2024

Vets doing good work

Regarding “Deadly bite to rising vet bills”, (“The Advertiser”, 26/7), thank goodness for Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) and the wonderful vets who donate their time to CATS to help us with getting our cats desexed. Where would we be without them?
John Markham, Henley Beach South
“The Advertiser” 31/7/2024

Keeping cats in check

I agree, a big thank you to CATS (Cats Assistance To Sterilise) and the “Vets doing good work” (Letters, 29/7) to help get the cats desexed at affordable rates, by donating their time.
Over-breeding is the root of the problem and if we desex the cats in large enough numbers we can surmount the over-breeding and reduce the feline population, which reduces the problems and impact of wildlife.
None of the other so-called controls do any good at all.
In fact the laws have made everything far worse – just look at the mass increase in cat numbers since the cat legislation! CATS have got it right.
L. Roberts, Campbelltown

Thank you for receiving my Submission.

[redacted]

Cat Behaviourist and Cat Consultant
Former Councillor Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council
Former Member State Government Cat Consultative Committee to the Dog and Cat Management Board
Former TAFE instructor in Cat Management to Council staff and the public
Former teacher Dip KTC

Recipient of State Government Award for C.A.T.S. for "Service to Councils"
President C.A.T.S. Cats Assistant To Sterilise Inc

Submission 39

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2024 7:22 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Cat By-Laws

To who it may concern,

The proposed new cat management by-laws are about control, not management. Council needs to have more control of dogs that injure humans and other dogs!

The cat issue is with strays not loved domestic cats. A better model focuses on free and low-cost desexing as well as community engagement. The SA Government needs to fund desexing programs to manage cat populations effectively and reflects community values.

Council should recognise the crucial role of rescues and allow them to trap cats without needing council permits.

I've had a few cats over the 28 years I've lived in the TTG Council area. One cat used to get a rash around the neck from the collar. We took it to the vet and was told to leave the collar off. Another cat got caught in the backyard tree with her collar, and even though it was a collar that breaks free with force a part of it was caught on a branch and she was still trapped. If a cat is more microchipped and therefore identifiable there should be no need for a collar.

All my cats have been desexed and microchipped, together with a tattoo on the year. Yearly vet consults I get them to check that the chip is still there and showing the correct contact details. A collar should not be a requirement.

I purchased my cat Lexi through the Cat Adoption Foundation. She was unowned but clearly not a feral, and rescues like these are the only ones savings kitties like her.

Lexi loves to climb trees and should be allowed outside 24/7 if not being a nuisance. She is a good cat that comes when called. The curfew restrictions that Council wants to implement are harsh. At a maximum a restriction should only be from 11pm to 5am to allow for daylight saving changes as a cat (and humans) body clock take a while to adjust. I don't think there should be a curfew at all. Fix the stray/feral cat problem!

I don't want to see paid registration for cats. They are an important part of society and don't harm humans like dogs. If there is compulsory registration it should be free for all cat owners.

If cats are cared for and not being a nuisance, there should not be a restriction on the number of cats allowed at a premise.

Cat management needs to be in place for feral cats and their colonies. Council needs to consult cat rescues and do more to help them. If my elderly cat wants a companion, I'd like to be able to adopt sibling cats without issue.

Please do not bring in ridiculous cat bylaws that have been motioned by cat haters. Get your dog control issues sorted!
Domestic cats aren't the problem.

The already legislated requirements for cats should be enough:

1. To be microchipped

2. Desexed before it is six months old
3. Not allow cats to cause a nuisance

I disagree with changes to the cat by-laws.

Please confirm to [redacted] receipt of my email and that my voice will be heard as part of community consultation.

[redacted]

Submission 40

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 12:48 AM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Response to the public consultation for the draft Cat By-law No 7 2024

Response to the public consultation for the Tea Tree Gully Council for draft cat bylaw No 7 2024.
FROM [redacted]
MY INTERESTS are in Tea Tree Gully as I assist my friends and colleagues with desexing cats, especially unowned cats which they feed so I help the Council District.
I am writing because I have an interest in the Tea Tree Gully Council as I am an animal welfare supporter and I believe that what the C.A.T.S. organisation is doing is the best way to manage cats and therefore help the native wildlife, I do not want to see this excellent work undermined by a cat bylaw.
I am personally interested in your council because it has supported the C.A.T.S. program for decades and my friends were personally involved in the committee meetings that your council set up to thoroughly investigate the best way to manage cats. Council even authorised C.A.T.S. to have a trial, which was so successful that C.A.T.S. have been helping this council ever since.
I was shocked, actually, to see this public consultation to have a cat bylaw.
Why would you do that when so many residents depend on the C.A.T.S. assistance, particularly their amazing low rates for the desexing operation?
This is the only way to manage cats.
Cat bylaws do not manage cats. The cats cannot be forced to do anything, and as there are at least half as many unowned cats as there are owned cats, a cat bylaw solves nothing.
The only way to manage cats is to manage all the cats and the only way to manage unowned cats is by getting the residents to desex them at C.A.T.S. affordable rates.
Also, because people trust C.A.T.S. they will go through the scheme and most won't go through the council and government schemes, because they have to give their names and addresses and have a microchip which is recorded on DACO.
I read that the RSPCA said that half the people who booked for free cat desexing through Onkaparinga's free desexing did not attend the appointment. Obviously they found out about the compulsory microchip and did not want the microchip and their names on DACO.
This scheme went bung anyway and the RSPCA has told the councillors to refer the cats to C.A.T.S.
This idea of forcing people by law to manage cats does not work. I read that the RSPCA said that councils which have got these cat bylaws have not shown any tangible evidence of success.
So why would your council follow these failures when you already have success through the C.A.T.S. program?
C.A.T.S. also helps other councils and I read that the Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council has, with the help of C.A.T.S., free cat desexing for all its moggie residents. It was in the Sunday Mail on 15.10.2023.
Care for cats
Christine Pierson clearly makes the case for banning cat breeders and also the need to encourage residents to desex and care for cats instead of killing them ("Tale of cat, dog review", Sunday Mail, 8/10).
All the valid scientific evidence shows that killing cats achieves nothing except an influx of new undesexed cats, which breed and actually increase numbers. Why doesn't the Dog and Cat Management Board study the fantastic results that have been achieved by [redacted] Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc and my council of Norwood Payneham and St Peters, where nobody gets threatened or fined over cats but is provided with cooperation, education and assistance with free desexing?
Jason P. Sanderson, Norwood

I live in Burnside Council and my council voted NOT to have any cat bylaws, and it never has had a cat bylaw. C.A.T.S. has been desexing our cats for over 35 years.
Although I live in Burnside, I have colleagues in Tea Tree Gully whom I have helped with cat desexing through C.A.T.S. and I wish to speak for them as they cannot respond to your survey as it asks for name and address. They are not going to trust a council that may impose that diabolical cat bylaw on them. They will simply go under the radar and they know the cat bylaw can't be enforced in any case, without you knowing their names.

I also read this letter in the Advertiser dated 29.7.2024, and I agree with it. C.A.T.S. has the trust of the residents and that is something that councils and governments with their cruelty to cats, will never get.

Vets doing good work

Regarding “Deadly bite to rising vet bills”, (“The Advertiser”, 26/7), thank goodness for Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) and the wonderful vets who donate their time to CATS to help us with getting our cats desexed. Where would we be without them?

John Markham, Henley Beach South

And my letters were also published in the Advertiser, so I am pleased that the Tea Tree Gully Council is banning cat traps to the public.

To cage or not to cage

It’s great that the illegality of providing cat trapping cages to the public has been exposed (“Pesky cats are free to roam”, Letters, 3/8).

I have read many letters to The Advertiser from the CATS Inc organisation, calling on the government to ban these traps.

The RSPCA stopped providing the cages 10 years ago due to the terrible injuries inflicted on animals from incorrect use.

The Dog and Cat Management Act is under review with public consultation for cats now current.

We need to protest against the review document’s plan to kill cats. Killing cats has never and will never reduce numbers, as recolonisation and breeding of remaining cats will ensure numbers will be restored.

The only way to reduce numbers is to desex the cats and return them to their homes where they keep other undesexed cats out.

This significantly and humanely decreases cat numbers and problems. This method is the only reason for using these cages, where frightened cats need to be transported to the vet for desexing and treatment and returned to home, where they are loved and cared for – and it must be through animal-orientated organisations like CATS.

Luke Forrester, Burnside

And this one on 8.8.24 and, as I said, I care about native wildlife and all animals and C.A.T.S. does too so they also have the support of many other animal carers, not just cat people.

Saving our fauna

I agree with Geraldene Hannah’s “We’re ruining our roos” (Letters, 23/7).

When the RSPCA has spent $280m on a new complex with a main focus on treating wildlife, how is it logical for the government to be maiming and killing our native fauna?

Government has already been responsible for the maiming of tens of thousands of native waterbirds as well as countless deaths in the recent duck hunting season, and now they are to promote the slaughter of kangaroos which were supposed to be protected in our parks.

Apparently, the response by our politicians to any animal issue is, if it bothers them kill it.

We have just seen the horrendous aerial shooting of defenceless deer, with those not killed outright, left for days to suffer in agony.

now public consultation for cats has a plan to slaughter them en masse with a coercive presentation to get cat haters to support the killing (“Rough deal for cats”, Letters, 22/7).

While the RSPCA is saving a handful of the native animals, the government is maiming thousands with agonising methods including poisons, shooting and traps, and then has the audacity to blame the cats for it.

None of these bloodbaths has ever proved successful. So why are we not forcing our representatives to look for humane solutions?

Luke Forrester, Burnside

I appreciate being given the opportunity to respond with my views and respectfully ask that they be considered when deliberating on the draft cat bylaw which, if imposed, would be the biggest mistake that the Tea Tree Gully Council could make.

I repeat that I am strongly opposed to the draft cat bylaw No 7.

Regards

[redacted]

16.9.2024

Submission 41

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 1:54 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: My views on the draft Cat By-law No. 7 2024 for Tea Tree Gully Council

My views on the draft Cat By-law No. 7 2024 for Tea Tree Gully Council

Sender [redacted]

Work in Tea Tree Gully Council

My reason for writing – I work to help people get their cats desexed

I am writing to state that I am very strongly opposed to the Cat By-law No 7 2024 and I am also writing for my friends in Tea Tree Gully Council who have done all the right things by taking in multiple unowned cats, caring and feeding them, and getting them desexed.

I work in Tea Tree Gully Council and help my friends with the cat management.

None of them will be filling out your surveys or sending any submissions, as they no longer trust the Tea Tree Gully Council.

I can speak for them as I do not live in a Council that would bring in a diabolical cat bylaw after all that the residents have done to help the Council with managing all the cats in their area.

In Unley, my Council has also worked with C.A.T.S. and in the past our Chief Environmental Officer, Bruce Lang, went to Sydney to speak at Parliament House about the success of the C.A.T.S. Desex and Return to Home program in our Council. This was at a conference at Parliament House Sydney.

My Unley Council has already voted not to have any cat bylaws and concentrates on desexing the cats.

The Tea Tree Gully Council residents have faithfully followed the advice and have had the assistance of C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise and have desexed so many cats that the cat numbers are well controlled.

We trust C.A.T.S. as they did everything right, and we understood that this was in agreement with the Tea Tree Gully Council and has been in place for many, many years.

Now we find out that new staff and new elected members are to undermine all our work and we are outraged.

To put out an inadequate survey to illicit a 70 plus response to have a cat bylaw, with the inference that this will keep cats of residents' properties and that the cat bylaw will reduce impact on native wildlife is not only despicable, it is dishonest.

There is no valid evidence to substantiate this fact anywhere and indeed the RSPCA has stated in writing that "although some councils have introduced cat bylaws there is no tangible evidence of success".

What I and my friends have done does have "tangible evidence of success", both in my Council and the Tea Tree Gully Council.

After your Council banned the cruel trapping cages which were being provided to the general public, including cat haters who were torturing the cats and dumping them in the hills, we were so pleased. These cages should only be used for desexing the cats and returning them to home.

This is my letter, published in the "Advertiser", on 9th August 2024.

Cage fight over
It has taken many years of lobbying but people power has won, so yes, "Cat cage ban welcome", ("Letters" 7/8).

The many comments from CATS Inc and RSPCA I have read in your paper, show the cruelty and death caused by these traps when in the wrong hands.
They must only be used for transportation and return to home for vet desexing and treatment, where cats can't be handled, and must only be with animal orientated organisations like CATS.
Ryan Davies is correct. Desexing is the only solution required for cat management, as legislation does not work for cats and never has. We only have to look at the last 30 years to see that the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 has failed.
Richard Justice, Unley

Now, the Council has ruined its good name by this proposed Cat By-law No 7 and we are all disgusted.

What kind of a Council works with the residents and when they all do the right things and take responsibility for the cats and desex them they are then penalised for doing it?

Well there is no way you can enforce this if we don't have the microchips, and those who have already done the right thing and recorded them on the government data base DACO will no doubt, by the time the registration fees are impose in 2 years, have had their cats "disappear" or maybe, as Councillor Bill Coombs at Alexandrina Council said, "die" (on paper of course).

Apart from anything else, the ratepayers will have to pay for all these costs for this cat bylaw as the compliance rate will be minor, as is the case everywhere where cat registration has been imposed. Just check what has happened with the other councils with these counterproductive bylaws and also DACO which has only a fraction of the owned cats recorded.

Yes, I very strongly oppose the Cat By-law No 7 2024 and so do all my friends who have already gone underground.

Sincerely

[redacted]

17/9/2024

Submission 42

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 4:24 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Tea Tree Gully Council draft Cat By-law No 7 Response

Tea Tree Gully Council draft Cat By-law No 7 Response

[redacted]

Kensington SA 5068

Reasons for my interest – I work to get cats desexed and help people with managing their cats in the Tea Tree Gully Council.

I find it absolutely disgusting to put out a survey which is obviously biased to get the results that some councillors want to have a cat by-law for Tea Tree Gully Council

This survey is not honest as it implies that if there is cat legislation it will reduce cat attacks on wildlife and that it will also keep cats of their properties.

This is not true and it is a false assumption which should never have been made.

I ask what scientific evidence does your council have that the cat by-law is going to do any of the inferred things that you have implied?

When even the RSPCA says the cat by-laws do not work, how can you provide this false information to simply justify having a cat by-law?

Although the cat by-law will not be complied with and there is no way for your council to enforce it in any case, the problem that I face is that the residents will no longer want to desex their cats. This affects me personally as I am an animal supporter of all animals, and the fewer cats which are born the fewer cats die and suffer, and the fewer cats eat other animals. I don't want animals killed to provide cat food for cats.

All that is going to happen now is that there won't be so many cats desexed, because who would be stupid enough to have a microchip so the council can track you down and fine you for having so many cats, when you have done the right thing and taken responsibility for these multiple cats and got them desexed?

So they won't have the microchip and they won't desex them.

So we will have more and more cats and more and more kittens born, because of the cat by-law.

And there is nothing you can do to solve it.

You can't catch the cats anyway.

And even if they don't have a microchip what are you going to do with the cats?

You can't kill them all because more cats will replace them.

Hardly anybody has the microchips and hardly anybody records their details on the government Dogs and Cat Online (DACO) just look at the small number recorded. And DACO is also free.

What makes Tea Tree Gully Council think they will do any better than the government in getting cats registered, especially if the council is going to bring in registration fees?

And who would get the stray cats desexed and microchipped if the council is going to charge them fees and fine them if the cats trespass.

I also work in Campbelltown Council and the residents there have all gone underground since the council brought in their ridiculous cat by-law. Few are registering their cats on the council data base and most of the cats already registered have been got from the DACO. I know that people are already notifying the council that their cats have gone, and there is no way the council can prove that they haven't. Cats can leave if they find a better home.

As far as I am concerned I am going to suggest to people not to get their cats microchipped and as I don't have any cats there is nothing that can be done to me. I would not have microchips for my cats if I did have any in any case.

There is strong evidence that microchips cause cancerous tumours around the microchips and this has been documented. Also the microchips have paralysed animals when they have been inserted. The microchips also travel around the cats' bodies and this is why the vet checks the whole cat and not just the insertion point. These microchips have been found in the chest, the base of the tail and even the brain.

And furthermore, not many cats ever get returned to their owners through the microchip. In fact when they do it is so rare that there is an article in the papers about it. Cat-haters are not going to return a cat they trap as they will either kill it or dump it in the bush, which is terribly cruel.

Most people are not having the microchips anyway so they can't be got at.

The Tea Tree Gully Councillors need to start living in the real world and not in their fantasy world where they think they can make a cat by-law and all the residents will comply.

Because they won't!

This is my letter re microchips, which was published in *The Sunday Mail* (11 August 2024)

Microchips have issues

Lost cat is back home", (SM, 4/8) makes microchips sound great but there is a lot more to this so-called good news.

Because microchips are now mandatory, most owners won't have them because they won't record their names on DACO (Dogs and Cats Online) This seems obvious by the very low number listed.

Because of this, many people won't desex them for fear of being fined for not having the microchip.

So in reality, microchips have been responsible for the overbreeding and deaths of countless thousands of kittens which never would have been born if it were not for the cat laws forcing microchips.

To return to mass cat desexing, as it was before the failed cat legislation, microchips need to be made a matter of choice, not compulsory. Desexing is 100 per cent more necessary than microchipping. Carol Patricia James, Kensington

This is my letter published in the *Advertiser* on 26 March 2024 which also give my views so why don't you do what my council is doing? My council is now in its third year of free desexing and there have been no fines at all. We have never had a cat by-law. The Council and CATS and the Community all work together and this is how we have got so much success.

Caring for our cats

I hope Minister Susan Close and her Dog and Cat Management Board have been reading The Advertiser's letters as they need to understand the benefits that cats provide for our community ("Cats are servants" Letters, 25/3/2024)

Lisa Roberts is correct, cats certainly are public servants and until this is recognised by the politicians there will never be any success in controlling felines. Cats can be well managed through desexing, love, care and feeding but not by draconian legislation, as per government's cruel plans to kill them in the review of the Dog and Cat Management Act.

If my council of Norwood Payneham and St Peters can humanely reduce cat numbers and problems through their Council/CATS partnership with free desexing for all resident moggies, then all councils could. Carol James, Kensington

And this is my letter published in the *Advertiser* on 7/7/2023

Re "Mice get munchies on houses"

(The Advertiser, 5/7), well what do you expect, when the government persecutes the cats, confining and killing them so they can't do their job as mouse catchers anymore.

In all the years we have had free-living cats we have never had the problems to the extent we are now facing with mice and rats eating into our homes.

And before the comments that, well if the cats are inside they will catch the mice, this is not the solution because the cats can't get to the mice and rats under the floor boards and behind the skirting boards, so the rodents are eating holes through them, into the house.

Wiring it also being chewed at the back of the fridges causing dangerous conditions.

And poisoning the rodents is also endangering the native wildlife.

I would argue more native birds and animals are being killed by rat baits and other poisons than the cats ever kill.

I have seen many published letters from the cat experts at CATS (Cats Assistance To Sterilise) predicting this rodent invasion of our houses. They were correct. Carol Patricia James, Kensington

In the immediate time after the cats are confined, killed or removed, the mice and rats move in and with their short gestation period breed to enormous numbers. This then supplies a huge food supply for new cats to move in, so after this there are even more cats than before the cat by-law and the cat population increases even further as many of the new cats are not desexed and they have kittens.

Upsetting the balance of nature, by humans, always ends in a disaster.

And my letter (below) published in the *Advertiser* on 14/6/2023 shows that cat cannot be managed by legislation and that every time another cat law is imposed, fewer cats get desexed and the cat population increases until it is out of control.

The only way to manage cats is to work with the residents who care for the cats and not against them as cat by-laws alienated the residents and send them underground.

Review catastrophe

Where is the review in the Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 regarding cats?

Nothing has been reviewed regarding the massive failure of this Act, and the plummeting of cat desexing, as residents will not comply, have microchips and record on Dog And Cat Online (DACO) and, for fear of fines, fees and seizure of their cats, they don't desex them either.

Nothing has been reviewed to stop the catastrophic skyrocketing of undesexed cats due to this huge drop in desexing, with the RSPCA refusing to accept anymore.

All that the section on cats includes is ridiculous plans that will exacerbate the problem caused by the legislation imposed five years ago.

Hasn't Susan Close got anybody on her Dog and Cat Management Board who knows anything about cats?

[redacted]

Well I have sent my views as was asked, I hope you take them into account and do not have a cat by-law because it will not be complied with and even if it were to be complied with it would make everything much worse as has been shown in the councils where these diabolical cat bylaws have been introduced, although there are very few of the 36 SA councils that do have these cat by-laws like your cat By-law No 7.

Nearly half the SA councils do not have any cat by-laws and most don't want them. The other remaining councils only have 2 cats per household limits and they are not helping as they stop residents from taking in and desexing unowned cats.

With the estimated 200,000 unowned cats in the populated areas there is always a fresh supply of new cats to fill the vacated spaces. These cats need to be desexed by the residents and fed and cared for and this is what has been happening in Tea Tree Gully Council for many years. But this will stop if this counterproductive cat by-law is imposed.

[redacted]

Submission 43

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 4:52 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject:

To draft cat by-law No 7 2024 Tea Tree Gully Council

My name is [redacted]

And I am strongly opposing the introduction of draft cat by-law 2024

I work in Tea Tree Gully Council

I can be contacted via email [redacted] (friend)

I help people in Tea Tree Gully Council, to desex their cats and manage them and I give them this Booklet supplied by C.A.T.S. as below in the attachment.

[redacted]
17/9/2024

C.A.T.S.

Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc



Cat Management through Co-operation, Education and Assistance with Desexing

Ring C.A.T.S. on 8331 0476 if you need help with cat desexing

Preface

This Booklet is designed to assist politicians, teachers, councillors, animal supporters and educators in spreading information about successful management of cats through humane, efficient, and cost-effective methods, to reduce cat numbers, cat related problems and impact on wildlife.

Without the support of residents who care for the cats, both owned and unowned, nothing constructive can be accomplished. This public support for mass desexing has been forthcoming since C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise was incorporated on 1 November 1989 when cat numbers destroyed at the main shelter in Adelaide dropped to virtually half by 1994, through C.A.T.S. low-priced Desex and Return to Home scheme.

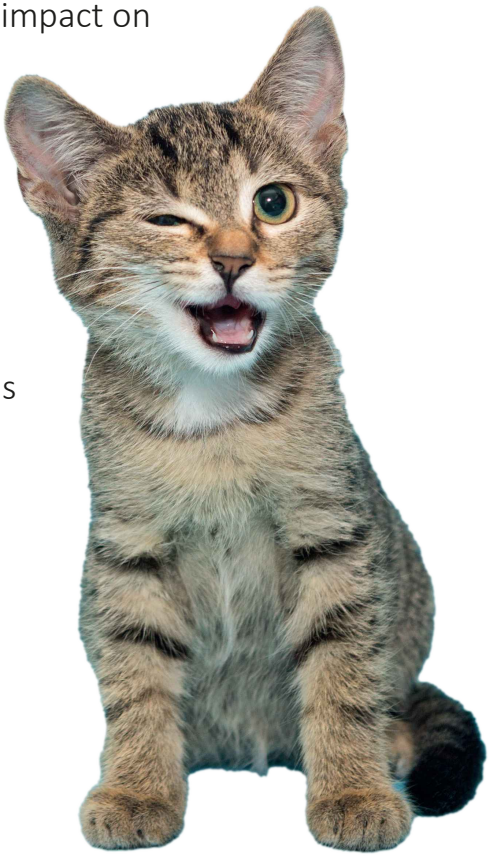
This decline would have continued, had the Government not permitted mandatory council cat bylaws including containment, registration and limits on cat household numbers. Mandatory desexing and microchipping, imposed in 2018, have already halved the numbers of cats desexed since that time, and skyrocketing undesexed cat numbers have caused the shelters to overflow. This proves the truthfulness of our mantra- “Incentivise and Sterilise don’t Legalise”.

This Booklet presents an overarching cover of how to manage cats, based on 35 years of research and experience through the Desex and Return to Home Program for all cats, owned and unowned, which was pioneered by C.A.T.S. in the late 1980s, and is the only method which has shown tangible evidence of success in solving the concerns caused by overbreeding of felines. It has been formulated to comply with the Natural Resources Act and has been the recipient of local government praise and an award for excellence.

Removal, destruction and confinement of cats results in new undesexed cats restocking the vacated spaces and breeding to restore, even increase, the original numbers of cats, due to the phenomenon of nature known as the “Vacuum Effect”.

Desexing of cats solves 95% of cat-related problems regarding tomcat spraying, caterwauling over mates, travelling long distances in search of mates, and of course unwanted kittens: Providing cat toilets at home solves almost all the complaints by neighbours of cats doing their business in their’ gardens and vegetable patches: And correct feeding of natural, fresh and satisfying food reduces impact on wildlife.

By following the easy to provide recommendations in this booklet, readers can quickly resolve almost all of the cat-related complaints which cause neighbour disputes sometimes resulting in phone calls to council.



Incentivise and Sterilise don’t Legalise



I'm Leonie and if you need help, I'm here to support you with this low-priced desexing and providing for the needs of the cats through cooperation, education and assistance.

Yes, I know I am gorgeous but …

there are just too many of me and thousands of gorgeous little furies like me are being destroyed every year because there are just not enough good homes for us. So we need to be desexed to save all this suffering and death.



I'm Cinnamon and desexing stops female cats like me from coming into season and attracting many undesexed male cats.



Desexing prevents me from getting pregnant and having more babies and becoming weakened by continually having kittens. Desexing also prevents the terrible misery when my babies are taken away from me. I cry for the kittens and how they suffer when they are separated from each other. I am being desexed and this is my last litter, so my baby stays with me this time.

I'm Playboy and desexing stops male cats like me crossing dangerous roads and travelling away from home looking for mates.



It stops us spraying pungent tomcat urine and caterwauling over mates at night time, annoying nearby humans.

I'm Top Cat and he's Tabby. Before I was desexed, I kept getting hurt in nasty brawls.



Desexing reduces the injuries caused by fighting over mates and also helps to keep us healthier and less likely to get sick.



I'm Maverick, one of the many desexed free living cats, that can't be confined. We are essential for successful cat management through Desex and Return to Home programs. We stop new undesexed cats from continually stealing our territory, breeding and filling it up with kittens.

I'm Pumpkin and I'm marking my home to keep out intruder cats. I am desexed so my spray is mild- not strong and pungent like an undesexed tomcat. If I don't mark my territory with my spray, a tomcat will and make it much smellier.





Yes, I am a professional rodent catcher, and I can't be confined as I would not be able to do my job of controlling the rats and mice. I am desexed, well cared for, fed and managed and I am an asset to the community because without cats like me there would be more plagues of rodents. I also deter the snakes that are attracted by the rats and mice and help to stop people from using deadly rat poison.

I'm Samantha and I am terrified because without enough rodent catchers, the rat and mouse population is increasing, and residents are using heaps of rat baits.



All the animals are at risk of being poisoned as we eat the baited rodents, and the poison is seeping into our water supply which we drink.

I'm Leopold, and I am also a free-living, desexed cat. I am fed at three homes every day, by elderly and disabled people who cannot manage to own a cat.



These lonely people look forward to my visit every day and adore me. The love I get from this goes both ways as I am very fond of these lovely people.



I'm Sweetie-Pie and I was abandoned when I was no longer a cuddly kitten. I was cold and hungry and crying for food. A kind person fed me and got me desexed through C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc.



Now I live in the garden and sleep in the shed, as I am very timid and too frightened to be shut inside. My new carer loves me. I wish all cats could have a forever home like me, through C.A.T.S. Desex and Return to Home.

I'm Ruski, a big, strong, healthy cat because I eat fresh, raw meat with tinned food added and there is always clean water provided where I live.



I do not need to hunt because I have this satisfying, natural diet but I must admit I can't help myself when I see a rat or mouse. It is just a natural instinct for cats to eat rodents.

I'm Ginger, and I do my business at home because I am provided with freshly dug earth and clean leaves. I do not need to go to the neighbours' vegetable patch and flower beds where I am not wanted.



My mate does not have this at his home, so he has an outside litter tray under the veranda. Some humans don't think we need outside toilets which is wrong, as this causes a lot of problems for us when we have to use the neighbours' gardens.



I'm Cookie and I love rolling in the grass and also need grass to eat for my health. If the grass all dries up, I eat the grass my carer grows for me in a pot plant.



It helps to clear fur balls which we all get even if we are not so fluffy, and it is always better if I can choose to pick the grass myself from the garden.



I'm Licorice and I am permanently confined. I feel lonely, sick, and miserable and am longing to get out into the garden and play in the leaves and grass, and enjoy the warm sunshine and lovely fresh air.



I have nothing to do every day as I am shut in a house. I have never known the love and companionship of being with another cat. If I could go outside, I may be able to make friends with the cats I see through the window that visit the garden. I can always go inside at night to be safe, but I am so sad with being permanently imprisoned.

I'm Happy, and this is my friend Merry, and we are inseparable companions, and this makes us contented to stay at home and not go looking for other friends.



We cats are very sociable animals and love the company of our own kind. We like to groom each other and cuddle up together. We get very lonely when we are kept on our own.



I'm Tiger and I'm here to let you know that it has been proved that cats which have been desexed and have their basic needs satisfied are more content, less likely to hunt wildlife and are happier to stay in their territory, marking their boundaries and defending against infiltrator cats at their home.



Authored by Lisa Roberts-Daintree and Christine Pierson
C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc SA

Available online at www.catassist.org.au

Submission 44

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 4:57 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Cat By-law No. 7 2024 for Tea Tree Gully Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Cat By-law.

This By-law will not succeed in reducing cat numbers and problems in your Council area, despite the good intentions that may lie behind the proposal.

There are up to an estimated 200,000 unowned cats in urban areas in South Australia. As you weigh up the prospect of a cat by-law, please keep this statistic in your mind.

Your proposed By-law will most likely be counter-productive as your residents and businesses who may now take in unowned cats, desex and feed them, will be less likely to carry out this work once there are limits on cat numbers per property and curfews for cats.

In this way, legislation is counter-productive for addressing cat-related problems.

Cats cannot be controlled by legislation. Councils who work with Cats Assistance to Sterilise have controlled cat numbers through working with residents, businesses and cooperating veterinarians to desex thousands of cats which have been cared for by community members. This has been a humane and successful long-term project. As an elected councillor for 25 Years first with the former St. Peters Council and then with the Norwood Payneham and St. Peters Council, I have taken part in and witnessed this work

I ask your Council to assess the evidence of success and the evidence of failure even-handedly. I submit that Council should walk away from the proposed Cat By-law and resolve to work with your community to provide subsidised cat desexing and education programs through well-established community projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a brief submission.

Yours truly

[redacted]
[redacted] Henry Street Maylands 5069
Tel 0437 189 279

Submission 45

From: Newland EO <Newland@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2024 9:45 PM
To: McMahon, Ryan <ryan.mcmahon@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Cc: [redacted]; Newland EO <Newland@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission - Cat By-Law no 7

Ryan McMahon
CEO – City of Tea Tree Gully
By e-mail: ryan.mcmahon@cttg.sa.gov.au

Proposed Cat By-Law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

Dear Mr McMahon,

I write in relation to the new proposed cat by-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully.

I ask that you consider this submission as both a rate-payer and cat owner, and a Member of Parliament representing the views of my constituency.

As you are aware, I am a resident, and the only Member of Parliament whose entire constituency is situated in the City of Tea Tree Gully.

I understand that the Council are proposing *Cat By-Law no 7* in response to community consultation undertaken in June 2023.

Requirements 1-3
Firstly, I would like to commend the City of Tea Tree Gully for taking action on cat management. It is my position that the following requirements (as set-out in the by-law) are both reasonable and necessary for the management of cats in our city:

1. *Must be registered every 12 months its provision for a registration fee*
2. *Identification by means of a collar around the cat's neck with a tag setting out the name of the owner and the address or phone number of the owner*
3. *Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two (2) cats (unless in a prescribed premises)*

Requirement 4
I would like to provide specific feedback, however, on number 4:

4. *To be confined to the owner's property between 10:00pm and 6:00am*

I understand the rationale behind the implementation of a 'cat curfew' and am not seeking to provide feedback on the basis for the proposed requirement.
I do believe, however, that such a requirement (noting it will require significant, proactive steps on behalf of cat owners) should be done with a wider community engagement strategy.

Recommendation
I note that the *Cat By-Law no 7* has been drafted in response to the above-mentioned community survey, to which 80% of respondents supported rules to address cat management. Although that is a large turnout for a community survey, I am cognisant that 3400 respondents is just over 3% of the Tea Tree Gully rate base.

I have heard from a number of residents who were unaware of the first consultation process. In the same vain, I have also discussed the current consultation process with a number of residents who were unaware of the proposed by-law. I personally do not believe that the views of 3% of residents are necessarily indicative of widespread community sentiment.

It is my recommendation that in order to make such significant changes to cat management in the City of Tea Tree Gully, residents should be contacted by letter, in addition to e-mail. I would suggest that this occur in the next rates period, so as to save on printing and administration costs.

State Government
I understand that the City of Tea Tree Gully held off on cat management, awaiting potential action from the State Government. As you'd know, the State Government has recently concluded its own cat management consultation.

I do understand that the Council's cat management policy would likely be revoked if the State Government pursues state-wide cat strategy that fulfils the objectives of the by-law.

I ask that the Council consider my submission prior to making a decision about adopting *Cat By-Law no 7.*

I am happy to discuss the matter further at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Olivia Savvas MP
Member for Newland
17 September 2024

Submission 46

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2024 7:42 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to the TTGC Public Consultation for the draft Cat Bylaw No. 7

Please accept this, the Animal Justice Party SA submission for the public consultation for the Dog and Cat Management (Cat Management) Amendment Bill 2024. This submission also covers the issues being investigated by the Tea Tree Gully Council regarding consideration of the draft Cat By-law No 7.

This submission clearly supports the method of Desex and Return to Home used by C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc, instead of cat bylaws. The RSPCA stated “although some councils have introduced cat bylaws, there is no tangible evidence of success”.
The Animal Justice Party SA strongly opposes any plans to have cats managed by legislation.

Submitted by
Founding members of the Animal Justice Party SA

Submission to the Dog and Cat Management (Cat Management) Amendment Bill 2024

Name: Animal Justice Party SA

Interest: Political party representing animals

Publication: For Web Site Publication

Submitted 31.08.2024

This submission has been written by Animal Justice Party SA Members who were early Policy Writers for the Party, and it is based on the extensive research undertaken by an Animal Justice Party SA committee to prepare an overarching plan to care and successfully manage cats, both tame and free-living, in line with animal equality principles and positive cat welfare outcomes.

To do this, data was collected from South Australia, interstate and overseas regarding the best practice for achieving the most desirable results. Much was learned about the failure of cat legislation in the Eastern States and the Animal Justice Party SA concluded from the counterproductive results that cat laws should be avoided.

The Animal Justice Party SA therefore wishes to support expanding an evidence-based program that is efficient, cost-effective and one which has already resulted in a tangible result, clearly showing success in reducing cat numbers, cat-related problems, impact on wildlife, and having good welfare outcomes for the cats.

-

Such a program needs to be supported by the wider population, particularly those who care for the cats in the community where the cats live. This is an essential element, but we do not find this to be addressed in any government background documents and explanatory guides, hence we feel that this critical and proven component for success - community engagement, has been overlooked.

The program must also address the management and welfare of all cats, both owned and unowned, and all types of cats , friendly, feral, farm, cats that live in industrial sites and also those that live around rubbish tips, not simply pets. Unless all cats are to be addressed, such a program results in a fruitless exercise and there is no likelihood of it achieving any of its aims and goals.

Management and welfare outcomes need to work **hand in hand** in order to retain the co-operation of an already engaged pro cat community.

This program must be orchestrated, without legislative force, through cooperation, sound and correct education and assistance with desexing, without threats of fines, fees and seizure of cats, which simply alienate those who voluntarily manage the cats.

As the legislation cannot be enforced, in any case, on more than a minuscule basis, it is pointless to pursue this line of compulsion.

This has been clearly proven by the outcome of the legislative approach taken by the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and particularly the Amendments to this Act 2017, to address the complex issues of cat management. The Act has not achieved any of its aims or goals in achieving the desired result, with cat desexing dropping to an all-time low and cat numbers escalating to an all-time high. Our newspapers carry stories of shelters filled to the brim and rescuers turned away, leaving people wondering what to do. The housing crisis often means people cannot take their animals with them to a new location.

Desperate people turn to desperate measures.

A recent story being Fri 23rd Aug 2024

GRIM FIND AS DEAD CATS DUMPED LYNTON GRACE

Seven dead cats have been found dumped in the Barossa, sparking urgent warnings to cat owners to keep their pets on their properties.

The RSPCA has launched an investigation, saying it had received a report this week about the seven cats, which were found beside the unsealed Sturt Rd, in Ebenezer, about 10km north of Nuriootpa.

The RSPCA is urging cat owners in the region to contain their pets to their properties.

The cats were beside the section of Sturt Rd between Carrara Hill and Pipeline roads. Six cats were adults. Their genders are unknown, but their colouring is tortoiseshell, three short-haired tabby and white, one short-haired tabby and one long-haired tabby. The seventh cat was a white-coated, short-haired juvenile. The RSPCA said all the cats appeared to be domestic and their good body conditions indicate they may be owned cats.

It has been unable to verify if any of the cats were microchipped. The local council has collected the bodies. Anyone with any information that will assist this investigation is asked to contact RSPCA SA on 1300 477 722. SAPOL referred inquiries to the RSPCA.

Neither is there any evidence to substantiate any reduction in impact on wildlife.

An unprecedented number of letters have been published in the main Adelaide papers, opposing the cruelty of the proposed plan to kill cats in Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act. This shows the high level of concern that cat supporters have for these much value animals. Apart from the fact that killing cats has not resulted in any tangible evidence of success in reducing cat numbers, it is not an acceptable approach as viewed by the wider community.

Following are a few examples of these many letters making it crystal clear that the cat supporters will not tolerate this unacceptable approach.

9/1/2024 "The Advertiser"

Know cat instincts

Cats are not dogs and until the government understands cat behaviour it will never successfully manage cats.

So its aim in “Claws are out for roaming pet cats” is pointless (The Advertiser, 5/1). The letter “Scratch cat laws” (The Advertiser, 8/1) from CATS (Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc) speaks volumes, all evidence-based on their own 35-year studies, with both hands-on personal involvement with cats and the cat supporters in areas where the cats live, in both rural and urban locations.

Most importantly, cats don’t “roam”, which means “to move about or travel aimlessly or unsystematically”.

Cats travel with a purpose and until this purpose is understood as a basis for a cat management plan, nothing constructive will be achieved.

Cats travel to find mates, solved by desexing; cats travel to find food, solved by correct feeding; and cats travel to find a place to do their business, solved by feeders providing cat toilets at home with clean leaves and freshly dug earth, or a covered, outside litter tray.

Recognising these three reasons why cats leave their homes and addressing them, provides the solution to almost all of the complaints reported to councils.

One of the many examples illustrating this success is my own Council of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, where the partnership between council and CATS has resulted in free desexing for all moggie residents.

While government pushes its counterproductive legislative approach and increases its unenforceable threats of fines and fees, plus plans to kill the cats, it drives the cat supporters underground, and mass desexing of cats, which was so successful before the cat laws, will plummet even further with an even further increase in undesexed cats.

The idea that all cats be confined to home areas and all cats not deemed domesticated killed, ignores the phenomenon of nature, the Vacuum Effect, as the estimated 200,000 unowned cats will restock the vacated spaces.

But even worse, this cruelty has so infuriated the cat-supporting community that no likelihood of any acceptance by the public will be forthcoming to support the government's plans.

Without the support of the people who care for the cats there will be no progress in reducing cat numbers, problems or impact on wildlife.

Jason P. Sanderson, Norwood

"The Advertiser" 27/10/2023

Cruel killing

Yes, I agree, the "Killing cannot continue", if we are to consider ourselves a civilised country (The Advertiser 25/10/2023).

Labor and Liberal governments' answer to any animal issue is to kill them, and it doesn't seem to matter how barbaric, and agonising are the methods they promote.

The result: A mass slaughter of not only kangaroos, but defenceless native ducks and now cats.

I never thought I would live to see the day when cats, which have protected us from rat and mouse plagues, are to be massacred because the Dog and Cat Management Board has decreed it.

Is it any wonder we have a disaster when the criteria for Membership of this Board doesn't require any expertise or experience in working with the cats and the cat supporters in the community where the cats live?

The members meet 11 times a year, agree to the "Yes Minister" approach and get paid a sitting fee:

Nothing constructive for cat management has occurred.

When are we going to get people on that board who know and understand how to manage cats?

We all know that this should be Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc (CATS) who have had 33 years of tangible success and organised the desexing of more cats for the general public than anyone.

But it seems the board won't acknowledge that they exist. Why?

James M. Richardson, Waterloo Corner

"The Sunday Mail" 5/11/2023

Plea for the cats

The big, cat-killing propaganda by the federal and state governments on the premise that it is to save native wildlife, cannot be taken seriously when the deliberate slaughter of our iconic emus and kangaroos is being both encouraged and promoted ("Wayne's the boss at big bird HQ", SM, 29/10).

Here, again, the government collects blood money for a permit which provides a licence to take an emu or eggs from the wild; slaughter an emu in captivity; or possess or sell an emu or its eggs.

And government then reaps the income tax from the sales. The government only cares about native wildlife if it can make money from it.

Sadly, the only money it can make out of cats is the poison sales sold to kill them, the sales of the traps to catch them and the jobs it creates to undertake all the killing.

As its plan to reap money from cat registration fees has failed, as cat supporters will not record on DACO (Dogs and Cat Online), it now wants to kill the cats too. It has nothing to do with saving native wildlife – because it doesn't.

Geraldene Hannah, Kensington Park

To illustrate the difference between the former non-legislative approach and the latter legislative one, we draw attention to the comparison of these two vastly different plans.

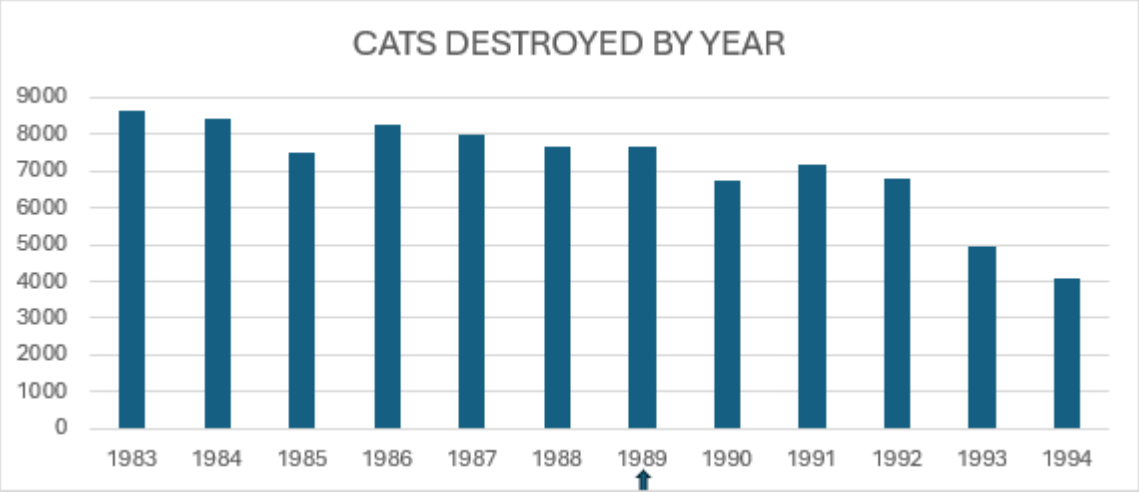
To really understand the full scope of this complex situation we need to return to the time before there were any cat laws, and even before that, when little was done in the way of fertility control with cats.

The following graph takes us back to 1983 to 1989 where cat numbers were high and those being destroyed at the main shelter at the time, being the Animal Welfare League (AWL) which was receiving 3 to 4 times as many cats as the RSPCA, were also very high; averaging around 8,000 per annum.

It can be noted that after 1989 there was a drop in the numbers of cats being destroyed followed by a dramatic reduction by 1994, with figures showing the numbers had reduced to virtually half.

<u>What caused this massive drop?</u>

Research by our AJP Team found that the organisation C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc. which was incorporated on 1 November 1989, had pioneered a mass Desex and Return to Home program; unique in Australia, but one which was similar to a very successful one in England. C.A.T.S. reformulated this overseas program to comply with the Natural Resources Amendment Act current at the time. Colonel Mike Harries who had come from England and ran the RSPCA when C.A.T.S. was established was very supportive, as he had also worked with this overseas management of cats.



C.A.T.S. Inc was incorporated in late 1989. Note the significant drop in cats being destroyed after C.A.T.S. began its mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned in the 5 years after C.A.T.S. was incorporated on 1 November 1989.

In addition, our Team felt encouraged when reading that in 1992, REARK Research conducted a survey which found that SA had the highest rate of desexed cats for any state surveyed in the country.

OVER BREEDING

The root of the problem is the overbreeding of cats, confirmed by the RSPCA, the AWL and many feline organisations, so all efforts should be aimed at prevention of breeding through incentivized rather than mandated humane fertility control. The recent SA Government call for public opinion re Puppy and Kitten Farm Breeders, suggesting the number of breeding animals to have a ceiling number of 50, indicates a priority of business endeavours rather than dog and cat welfare.

THE VACUUM EFFECT

Cats are free-living animals, it is obvious that cats are everywhere and as they are able to climb, jump and squeeze through tiny spaces, they are not able to be confined like dogs and trying to insist that they must be is not only futile, but cruel and unusual.

They are also prolific breeders with a high reproduction rate of offspring. Any plans to confine, remove, or kill them will be futile as without cats holding their territories, new cats simply pour into the void and reproduce, and no reduction in numbers and problems are will be achieved.

Mandatory containment or curfew and removal or destruction of cats will not be successful in either reducing cat numbers or cat related problems, and it won't stop cats from going onto peoples' properties who don't want them there. This is due to the scientifically proven phenomenon of nature known as the Vacuum Effect, which will ensure that new cats move into these vacated spaces. With an estimated 400,000 owned SA cats and an estimated 200,000 unowned SA cats, there is an unlimited number of cats to infiltrate and recolonise this vacated

area: Not only are there more than ample cats to fill the vacated spaces, but with this density disbursement, these new cats will almost certainly include undesexed cats which will produce abundant supplies of kittens; thus, increasing the original numbers of cats per area.

We have reviewed Australian and overseas examples of this phenomena which occurs with many animal species, including foxes, mice, possums and as stated, cats.

When cats are desexed and returned to home, there is no further breeding. Desexed male cats no longer have the strong pungent tomcat urine which causes offence to many humans, and they no longer caterwaul all night over mates as they do not mate. They are also more likely to stay home as they no longer need to travel to find mates so are less likely to leave their droppings at other places, (provided "cat toilets" are made available at their home area): And most importantly there are no more litters of kittens.

Furthermore the resident desexed cats then keep other undesexed cats out of their territory so gradually the original number reduces to the minimum required to hold their home and this results in a lower impact on wildlife. Find additional proof of this is in our Attachment – Lilith. This study deals with the issue of containment versus non containment done in Western Australia. Here is a brief summary.

CONTAINMENT

A study done in Western Australia in Armadale took advantage of cat regulations enacted within differing subdivisions in the City of Armadale, Western Australia, to test the hypotheses that the species diversity (measured by the Shannon-Weiner index) and abundance of small and medium-sized mammals should be higher in native bushland within or adjacent to subdivisions where cats are restricted compared to similar areas where cats are not restricted. There were three different regimes of cat regulation:

- no-cat zone (strict prohibition of cat ownership applying in one site)
- compulsory belling of cats and night curfew at one site,
- and unregulated zones (free-roaming cats applying at two sites).

Both sets of cat regulations were in place for approximately 10 years prior to our survey. They also measured structural and floristic features of the vegetation at each site that might influence the species diversity and abundance of small and medium-sized mammals independently or interactively with cat activity.

There were no significant differences in populations of small and medium sized mammals between the sites.

MICROCHIPS

Making microchips mandatory and trying to force recording on Dogs and Cat Online (DACO) was the most significant deterrent to getting cats desexed, as most residents would not comply and many of these were afraid to get cats desexed as they could be caught for not having the

microchip and following the law. Cats therefore simply continued breeding litter after litter of kittens.

The following letter, published in "The Sunday Mail" on 11th August 2924, clearly explains the problems with making microchips mandatory.

Microchips have issues

Lost cat is back home", (SM, 4/8) makes microchips sound great but there is a lot more to this so-called good news.

Because microchips are now mandatory, most owners won't have them because they won't record their names on DACO (Dogs and Cats Online) This seems obvious by the very low number listed.

Because of this, many people won't desex them for fear of being fined for not having the microchip.

So in reality, microchips have been responsible for the overbreeding and deaths of countless thousands of kittens which never would have been born if it were not for the cat laws forcing microchips.

A return to mass cat desexing, as it was before the failed cat legislation, microchips need to be made a matter of choice, not compulsory. Desexing is 100 per cent more necessary than microchipping.

Carol Patricia James, Kensington Park

MANDATORY DESEXING

Making cat desexing mandatory has not shown any evidence of increasing of sterilisation or any evidence of a reduction in kitten births, due to the law. In fact, numbers of cats being desexed have significantly dropped since the 2018 legislation.

Mandating desexing through bylaws also shows us that an inequality of cats has been set into place, pets being protected through registered ownership, whilst others are considered to be of lesser value and headed for a council round up ending in a poor welfare outcome for the cat. We want to correct the mechanism creating this mindset and educate people to understand the intrinsic value of every sentient cat and creature.

We believe **c**ats cared for by semi owners strongly contributes to the success of reduction in numbers, problems and impact on wildlife.

The Australian Veterinary Association also stated that making desexing mandatory had never shown any evidence of reducing kitten births: It also opposed this legislative move. (Hansard records this debate in 1994)

The mass desexing of cats as occurred during the years 1989 to 1994 will never be resumed at that rate while cat laws with penalties continue.

As has been shown in the public consultation, the government's plan is to kill all cats which they do not deem domesticated, which includes the tens of thousands of former free-living cats which residents have had desexed. These cats are dearly loved, fed and cared for and the government plan to kill them is shocking, in view of the cruelty which will take place. There has been significant personal, financial investment in these cats by individuals all over the urban and semi regional areas of Adelaide and the community will not accept this cruelty.

The Animal Justice Party abhors the killing of animals, regardless as to whether they are native or introduced, and strongly opposes this plan of slaughtering these cats simply because of refusal to research and support the alternatives which have been proven to work.

THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN

Our state of South Australia should take no part in the Theat Abatement Plan for predation by feral cats (TAP), which now includes cats in urban areas and free-living cats which have been desexed.

We disagree with the changing of any wording that brings the Biodiversity Act, The National Parks and Wildlife Act and any other Act in line with TAP.

The methods employed by the TAP are horrifying: 1080 poison, Curiosity which also causes a terrible death, indiscriminate aerial dropping of baits, leg hold traps, trapping cages where cats and other non-target animals are left for long periods of time in the heat and rain, and shooting where it is known that cats are being gut shot and left to slowly die in agony. One particular case of these eradication programs that illustrates this unspeakable agony was brought to our attention. A poor mother cat found with her back legs shot off was still trying to feed her baby kittens.

Statements on the PIRSA web site under the heading “Animal Welfare” Indicate that death by 1080 is a quick painless death, but this is at odds with the multitudes testifying to the agonizing death of their dogs who ate a bait laced with 1080 on Facebook pages. These personal testimonies cannot be dismissed.

We have interviewed people ourselves who gave us the traumatic account of having to shoot 20 farm cats who were suffering due to ingesting 1080. This shooting is what it took to end their suffering.

The following is a brief excerpt from the link below on 1080 poison.

1080 Poison

1080 Is Torture

1080 (sodium monofluroacetate) is a cruel and indiscriminate poison used to remove unwanted populations of animals.

Banned in most countries, 1080 is still used liberally throughout Australia to control so-called pest species and reduce browsing damage caused by native animals on private land.

1080 poison is a slow killer. When ingested (usually through baited food) the animal suffers a prolonged and horrific death. Herbivores take the longest to die up to 44hrs, while carnivores can take up to 21hrs before finally succumbing to final effects of the poison. The speed of death is dependent on the rate of the animals metabolism.

A Slow & Horrific Death

Witnesses to the deaths of herbivorous animals, such as macropods, have reported:

"Affected wallabies were sometimes observed sitting hunched up, with heads held shakily just above the ground. Generally they appeared non-alert and 'sick', with shivering or shaking forelimbs and unsteady balance. Most individuals then experience convulsions, falling to the ground and lying on their backs and sides, kicking and making running motions with their hind legs before dying. Many individuals also ejaculated shortly before death, and, with others, exuded a white froth from their nostrils and mouth."

Carnivorous animals such as dingoes, dogs, foxes, and cats become very agitated, as they tremble, convulse and vomit.

The list of symptoms include:

"restlessness; increased hyperexcitability; incontinence or diarrhea; excessive salivation; abrupt bouts of vocalization; and finally sudden bursts of violent activity. All affected animals then fall to the ground in teranic seizure, with hind limbs or all four limbs and sometimes the tail extended rigidly from their arched bodies. At other times the front feet are clasped together, clenched or used to scratch frantically at the cage walls. This tonic phase is then followed by a clonic phase in which the animals lie and kick or 'paddle' with the front legs and sometimes squeal, crawl around and bite at objects. During this phase the tongue and penis may be extruded, their eyes rolled back so that only the whites show and the teeth ground together. Breathing is rapid but laboured, with some animals partly choking on their saliva. Finally such individuals begin to relax, breathing more slowly and shallowly and lying quietly with the hind legs still extended but apparently semiparalysed".

From the above descriptions, it is without question that 1080 poison inflicts great pain and suffering on affected animals. Aside from the physical pain endured over the many hours before death, the terror, fear and anxiety felt by these animals is unimaginable.

1080 Spreads Through the Environment

1080 is primarily used to manage introduced species. However, this poison is an indiscriminate killer. Poison laid for rabbits is normally in the form of baited carrots and oats, but any other animal occupying a similar niche such as the kangaroo are just as likely to eat the poison. It has been estimated that baits laid for rabbits threaten a further 50-62 species.

1080 not only has devastating consequences for the animals who directly consume it, but it also affects the surrounding environment and its inhabitants. Scavengers and carnivores are killed through secondary poisoning when they feed upon unrecovered carcasses. Indeed 1080 spreads so thoroughly through an ecosystem that insectivorous birds have been killed in baited areas by eating insects who have fed on carcasses and poisoned food.

1080 Poison (wlpa.org)

1080 is also used in the Grooming Trap known as the Felixer which seeks to exploit the cats natural fastidiousness and cleanliness in grooming itself to remove anything from its coat . A sensor detects the cat's motion and a spray of 1080 lands on the cat. The cat licks it off and has become a victim of the 1080. We have a documented case of this also affecting a pet despite the claim that Felixer can discern if the cat is a pet.

Para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) named Curiosity in a bait is no more desirable with cats being found dead lying in their own vomit and faeces, during the Roxby Downs trial.

As with 1080, so with PAPP - there is also the upline predator to consider. During the timeframe of the PAPP trial the Corvid bird population fell by 50% despite the poison having been placed in a gel capsule to prevent such a catastrophe.

Field efficacy of the Curiosity® bait for management of a feral cat population at Roxby Downs,South Australia (dcceew.gov.au)

Pindone is also currently in the news as another "pest" eradication gone wrong creating a wildlife threat. ABC News 28.08.2024.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-28/poison-laced-carrots-risk-endangered-bandicoots-adelaide-hills/104276112

Ecologist Ruth Norris explains the reason culling cats will never succeed.

The population growth rate of cats

The majority of mammalian species, including cats, are density dependent mammals, meaning, their rate of population increase over time is dependent on their density (the number of cats per unit area).

Populations start small with slow growth rate due to a small number of breeding individuals (Fig. 1). Breeding results in offspring and offspring grow to sexual maturity increasing the number of breeding adults in the population. The rate of population growth now increases almost exponentially. As this occurs, resources in the environment are used far quicker and the rate of increase slows in line with the decreased availability of resources. The population attains a size that is maintained by the available resources without surplus, and the population stabilises and plateaus. This is the carrying capacity of the environment for this species.

The carrying capacity is determined by the amount and availability of resources within an area and is also capped by negative effects of a population, such as wastes and diseases etc. This is

why there is often an aggregation of cats around town dumps, hospitals, etc because of a greater number of resources in that area. Human inhabited areas provide food, shelter and water and therefore support cats, as well as rats and mice, which are also a resource for the cat. Additionally, often in areas of human habitation well-meaning, compassionate people feed stray cats, and these are the cats defined as semi-owned.

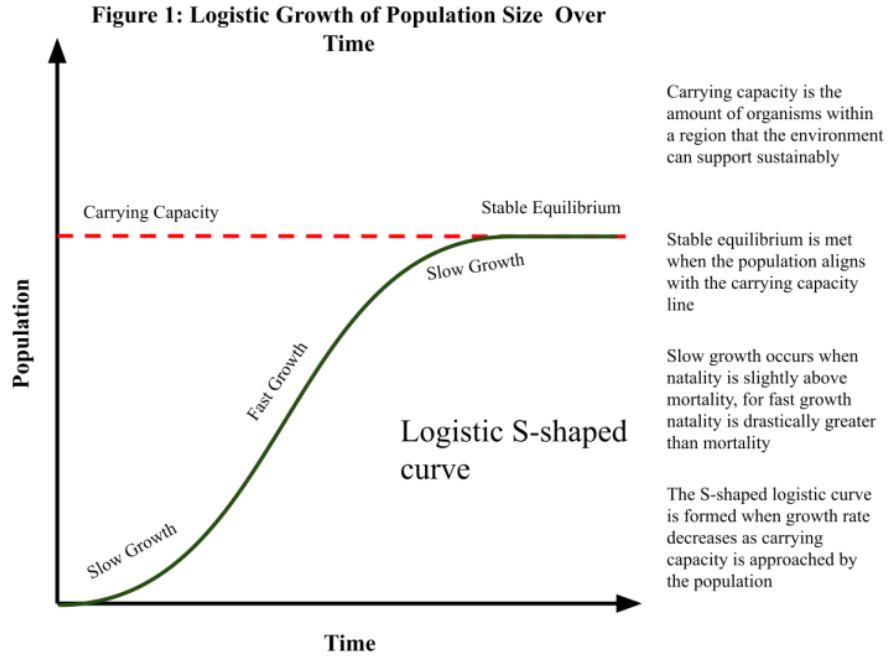


Fig. 1. Graph detailing density dependent population growth. Image created by Nchisick 21 May 2019 License: CC BY-SA 4.0

From Fig. 1, culling the population removes animals from the top right section of the graph reducing the population but increasing the rate at which the population grows. This occurs because lowering the population frees up resources for others, improving conditions for those left and breeding can increase.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the clear danger which the current Cat Legislation has posed, is posing, and will continue to pose, will never be resolved until the cat laws are repealed: This is already a proven fact illustrated by the massive drop in cat desexing and unprecedented increase in cat numbers and associated problems, which we have seen for the last 29 years since the Dog and Cat management Act 1995 and the Amendments to this Act 2017 were introduced.

This Legislation has undermined the most important aspect of successful cat management: It has undermined the prevention of breeding through fertility control and the return of cats to their homes to hold their territory and prevent new, undesexed cats from infiltrating, breeding and increasing numbers. DRH is more important than all the other so-called controls and

unsubstantiated recommendations put together. DRH is the only method which has shown tangible evidence of reduction in cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on wildlife and good welfare outcomes for cats. DRH has been successfully operating in council areas where desexing of cats is supported, with little done to terrorise the residents over the enforcement of the Act other than the required notification. These councils have complied with the legislation but have not gone to the extremes of imposing cat bylaws. It can be seen that these are the councils which are rarely heard from regarding cat-related complaints; indeed, there is a significant difference between the problems being faced by councils with draconian cat bylaws and these councils which have never had any cat bylaws. Obviously, the councils which have imposed the draconian cat bylaws are experiencing considerable repercussions, noted in the main Adelaide Newspapers, as both article**s** and letters to the editor. This difference should be investigated well before any plans to continue encouraging more councils to have cat bylaws.

The Animal Justice Party supports the humane, efficient and cost**-** effective method of DRH, which is well supported by the wider community: We respectfully propose that the cat section of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and its Amendments of 2017 be repealed as these are the overarching reason why the management of cats has so seriously failed for the last 29 years.

We also request that the DRH methods, which do not require any legislative controls, be promoted through cooperation, correct education and assistance with desexing, through animal orientated organisations, (not government bodies), working with Councils, but without any cat bylaws . Cat bylaws simply force the cat supporters to abandon their previous determination to desex cats and become semi owners, semi ownership is the key to controlling the estimated 200,000 unowned cats in urban areas.

Unless the cooperation and assistance of the cat supporters is gained, there will be no possible success in achieving the goals which we are all seeking: A reduction in cat numbers, a reduction in cat-related problems and a reduction in the impact on native wildlife and good welfare outcomes for the cats.

This success will be achieved if we follow the tried and true methods of DRH which have already been verified to work as per the graph clearly showing the massive drop in cat numbers reflected by halving of the death rate of cats taken to the AWL in the 5 years between 1989 and 1994, due to mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned and all kinds of cats, friendly and feral, and all those in between.

Thank you for accepting this, the Animal Justice Party SA Submission.

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Submission 47

From: From [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2024 3:42 PM
To: City of Tea Tree Gully <communityengagement@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission to the Tea Tree Gully Council Public Consultation for draft Cat By-law No 7

The sender has requested a reply to confirm that this Submission has been received and also the attachment. Thankyou.

C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance to Sterilise Incorporated

PO Box 160 Kensington Park SA 5068

16/9/2024

Submission to the Tea Tree Gully Council draft Cat By-law No 7 2024

From - C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc

Suburb – Tea Tree Gully Council - One of our Top Priority Councils

Interests - Cat Management and reduction in cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on wildlife

Public Viewing - YES and including our name and postal address

C.A.T.S. Assistance To Sterilise Inc is submitting this response to the Public Consultation for two main reasons.

Firstly to address the proposals presented by the Tea Tree Gully Council for the public consultation and

Secondly to provide a non-legislative template for successful cat management which is supported by most of the wider-community who have actually done the necessary research.

The main and basic reality which needs to be noted is that the reason for the 80% response to have some form of legislation for cat controls is because the ill-informed public think it is going to

solve the problem of cats going on their property: And some think it will reduce the numbers of wildlife being attacked by cats.

This is **WHY** they support the cat bylaw. That is why the response is 80% supporting legislation.

It is a false assumption!

Cat legislation will NOT keep cats off of people's property as removal of one lot of cats results in another lot of cats refilling the vacated spaces. There are an estimated 200,000 unowned cats in the populated areas and there is no way, in spite of the government plans to kill cats, that these cats can be eradicated.

The Threat Abatement Plan for cats claims to have killed one and a half million cats and it has failed to even reduce their number. There are now more cats than there were before the killing, because after an eradication program nature breeds at a far faster rate, with lowered competition from fewer cats, the food supply is abundant and the survival rate is greater.

These average residents who fill in the Survey have no idea of the complex issue we are dealing with.

They just see the black and white idea that if you kill, remove or confine one cat there will be no cat so their problem is solved, so they say yes to the Survey when asked the question do they want the legislation. This is not an acceptable way to run a Survey and it is not something which we consider to be an honest approach.

In fact the removal of one cat, or confinement of one cat or killing of one cat will more likely result in numerous cats infiltrating that one cat's space as the cat is not there to keep them out.

If that cat which is not there anymore was a desexed cat, then the rate of the new cats increases further as the new cats will likely be undesexed and breed even more.

TTGC is in an even more vulnerable position than most SA councils as it borders on the Adelaide Hills Council which has an abundant number of unowned, undesexed cats, many of which are keen to cross the border into TTGC.

C.A.T.S. has been keeping records of the high rates of requests for cat desexing by residents along this border, not only with TTGC, but with Campbelltown Council in the suburbs of Athelstone and the top of Magill, and Burnside, particularly the top of Magill and Skye.

One resident our president spoke to, said he had trapped 200 cats in Skye and the Burnside Councils had taken them for destruction. This did not make any difference as he was continuing to trap and have them destroyed. I talked him into getting the cats desexed and returned instead, also agreed to by the Burnside Council, and we did not hear any further complaints.

40 cats were desexed and returned to home in Skye and we still have a high desexing rate in that area. This is essential to have the free-living cats holding their territory and preventing the new cats from coming over the border, infiltrating and breeding.

Adelaide Hills Council has never focussed on desexing; trying instead, to reply on ill-conceived cat bylaws which have never been successful. We have followed the failure of this Council's methods for over 35 years.

With all this 35 years of knowledge compiled by C.A.T.S. which has been working with councils for all that time, it stands to reason that C.A.T.S. information should be more useful to the TTGC than a lot of ill-founded responses from residents who know virtually nothing about cat management and blindly fill our an inadequate Survey to undermine 35 years of work: **Particularly unacceptable when TTGC already has an excellent Cat Management program set up by previous TTG Council and should be entered in previous TTGC Agendas and Minutes.**

The Council staff NEED to know the whole complex issue so they can advise the Councillors who do not understand that the cat bylaw is not going to solve the problem: 'It will undermine 35 years of dedicated work by C.A.T.S.

I see this as being your job Michael. To educate the Councillors before they make a serious mistake.

35 years of high desexing, as we have already proved, and generally good cat management in TTGC is the reason why your Council is in a far better position with fewer cat related problems than those with cat bylaws.

35 years of C.A.T.S. dedicated work, freely provided, without asking Council for any donations.

As the RSPCA has stated in writing, "Although some councils have introduced cat bylaws, there is no tangible evidence of success".

The truth is that the cat bylaw WON'T keep cats off their property and it WON'T stop cats from attacking some wildlife.

The residents need to be told the truth, not the unsubstantiated propaganda that is not evidence-based, which is being disseminated by those with a vested interest for something they can gain for their personal advancement.

General Overview

It is obvious that the introduction of the state-wide cat legislation of 2018, making microchipping mandatory, and threatening fines, fees and seizure of cats has failed. This legislation has caused a catastrophe, as most residents would not have the microchips and therefore many stopped desexing cats, both their owned cats, and even more so, unowned cats which they were feeding.

In addition, making desexing mandatory has not shown any evidence that cat desexing has increased: Indeed it has not increased. On the contrary, desexing has decreased for cats. The

only reason desexing has increased for kittens is because there have been tens of thousands more kittens born due to the massive drop in the desexing of their mothers. As stated, this drop in desexing was due to making microchipping mandatory.

"Overbreeding is the root of the problem"

C.A.T.S. Recommendations to address these main reasons for overbreeding can be solved by changing the mandatory microchipping of cats to a matter of choice and ceasing the threats of fines, fees and limitation of numbers of owned cats

1. This would immediately result in the resumption of mass desexing, particularly the mass desexing of unowned cats that people are feeding. It is obvious that Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) has failed by the low percentage of the estimated 400,000 owned SA cats recoded, and without microchips ownership of cats cannot be proved.

Letters of support for C.A.T.S. mass desexing

"The Advertiser" 29/7/2024

Vets doing good work

Regarding "Deadly bite to rising vet bills", ("The Advertiser", 26/7), thank goodness for Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) and the wonderful vets who donate their time to CATS to help us with getting our cats desexed. Where would we be without them?

John Markham, Henley Beach South

"The Advertiser" 31/7/2024

Keeping cats in check

I agree, a big thank you to CATS (Cats Assistance To Sterilise) and the “Vets doing good work” (Letters, 29/7) to help get the cats desexed at affordable rates, by donating their time.

Over-breeding is the root of the problem and if we desex the cats in large enough numbers we can surmount the over-breeding and reduce the feline population, which reduces the problems and impact of wildlife.

None of the other so-called controls do any good at all.

In fact the laws have made everything far worse – just look at the mass increase in cat numbers since the cat legislation! CATS have got it right.

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2. Can be almost immediately solved by banning cat breeders and preventing the sale of cats.

"The Advertiser" 30/7/2023

Breeding must stop

I agree with “Collar farms” (Letters, SM, 23/7). It is ludicrous to be deliberately breeding more dogs and cats when the shelters can’t cope with the abandoned pets, and cruel people are dumping them.

Why has this not been banned in the so-called review of the Act covering dogs and cats?

At least with felines there is help available as stated, as the Cats Assistance To Sterilise people are also helping residents in my council of Onkaparinga.

Our council/RSPCA ceased desexing them, due to overflowing cat numbers

What upsets me is that while CATS are donating their time and money to preventing thousands of kitten births, the government is selling permits to almost anybody to breed thousands more.

What can we do to stop them?

Albert Peters, Woodcroft

“The Advertiser” 30/8/2023

Curbing kittens

What can we do to stop the government selling permits to breeders, increasing the overflowing cat population with thousands more kittens? (Letters, SM, 30/7).

The only way to reduce cat numbers is to stop the deliberate breeding of cats and promote mass desexing with cats returned to their homes to keep new undesexed cats out.

This desex and return to home method proved a significant success in the early 1990s: Records showing a massive drop in cats received and destroyed when Cats Assistance To Sterilise (CATS) pioneered its program involving tens of thousands of both owned and unowned cats.

We need people like the CATS organisation to solve the cat problems, not bureaucrats who know virtually nothing about cat management.

Kate Clayton, president Cat Protection Society of SA

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3. Can also be solved by repealing Council cat bylaws which, as the RSPCA has stated don't work. RSPCA quote, "Although some councils have introduced cat bylaws, there is no tangible evidence of success".

No cat laws work for cats.

“The Advertiser” 20/5/2023

Cat laws don't work

Responding to "Pet fury" and "Free desexing" (Letters, The Advertiser Wednesday), I have been helping people with sterilising cats for more than 35 years and know that before the cat laws, residents were keen to desex.
Since the legislation was imposed five years ago, and also since some councils have imposed cat bylaws, many residents no longer want to desex the cats because of the threats of fines and registration fees.
In fact, every time another cat law is passed, fewer cats are desexed.
Re-homing is not sustainable, because there are not enough good homes available.
Desexing cats and returning them to their homes is sustainable, efficient and cost effective, with cats fed and cared for by residents.

The 2022 Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 simply ignores all this evidence-based information, and continues promoting its failed cat policy.

B.B. Foster, Daw Park

"The Sunday Mail" 3/8/2023

Desex your cats

RSPCA and AWL are correct, by refusing to take any more cats and kittens.

Why, you ask? Because until they stop, residents think that there are plenty of homes for kittens and they stop desexing cats.

Ever since the statewide legislation was imposed five years ago, forcing microchipping and registration, numbers of cats at the shelters have been doubling every year.

As the RSPCA says, overbreeding of cats is the root problem. Desexing is the only solution.

This problem will never be solved by re-homing cats through shelters and adoption agencies.

Despite the increasing number of foster carers, there are just not enough good homes to take the kittens.

Killing cats is not the answer either, as evidence shows that new undesexed cats from the estimated 200,000 unowned supply, simply restock the vacated spaces and breed more. Until the government admits that its legislative methods cannot be enforced for cats and rewrites its "Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995" for cats, the catastrophe we now have will double and triple.

Cats cannot be controlled through legislative force. Cats are not dogs.

Christine Pierson, Kensington Park

Some of these diabolical cat bylaws actually place councils at risk of litigation, as C.A.T.S. has campaigned to prove, and has succeeded in preventing councils from using them. Particularly the cat trapping cages.

Positive moves by State Government which Tea Tree Gully Council needs to note the reasons for, and not make the same mistakes by introducing them

- This is one positive decision thing which the government has accepted, as these diabolical weapons of torture in the wrong hands has been acknowledged and now addressed, but it must now legislate for exemption for animal orientated organisations which have proved to be trusted to be used for humane Desex and Home programs (DRH).

Letters of support for C.A.T.S. campaign

"The Advertise" 9/8/2024

Cage fight over

It has taken many years of lobbying but people power has won, so yes, "Cat cage ban welcome", ("Letters" 7/8).

The many comments from CATS Inc and RSPCA I have read in your paper, show the cruelty and death caused by these traps when in the wrong hands.

They must only be used for transportation and return to home for vet desexing and treatment, where cats can't be handled, and must only be with animal orientated organisations like CATS.

Ryan Davies is correct. Desexing is the only solution required for cat management, as legislation does not work for cats and never has. We only have to look at the last 30 years to see that the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 has failed.

Richard Justice, Unley

"The Advertiser" 8/8/2024

To cage or not to cage

It's great that the illegality of providing cat trapping cages to the public has been exposed ("Pesky cats are free to roam", Letters, 3/8).

I have read many letters to The Advertiser from the CATS Inc organisation, calling on the government to ban these traps.

The RSPCA stopped providing the cages 10 years ago due to the terrible injuries inflicted on animals from incorrect use.

The Dog and Cat Management Act is under review with public consultation for cats now current.

We need to protest against the review document's plan to kill cats. Killing cats has never and will never reduce numbers, as recolonisation and breeding of remaining cats will ensure numbers will be restored.

The only way to reduce numbers is to desex the cats and return them to their homes where they keep other undesexed cats out.

This significantly and humanely decreases cat numbers and problems. This method is the only reason for using these cages, where frightened cats need to be transported to the vet for desexing and treatment and returned to home, where they are loved and cared for – and it must be through animal-orientated organisations like CATS.
Luke Forrester, Burnside.

- By not including state-wide confinement/containment of cats in the legislation this has also been a positive move.

Preventing desexed cats from holding their territories, not necessarily on the owners/carers property restricts these cats from keeping other undesexed cats out. Desexed cats do not cause the problems of undesexed cats, such as spraying tomcat urine, caterwauling all night over mates and being more likely to leave their droppings in gardens as they can stay for days while mating, as well as females having unwanted litters of kittens. The bigger the area held by a desexed cat, the lower the ratio of cats per area is achieved.

- By not including cat registration fees, this is also a positive approach as charging registration fees would have been the last straw and reduced cat desexing to the lowest level for 30 years. Who would want to desex any cat, owned or unowned, if they were to have to pay a registration fee? Some may, but most wouldn't, especially if it were an unowned cat: Verified by the extremely low compliance rate for recording on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) and for registration under council cat bylaws which have registration fees.

By not limiting cats to a specified number per household is also a positive move as the more cats that residents can get desexed and care for, from the estimated 200,000 unowned cats the better. Having residents take responsibility for these unowned cats and getting them desexed is the only way the cat population will be

reduced, as killing, removing and confining them does not reduce their number, due to the Vacuum Effect.

"The Advertiser"12/8/2024

Cats in the vacuum

Regarding "Control cats, please" (The Advertiser, 9/8), documented scientific evidence proves that trapping cats and removing them from where they are not wanted achieves nothing constructive.

This is due to the phenomenon of nature known as the "vacuum effect", which ensures another lot of new cats will move into the vacated spaces and breed to not only restore but increase original numbers.

If, however, the cats are desexed and returned to home, they will hold the territory and keep other undesexed cats away.

This results in reducing cats to the minimum required and stops further breeding while controlling the rats and mice thus deterring snakes.

Kyle Langdon, Mt Barker

Negative State Government recommendations affecting the Tea Tree Gully Council if TTG is to be encouraged to fall into the trap set to pass the buck to councils.

It is obvious that cats are not dogs and that cats cannot be managed like dogs.

It is also obvious, that cats cannot be managed by legislation as it simply drives the cat supporters underground and the legislation cannot be enforced.

It is obvious that the legislation cannot be enforced as after over 6 years a very small percentage of the estimated 400,000 owned SA cats are microchipped and recorded on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). And the government is powerless to rectify this. So how is TTGC going to rectify it when it finds its compliance rate is low and will be even lower if registration fees are introduced.

And just because cats are microchipped and registered now, while it is free, just note all the cats that will suddenly “die”(on paper) or have “runaway” (on paper) when the fees are introduced.

So the rates will need to be increased and this will not make for good publicity for the Council. Look at the huge rate rise in Campbelltown Council after the huge costs of the cat bylaw there.

Planning to encourage councils to introduce cat bylaws when the state government knows full well that enforcement of this legislation is unenforceable and unworkablt, is deceptive.

So to repeat this important point - Cats cannot be successfully managed or controlled by legislation, already proved by the failure of Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) showing that compliance is minuscule with less than a quarter of the estimated owned SA cats being recorded. This low compliance rate is also reflected in cat bylaws where any council has introduced them.

Without a microchip, ownership cannot be proved and without proof the courts will not convict. So the few cats that are actually recorded and the few registration fees and fines that are actually paid will nowhere near cover costs, leaving the residents and ratepayers' to foot the bill. <u>This is not a good approach for Councillors seeking re-election.</u>

Stating that cats are considered to be owned if residents provide shelter or food to these cats, also cannot be proved as ownership: Given that cats can’t be kept out of a property without a cat-proof fence or barrier, and given that it is legal to feed birds, there is no way to prove that a cat seen on a property is owned by that resident or that the food is provided for the cat and not a bird.

It can be seen the futility of trying to hoodwink cat supporters who do have excellent brains and have had 30 years to outwit and avoid any ridiculous so-called controls specified in the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Furthermore, imposing these cat bylaws can place councils at risk of litigation as forcing cats to be collared creates risk of causing death and serious injuries: Multiple cats have suffered horrendous injuries

from collars being caught across the mouth requiring expensive vet treatment including stitches, (*Advertiser* article with photo) eating into the flesh of the neck, caught under the forelegs and cutting into the body resulting in amputation of the leg, and also euthanasia, and death by hanging.

So it is definitely a negative move by TTGC to fall into the trap set by state Government to pass the buck to you to enforce unenforceable and unworkable cat bylaws.

The State Government has already lost the support of the cat movement by its cruel and horrendous plan to kill all cats that it does not deem domesticated.

If the TTGC also follows any palns to removed, confine or kill any of its cats which are loved, and cared for after being desexed, they will also turn on Council.

They will all go underground, as those mostly affected by this cat bylaw will NOT be the ones writing to you in Submissions or filling out Surveys as they will not be giving their names and addresses for the Council to track them down. They will simply go under the radar, as is always the case in the Councils where these cat bylaws like No 7, are imposed.

The problem is that they will NOT desex, either their owned cats or the unowned cats, for fear of being fined if they go to the vet and get caught.

It is difficult for C.A.T.S. to understand how the TTGC can't see this in reality. Cat Laws are the cause of the problem. Cat laws do not fix the problem. Cat laws exacerbate the problem.

The proposed plan to kill the estimated 200,000 unowned cats is simply fantasy. It has been clearly shown, multiple times, that eradication of cats in an open system will never be accomplished: This is due to the scientifically proven phenomenon of nature known as the Vacuum Effect, which ensures that new cats will move into the vacated spaces and breed to recolonise the area:

Furthermore, it has been noted by scientific studies that culling results in, not only numbers being restored, but increased.

The even more ludicrous plan to kill all cats which are not deemed domesticated, including the much loved, free-living cats which tens of thousands of residents have had desexed through the C.A.T.S. scheme, is not only horrendous but has caused an enormous amount of anger and hatred towards the government which has been made very clear in 50 letters published in "The Advertiser" and "The Sunday Mail" since about the time of the "Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 was written.

The following include a few of the many letters from those who discovered the contents of the Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act.

First letter in "The Advertiser" 8/1/2024

Scratch cat laws

The last five years under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Amendments have proved cats cannot be managed by legislative force with threats of fines, fees and seizure of cats.

The more laws imposed, the fewer cats are desexed, proved by C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc records. C.A.T.S. desexes more cats for the general public than any organisation in SA – currently 135,000. (The main shelters do not desex for the general public.)

After the statewide cat legislation was imposed on July 1, 2018, cat desexing plummeted to half, as residents refused to have mandatory microchips and record on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).

This was proved by the low percentage of the estimated 400,000 SA cats recorded. As undesexed cat numbers skyrocketed, so did massive problems at shelters, until the current catastrophe when RSPCA and AWL overflowed.

Our government has no idea how to manage cats or cat supporters, and until it learns that working with the people who care for the cats and not against them, nothing desirable will be achieved.

C.A.T.S. was incorporated on November 1, 1989, before any cat laws at all, and proved that co-operation, correct education and assistance with desexing for all moggies, and returning them to their homes to keep out new, undesexed, intruder cats, halved the numbers of felines received and destroyed at the main shelter, within five years. (Records confirm this.)

And Reark research found in 1992 that SA had the highest rate of desexed cats for any state surveyed: 94 per cent. If C.A.T.S. – on its minuscule budget and run by animal supporters who donate their time and money, with the support of wonderful cooperating vets – halved the cat numbers in five years, while the government, on its billion-dollar budget, has doubled the cat numbers in five years, then why should this failed cat legislation be supported?

And as Mayor Glenn Docherty said, (Playford) Council was not considering a cat curfew. “It is (already) an expiable offence under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act for cats to cause local nuisance, including wandering.”

So why do we need any more laws specifically for cats?

Christine Pierson, president, C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc

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"The Advertiser" 19/6/2023

Change needed

I agree with “Review catastrophe” (The Advertiser, 14/6). We need to go back to the drawing board, but not the Dog and Cat Management Board, to rectify the catastrophe caused by the 2018 act.

During public consultation, prior to 1995, the numerous submissions sent to the government stating legislation for cats would fail, were ignored.

Managing cats cannot be compared with managing dogs.

We don't have an estimated 200,000 wild dogs living in populated areas as with cats.

The proposed Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 solution is to confine the domesticated cats and kill all the others.

Removal, confinement and killing of the "others" would result in recolonisation by new undesexed cats and increases in numbers, not decreases.

Before cat laws, SA had the highest percentage of desexed cats in Australia (REARK research survey) and mass desexing of cats, owned and unowned, through the low-priced CATS scheme had reduced cats received and destroyed to half at the main shelter.

As more cat laws were passed, fewer cats were desexed, and numbers gradually rose until the catastrophe since 2018, when RSPCA stated they were "the highest we have held in our memory" (Channel 9 News, 10/6/2019) and then were "double to 5 years ago" and the CEO told The Advertiser that the RSPCA could take no more (11/3).

SA needs to follow the Queensland government which has repealed its cat management legislation, citing it as "ineffective and costly for local government".

James M. Richardson, Waterloo Corner

"The Advertiser" 18/6/2023

Don't cage cats

I refer to veterinarian Mark Reeve's pet advice column "Could our cherished animal friends be making us sick?" (Sunday Mail, June 11).

This is the case if cats are permanently confined in houses and small cat-runs.

Already cats are becoming unhealthy from lack of exercise and unable to fulfil their basic needs of running, jumping, eating grass in the garden.

Cats not able to satisfy their insatiable curiosity are becoming stressed and anxious and hospital reports show a significant increase in attacks on owners from confined cats.

When cats become obese, lack fresh air, sunshine and freedom, they become sick. Isn't it obvious that keeping cats permanently inside with smelly litter trays, fleas that accumulate when cats are confined, and parasites, is not in the best interests of human beings either?

This is simple common sense. We have already seen the spread of avian flu and shocking pandemics from animals which are confined in factory farms.

We should be getting animals out of cages, not passing laws to imprison them. The Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 needs to be reviewed.

Christine Pierson, Kensington Park

"The Advertiser" 14/6/2023

Review catastrophe

Where is the review in the Review of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 regarding cats?

Nothing has been reviewed regarding the massive failure of this Act, and the plummeting of cat desexing, as residents will not comply, have microchips and record on Dog And Cat Online (DACO) and, for fear of fines, fees and seizure of their cats, they don't desex them either.

Nothing has been reviewed to stop the catastrophic skyrocketing of undesexed cats due to this huge drop in desexing, with the RSPCA refusing to accept anymore.

All that the section on cats includes is ridiculous plans that will exacerbate the problem caused by the legislation imposed five years ago.

Hasn't Susan Close got anybody on her Dog and Cat Management Board who knows anything about cats?

Carol Patricia James Kensington Park

"The Advertiser"

Know cat instincts

Cats are not dogs and until the government understands cat behaviour it will never successfully manage cats.

So its aim in "Claws are out for roaming pet cats" is pointless (The Advertiser, 5/1). The letter "Scratch cat laws" (The Advertiser, 8/1) from CATS (Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc) speaks volumes, all evidence-based on their own 35-year studies, with both hands-on personal involvement with cats and the cat supporters in areas where the cats live, in both rural and urban locations.

Most importantly, cats don't "roam", which means "to move about or travel aimlessly or unsystematically".

Cats travel with a purpose and until this purpose is understood as a basis for a cat management plan, nothing constructive will be achieved.

Cats travel to find mates, solved by desexing; cats travel to find food, solved by correct feeding; and cats travel to find a place to do their business, solved by feeders providing cat toilets at home with clean leaves and freshly dug earth, or a covered, outside litter tray.

Recognising these three reasons why cats leave their homes and addressing them, provides the solution to almost all of the complaints reported to councils.

One of the many examples illustrating this success is my own Council of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, where the partnership between council and CATS has resulted in free desexing for all moggie residents.

While government pushes its counterproductive legislative approach and increases its unenforceable threats of fines and fees, plus plans to kill the cats, it drives the cat supporters underground, and mass desexing of cats, which was so successful before the cat laws, will plummet even further with an even further increase in undesexed cats.

The idea that all cats be confined to home areas and all cats not deemed domesticated killed, ignores the phenomenon of nature, the Vacuum Effect, as the estimated 200,000 unowned cats will restock the vacated spaces.

But even worse, this cruelty has so infuriated the cat-supporting community that no likelihood of any acceptance by the public will be forthcoming to support the government's plans.

Without the support of the people who care for the cats there will be no progress in reducing cat numbers, problems or impact on wildlife.

Jason P. Sanderson, Norwood

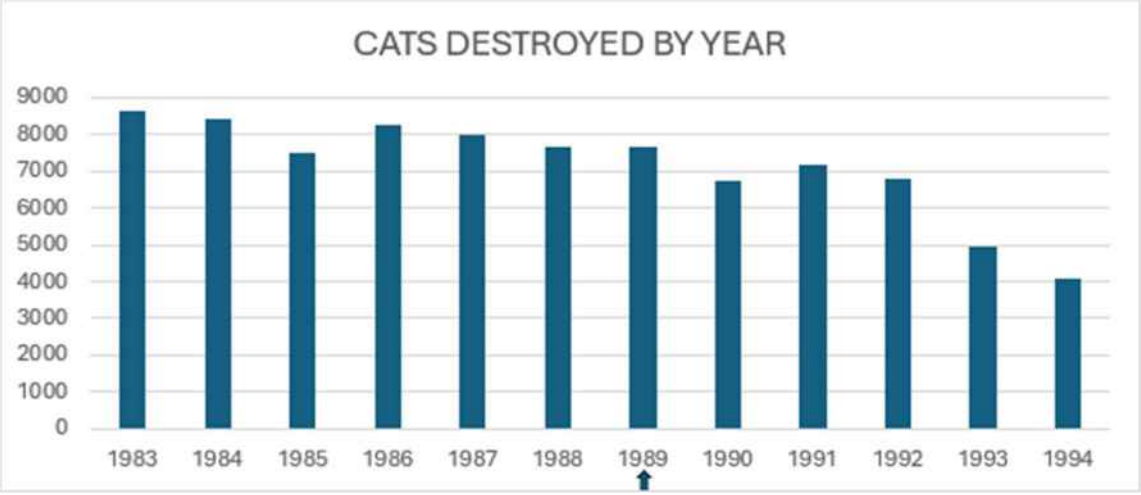
This outpouring of opposition has made it quite clear that the government and the councils will never get any help from the genuine cat supporters who have simply gone underground.

As stated - many of these supporters will never send you submissions or respond to surveys as they will not provide their names and addresses, similar to the way they will not record their details on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).

These one-sided surveys and responses mainly reflect the anti-cat minority who have nothing to lose by including their names and addresses and no doubt there will be many of these responding to your online Survey.

Before the cat legislation of 1995

It needs to be seriously noted that before any cat legislation in SA, C.A.T.S. through mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned, reduced the numbers of cats being destroyed at the Animal Welfare League, the main shelter for cats at that time (as it was accepting 3 to 4 times as many cats as the RSPCA), to virtually half, within 5 years: This graph below, shows the results that can be achieved by working with the residents through co-operation, education and assistance with desexing.



C.A.T.S. Inc was incorporated in late 1989. Note the significant drop in cats being destroyed after C.A.T.S. began its mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned in the 5 years after C.A.T.S. was incorporated on 1 November 1989.

The 1992, REARK Research conducted a survey which found that SA had the highest rate of desexed cats for any state surveyed in the country.

This was also due to the mass desexing of all cats, owned and unowned, conducted by C.A.T.S. through wonderful cooperating vets. No cat bylaws were operating at this time.

Using our template, Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council has been so successful in controlling its cats through the partnership with C.A.T.S. that it has now had free cat desexing for all resident moggies, owned and unowned for over 2 years. (please see the second link below) and Council stating that "No expiation notices have been issued for cat related offences".

A simple guide to all that is required in C.A.T.S. state-wide Booklet can also be found in this easy to read publication which is suitable for any age, at the first link below.

catassist.org.au/wp-content/uploads/CATS_A5Booklet_20pg.pdf

FREE Cat Desexing for Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council – C.A.T.S. (catassist.org.au) (Click on the wording - Read our full PDF Booklet)

The C.A.T.S. template therefore addresses all that is required to continue solving the main overbreeding of cats in Tea Tree Gully Council, as the methods used have been tried and tested for over 35 years and, in those areas where this program has been applied en masse, have the proven results: Cat numbers have reduced, as have the cat-related problems and complaints, and also the impact on wildlife: This reduction, although successful, however, has been severely reduced by the legislation of 2018. (please see the Attachment: (Vice President's letter)

We respectfully ask that you read our Submission and seriously reconsider your current legislative approach to Cat Management through a cat bylaw where similar action has failed to successfully accomplish any of its aims or achieve any of its goals, regarding reducing cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on native wildlife.

C.A.T.S. template however, has proved that all its aims have been successful and all its goals have been achieved. Our method of Desex and Return to Home of all cats, wherever possible, which rely on food provided directly or indirectly from human sources has

been well received by the community. These cats include, friendly, non-friendly, farm, cats in factories and industrial sites, and cats which simply turn up in the gardens begging for food. Over 135,000 cat desexings have been organised through the C.A.T.S. low-priced desexing scheme, thousands of which were from the TTGC.

Our goals of reducing cat numbers, cat-related problems and impact on wildlife had also been achieved and were working well before the cat legislation was introduced as the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. This can be verified by reading the graph showing the huge drop in cats being desexed at the Animals Welfare League (above).

This is the template that needs to be supported by the current TTGC as it was, and is, still currently in force re on the Council resolution which apparently has not been noted by present staff or elected members.

C.A.T.S. will assist to help in any way we can to continue our Priotity services to the TTGC provided that the Councl does not have a cat bylaw.

Thank you for the opportunity to send our Submission and please do not hesitate to contact our Committee should you require any further information.

From

The Committee of C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc

[redacted]

Parliament House

Adelaide SA 5000

29.01.2019

C.A.T.S. Incorporated
Cats Assistance To Sterilise
catassist.org.au
PO Box 160 Kensington Park SA 5068
Incentivise and Sterilise Don't Legalise

To Whom It May Concern

Regarding the new cat legislation which was introduced on 1 July 2018 and requesting its review

I have been the Vice President of C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc since its incorporation in 1989 which is almost thirty years. This has given me considerable expertise in understanding both people and cats and how best to work with them in the community, to achieve the highest rate of desexing of cats to control breeding. I have also been working to encourage people to be responsible regarding their management of cats.

In addition, I have been writing the desexing referrals and sending them to our 60 plus cooperating Veterinary Surgeons for over 20 years.

The methods that C.A.T.S. uses have been tried and tested for 30 years, and this has been built on the research from around the world and interstate, regarding best practice in Cat Management. Indeed South Australia has become a leader in good cat management and was, before 1 July 2018, the state with the highest rate of desexed cats and the best record for cat management. (See Reark Research Survey which found that Adelaide had the highest rate of desexed cats in the county)

Even in our early days, C.A.T.S. received a State Government Award for our services to councils and we were supported by the politicians and ministers of those times.

We have been very disappointed by the way that, more recently, the former Labor Minister for Environment, Ian Hunter, excluded us from input into the changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and we have noted the

huge decrease in responsible cat management and particularly desexing, since the new legislation was imposed on 1 July 2018.

I can directly attest to the fact that calls requesting desexing referrals during my shifts have dropped to well below half than was the case before the new cat laws started. Sometimes I am now only getting 3 or 4 calls per 3 hour shift, instead of being flat out trying to get the referrals written before the next caller is on the line.

I find this both disappointing and unacceptable and I am therefore asking the Legislative Review Committee to take this seriously important issue and review it. The exclusion of C.A.T.S. and many other organisations and individuals that opposed making desexing and microchipping mandatory is in my view unacceptable.

Given the disaster that has resulted with already triple the number of kittens being born, apart from the massive drop in requests for desexing, should be enough evidence to consider changing the Regulations and repeal making desexing and microchipping mandatory.

There is no need to force people to microchip cats unless they are selling their cats, this should be a matter of choice. Without human intervention, cats rarely get lost in any case.

In addition, most cat owners were already desexing their cats. I substantiate this claim by quoting from the statements made by the Australian Veterinary Association which also opposes mandatory desexing.

The following is a quote from the Australian Veterinary Association

"Our policy on desexing points out that mandatory desexing of animals has not proven an effective strategy for reducing the number of unwanted companion animals. Mandatory desexing of owned animals also doesn't account for the impact of semi-owned, stray and feral animals in pet overpopulation".

There is a high level of voluntary compliance with desexing in owned animals – 93% for owned cats and 78% for owned dogs. Voluntary desexing has effectively managed population growth for owned animals in Australia. Existing research has shown that euthanasia in

pounds and shelters is rarely because an owner has too many animals´.

“Unfortunately, many of the opinions and policy ‘solutions’ to the problem are poorly informed about both the problems, and the strategies that have been effective against them in the past. This means that taxpayers’ money is invested by local and state governments in initiatives that will not have a significant impact on the problem they are intended to solve. Responsible pet owners are often required to spend more money on their pets due to increased regulation. And dogs and cats continue to be euthanised, eliciting the outrage of animal organisations who call for solutions that may not be based on scientific evidence or been proven to work”.

Indeed, the REARK research survey found that Adelaide had an even higher rate for desexed cats.

Instead of the new cat legislation decreasing the numbers of cats and kittens, it has resulted in just the opposite, with now triple the number of kittens being born. Even the RSPCA, which only receives a small percentage of the kittens and cats, has stated that they have nearly double the number that they had at this time last year, which I read in “The Advertiser”. I have also read letters in “The Advertiser” and been informed of more letters in the local papers, from other organisations and individuals, stating that the new cat legislation is a disaster.

I respectfully ask that you review this ineffective and counterproductive cat legislation. Thanking you for this opportunity to submit my request and please let me know if you would like further details.

Yours faithfully

Barbara

Vice President C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance to Sterilise Incorporated

Evaluation of community engagement strategy objectives

The key objectives/purpose of the community engagement, as tabled below, were developed as part of the community engagement strategy.

Objectives	Comment
• To inform the community of a proposed new By-law 7 for Cats • To provide an overview and outcomes of previous community engagement conducted by Council in relation to cat management, and previous Council decisions • To seek feedback from the community and relevant stakeholders on a proposed new cat by-law including: ○ level of support for the Cat By-law ○ determine any areas or issues of concern with provisions proposed	Various marketing and communications methods were undertaken to advise the community of the opportunity to provide feedback including: • A notice to the public in *The Advertiser* on 21 August 2024 • 'Have Your Say Tea Tree Gully' online engagement site • Council's website • Emails to key stakeholders • Posters at Council's community Centres • Poster displayed at local veterinary surgeries, pet stores and catteries • Gully Life e-newsletter • Social media post via Council's Facebook account • Signage placed onsite at key playgrounds with sandpits/nature play elements • Email to 'Have your Say' subscribers • SMS to registered dog and cat owners • Email/letter to 2023 cat survey respondents All key messages were communicated via the 'Have your say' project page. Various methods for providing feedback were available. Feedback was provided electronically (online feedback form and email) as well as via hard copy feedback forms which were available at various Council buildings and as a download from the Have your Say website. Over 600 feedback form and written submissions were received. It was not unexpected that response levels would be lower compared to that received for the 2023 Cat Management survey (over 3400) given that we had consulted relatively recently on a similar topic. Also for those who were in favour of rules or regulations for cat management, they may not have felt the need to reiterate this view if they saw Council was proposing to consider a Cat By-law, as resolved in August 2023. Having said this, when considering overall views to rules and/or regulations from the 2023 survey, and comparing to overall views of the draft Cat By-law, the proportions of those who supported and opposed were not that dissimilar – the level of opposition was largely the same while neutral levels were lower and support was slightly higher for the draft Cat By-law.

Next steps

All feedback will be presented at a meeting of Council for Elected Members' consideration before making any decisions about the proposed new Cat By-law.

Following this Council meeting, we will write to all those who provided feedback to advise what Council has decided and what the next steps will be.

Appendix 1: Verbatim comments – draft Cat By-law overall

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Fully support

We often see cats roaming around the streets in the early mornings which does upset my 2 dogs
I have been registering my dogs always, and have been a responsible dog owner. I think the same rules should apply to cats, I find it strange that the same rules haven't been applied to cats. We have cats roaming at night, setting off our security cameras, putting our native birds in danger, but day and night
Nuisance cats prowl around our home
Happy to keep my cat contained overnight
Cats, like dogs should be contained on their owner's property. Not killing native wild life and defecating on my garden!
This is a great idea, I'd love a discount for those who keep cats indoors 24/7 but that would be impossible to track
For many decades I have lived near a creek that backs onto Rega Ave Hope Valley and the number of birds and other fauna that I have seen deceased in the area let alone on my front and rear lawn area of my house is extremely high. Not only is there an issue with fauna being killed there is the excrement that is deposited in my garden areas and urinating of cats on my doors and outdoor furniture that roam at night. Which is not only a disgusting it's a health risk. Then there is the fighting between other cats in the area seeking to claim territory that disturbs residents sleep in the affected areas, in particular mine
The natural instinct of cats is to hunt, this is often carried out at night. If the by-law were to implemented then this could and should have a positive result (e.g. give more protection) for the local wild life
We have a number of cats roaming our area at night time, they fight, mate and have nearly ruined our front door with urination. We have tried everything from oils/smells to deter and a motion sensored water sprayer. We have had to pull our doors off and wash them down multiple times as well as our front porch to get rid of the urine. They also set off our dog during mating season and that's even more noise
It will be a big improvement. I think the curfew time for cats should start earlier (sun down time), but happy to support this proposal as a big step in the right direction
Safety of cats, dogs and wildlife is of the utmost importance. This by-law supports this ideal
The new rules are reasonable and address the existing lack of rules around cat ownership
We need good cat control in our council area, for a bunch of reasons
Cats destroy what should be a beautiful nature area, we had an abundance of lizards and birds when we moved in (2018) and as neighbours with cats come into the area, the free ranging native wild life has decreased. We now see 2-3 cats roaming the streets most evenings, not feral s but pets
Cat management is overdue and needs to be implemented as soon as possible. Not only for the safety of native wildlife and the environment but also for the safety of cats
Now having many cats roaming our area I have concerns about the activity of the cats out at night. We have cats urinating on our outdoor furniture & back door marking their territory & also catching & killing (then dumping) birds in our yard. Our neighbours' cats are never indoors & roam freely at all times. We have been cat owners in the past & always managed to keep our cats contained at night & found ways to minimise their impact during the day. It is safer for the cat, the wildlife & cleaner for neighbours when cats are kept contained at night

I agree that cats should be retained to the household at night and registrations and identification must be required
Both our cats are desexed, both have collars with their name and our phone number. One cat has a tile for tracking as it has escaped the house when front door not clicked closed have been able to find it close by with the tile. Our cats only have access to our back yard. We have put a cat topper on fence where the cats may escape which has been a deterrent. The cats are inside at night
It all seems very well thought through in order to protect native wildlife. I think cats should be indoors or in a cat run at all times. My only concern is the requirement for a cat collar. My cat is permanently indoors and is microchipped but does not wear a collar. She is very old and would not take kindly to being forced to wear a collar at this point and as she is microchipped her home address is readily available should it ever be necessary
Cat Management Laws are needed to reduce the number of strays and also to protect both cats and our wildlife. Gradually introducing the by-laws is a great way for owners of cats to get use to the requirements
I have had nuisance cats on my property the whole time I've lived in TTG. They are a problem. They harass my birds, damage outdoor furniture and pee/poop everywhere and place an unfair burden of cleaning on people who didn't sign up to have cats. Native animals I can live with but someone owns that cat and is knowingly letting them out to be on others properties and then they kill the wildlife I'm living peacefully alongside
I think it is important for all pet owners to take responsibility for their animals and for them to be able to be identified. I also strongly agree on the proposed new law about keeping cats inside of an evening
I have previously responded to TTG Council proposal regarding New Cat Control laws
Cats wander in the area destroying and defecating in the garden regularly. Peeing on the cars and house doorstep and howling at our cat that is kept inside
I have issues with cats roaming my premises and disturbing my other pets, such as birds and fish, as well as the damage they cause other wildlife. I feel these by-laws are a good step to solving some of these problems and making more people responsible for their cats' actions
Cats, while beloved pets, are unfortunately highly destructive to our local native wildlife. Numerous studies have shown that domestic cats are responsible for the decline of various species, particularly birds, reptiles, and small mammals. These by-laws are a crucial step in protecting our unique ecosystem and ensuring that our native animals have a better chance of survival. I hope that pet owners will understand the importance of these measures and take the necessary steps to comply with them for the greater good of our environment. Thank you for prioritizing the protection of our native species
Unknown cats continually roaming, defecating and fighting on my property
Safety of pet cats and reduction in the damage caused by pet cats on the environment, and feral cats
I believe cat owners should be responsible for their animals the same way as dog owners and this new by-law would also protect wildlife during the evenings/early mornings
Stray cats at night preying in the area is unbelievable
Have had negative cat interactions at our home in the past
There are so many stray cats in this street. They are everywhere. They terrorise my cat who is 100% a wholly indoor cat. She never goes outside. I'm sick of the strays urinating on my front door, and getting into my roof cavity at night
Keeping cat in overnight would solve many of the issues
I am concerned about the wildlife affected by cats that are allowed to roam at will. I think council's suggestions are fair and attainable
Hopefully this by law will help control cats that wander the suburbs at night, waking residents with their screaming and soiling gardens. Also help to control wandering cats that destroy native wildlife
I support the laws 100% but want the hours of confinement increased - they are basically out most of the day. Also would like clearer instructions around what happens if people do not follow the rules

Cats coming into private property at night, making a mess and agitating animals, leaving droppings in the neighbourhood, fighting other cats and attacking wildlife
My dog uses a doggie door during the day, which I have that someone's cat is also using it. Twice I have found the cat inside, which then leaves when it sees me leave. Obviously my dog isn't bothered by it but I would prefer to not have cats on my property including using my front door and garden as a kitty litter tray!! I think that cats should be kept in the confines of their owner's property 24/7, firstly for their own safety and secondly in respect of other home owners' properties. Thank you
I am concerned about impact of roaming cats on local fauna
Like dogs, cats should be managed by their owners and not let to wander at large
Should be tougher... cats should be restricted to owner's property 24/7. I walk daily and never fail to spot cats going down spoon drains and other hideaways regardless of time. There are numerous stray cats in Fairview Park area and it is quite a normal occurrence to bury a dead native bird left on our back yard
Having continually had issues with neighbouring cats defecating on my property and roaming at night, I welcome any proposal that brings cat ownership somewhat in line with dog ownership
Too many cats including kittens in neighbourhood during the night. Also sick of removing cat poo from garden and also cleaning cat spray from front door
We need to reduce the number of cats wandering around - we have a lot of cats come within our yard etc. - as they are roaming free, chasing and killing wildlife etc.
Control of cats in TTG Council Area to protect local wildlife. Bring legislation in line with Dog Management
Support changes included, e.g. containment from 10pm to 6am, collar and disc with details, number of cats per property. Plus, existing requirements - desexing, microchipping, registration
Outdoor Cats fight, kill wildlife, unwanted breeding occurs, cats urinate on neighbour's property and can be a menace if not contained to own property
Feral and domestic cats are a huge problem for the following reasons. They both kill wildlife. There are too many cats and not enough owners. Cats are breading and the owners are dumping them. Some people own to many cats that they are not looking after properly. To many cats in 1 house hold can cause health issues for those that live in the house
My 3 cats are solely indoor cats, all desexed & microchipped. I live in a small quiet court, and there are several cats that wander up & down my street at all hours of the day/night. Cats being territorial animals, whenever these other cats enter my property (in some cases coming right up to my windows) causes my cats to try & fight them through the windows. In the middle of the night, this wakes myself, & the rest of my young family up. The noise is quite distressing for my young children. Not to mention the known negative impact roaming cats have on native wild life in the area
Actually I think cats should be contained 24/7
Would like to see stray cats controlled as often hear them at night with fighting and issues with defecating in my garden
We are constantly pestered by cats on our roof during the night, sleeping on our front door mat, spraying our front door, cars and outdoor furniture. Also the frequent fights and associated noises.
Recently our neighbours' cat was hit out front of our yard. Which was awful. There are multiple other cats that wander the neighbourhood often in our front yard, using our yard as a toilet, killing birds and leaving parts scattered. I know these are owned cats. I spoke to one of the owners in the past who told me they let their cat roam because they don't have to clean the litter tray as often. 2 days ago I picked up a deceased cat from the side of the road and there are multiple missing cat posts or deceased cat posts. Make desexing cheap days with a local van or something to help the situation. Registration of cats as well would be important in maintenance numbers that people have
Cats roaming around at night are a nuisance, damaging gardens, peeing on cars and other property. Although I can't see how cat owners will keep their cats under control

Cats continually visit our premises leaving faeces, not always buried, urinate on our cars despite them being locked in carport and often leave the remains of dead birds. I shouldn't have to put up with other people's pets. I have had many pets over the years, including cats, but always kept them contained
Can see the wildlife around our area being decimated by local owned cats
Fully support the new proposals
Cats need some sort of by-law to help with the protection of native animals. Also to help stop cats from reproducing due to not being desexed. Cats wonder around at night creating all sorts of problems
I am sick and tired of cats urinating, wailing and fighting on or near my property in the middle of the night
Multiple cats living in my street frequently use my front and rear gardens as toilets, and have been known to attacked birds on my property
We fully support the requirement to register cats, and to only allow 2 cats per premises. We believe that the curfew for cats is excellent, but feel that all cats should be confined to their owner's property, regardless of the time of day/night. We support there being equality between cat and dog owners, whereby dog owners are required to maintain effective control over and clean up after their dogs at all times. This should be the same for cat owners. At all times, the cats should be under the effective control of their owners, and not be able to roam free at any time
Cats are often in my yard (day and night). At night they fight near bedroom windows which wakes us up. Also they are heard running on the roof. I used to have a dog that would bark at them if they were in our yard. Cat registration and a cat curfew is needed so that they are not out at night causing a disturbance and killing native birds and animals
Definitely need more controls on cats. The proposed cat by-law is a step in the right direction. Ultimately cats should have the same controls as dogs including paying a registration fee
Happy to have policies in place to kerb cat nuisances
The new proposed cat by law to me seems fair in all aspects. Firstly that they should be registered and at no cost for the first two years giving owners a lead in period. The other issues of number of cats per household, requirements of collar and identification should not be an issue or hardship to owners. The time that the cats should be confined to the owner's property is more than fair since many do cause problems at night. I am glad that if passed this by law brings more responsibility on cat owners and more in line with the regulations that dog owners have had for years
We have cats roaming through our yard at night and knocking pot plats over and setting off security lights
I propose they are restricted to the owner's boundary in full
I support cats being kept in their homes at night as I have previously been kept awake at night with cats howling and fighting outside my bedroom window It is also a safety issue for the cats themselves
Fully support because I'm tired of the neighbour's cat coming onto my property and annoying my dog and chickens. However, it doesn't go far enough as there's nothing in these by-laws that prevents a cat entering my property during the day unless it is responsible of odour, makes a noise, defecates or urinates. Seriously, they need to be stronger. I don't want other people's pets in my yard
Cat defecation on neighbouring properties is an ongoing issue and should not have to be tolerated by residents. (moved here from any other comments)
It's about time
Because I'm tired of cats roaming into my yard and climbing on my car and using my garden for a toilet plus teasing my dog making it bark
Unrestrained cats are menace around the area. Simple rules to ensure cat owners take simple measures to protect native animals are absolutely required
I think it would encourage more responsible animal control and management as well as protection for wildlife
I agree that cats shouldn't be roaming at night

Cats need to be controlled in the same way dogs are. I am sick of them crapping in my yard, weeing on my front door and killing the local birds / wildlife
no-house confined cats are a menace to wildlife and gardeners
We have a property in Wynn Vale and maintain a large garden, we have a lot of native birds that find our property a refuge. Wild or roaming cats attack and sometimes kill native birds on our property. These cats do not appear to have collars or any ID on them so may be feral or otherwise unchecked by owners. We need this legislation passed to give Council control of unchecked cats
Cat and wildlife welfare
Good balance
There is a cat problem where I live. Council should have power to control and remove cats that are living on the street in Greenwith and the problem only continues with each new litter. I agree cats should be desesexed and should not be wandering the streets attacking birdlife. They should be inside or in cat runs.
Cats have been roaming around my garden and having fights with other cats. Something needs to change
I would actually prefer to see cats fully contained to their registered address with no designated span of hours for cats to be allowed to wander at large. Their nuisance behaviour, especially defecating & marking in neighbours' yards would still occur during daylight hours. In addition to being a neighbourhood nuisance they are a well documented destructive force to the native fauna, killing millions of birds, lizards and small mammals yearly, often times not for sustenance but for play. They need to be restrained to registered addresses at all times - the same as dogs
I am happy with the rules and exemptions. The collar with id is good and it's important that contained cats don't need it as listed. The number of cats is good, provided that people are allowed to apply for an exemption to have more if they really want and can prove that they can care for them without nuisance. It would be great to fine the owner of the cat that comes and marks our front door every night
I agree with the proposed cat laws, but are concerned with how this will be policed, my neighbour already has a dog and several cats and none of them are desexed and her cats roam and spray
For the benefit of the cats, owners, public k wildlife I think there should be more controls & expectations on cats. Not dissimilar to dog owners. I have many friends w cats that have cat runs & are microchipped etc. this seems basic
There are several cats that wander the streets nearby. Sometimes they fight on our front porch in the early hours of the morning. They shouldn't be allowed to roam around free and urinate / defecate on other people's properties
Pet cats should not be roaming the streets for their safety as well as the safety of wildlife and comfort of others
It should be mandatory that all cats are desexed unless you are a registered breeder
Cats causing dogs in our street to bark all night including ours… neighbour keeps feeding them but says not his... RSPCA said they class that as ownership… rang council they said can't do anything as they are feral! If dogs keep barking then we are going to have someone knocking at our door
There are so many cats wandering the streets at night in our area, killing wildlife and ruining gardens. My father lives in Benton CRT Modbury and between 2 residents, there are at least 25 cats wandering at large 24/7
Cats needs to be managed at a level similar to dogs and this is a great start. This will make cat owners actually responsible and accountable for their cats
Complete TTGC Survey. Dog owners are responsible for dog-proofing their homes, so, cat owners should have the same responsibility. If cats are confined to their owner's property, the local fauna life will grow. Some cat, and some Dog owners disregard dedication rules on Council and other home owners' properties. There should be stricter enforced regulations. * Tagging dogs and cats is a Must * Act upon Council Regulation and Enforcement

* Equitable (similar/same) regulations and fees for both; Cats & Dogs. * If cat owners gain assistance in carpooling their property, then, dog owners should be entitled to the same benefit
After all these years, why shouldn't cats be controlled the same way as Dogs?
Cats can be destructive and should be registered and housed overnight
Cats free roaming cause a number of issues for my dogs, I also often find cat faeces in my yard, or on walks and have cats fighting outside at night causing disruption. For owners to be more responsible like a dog owner has to would be a great improvement
Cats should be inside overnight as this is when they do the most damage to wildlife
I believe that all domestic animals should be managed in an appropriate manner
Cats at night cause many disturbances I believe regulating management should be similar to that of dog ownership
I believe like dogs people need a permit if owning more than two cats. One lady at the last meeting said she has eleven cats and lets them out to do their business. But I'm sure the neighbours wouldn't like so many cats doing dropping in their garden. I have a cat that poos on my grass. It also tries to get into my bird cage. Minton animal rescue have possums attacked by cats and many don't survive. I also don't like cats being hit by cars because I do love cats. They just need to stay on the owner's property
Cats are causing so much devastation and we need to protect and repopulate nature without cats
There are restrictions on dogs that should also be applied to Cats. I also believe part of being a responsible pet owner is managing your pets and keeping them confined to your property so avoid wasting Council resources trying to locate lost pets or to avoid issues between cats and dogs on other people's property
Feel strongly that cats should be confined to owner's property particularly at nights to protect local wildlife and prevent trespass on other people's property
I object to cat owners letting them stray from their own property and support any action that will achieve this
I would prefer that the requirement for containment or restraint was for all hours of the day as soon as the legislation is enacted not some future date
Cats poo and fight on our property at night time
Stray cats are a menace on my street. Due to a number of residents allowing their cats free-roam outdoors. Not only do they kill native wildlife, they defecate in our gardens, urinate on our cars and are completely out of control. My next door neighbour has (at least) 4 such cats and have been causing major issues now for years. I welcome the laws that cats must be restrained to the property overnight, however I wish in the future that it would be revised to 'all the time'. Increase the penalty for breaching curfew
Support these changes. There are many cats loose overnight and I regularly see them as I run through gullies around Wynn Vale late at night. I am concerned for the damage they do to native wildlife
The native birds in our area are continuing to decline. On the odd occasion there are half eaten or badly damaged birds. The blue tongue lizards that have made their home around my area are also suffering
Lots of feral cats in Greenwith that kill native animals and fight each other
For the past 27 years I have had a cat run, which I built alongside the house, so the cats do not have access to the outside world to do damage to any native creatures. I feel this should be part of your By-Law that all premises have to have a purpose built cat run otherwise it is pointless having a curfew as native animals are out and about 24/7. If you don't go down this path you are wasting your time. Please if you are going to enforce cat control let's not do it half arsed do it properly. I also have established a native frog population in my backyard and am getting sick and tired of trying to keep stray cats from decimating them, please note they are out and about 24/7
Cats are a leading cause of native animals. I own a cat and keeping him within our property is not only manageable but responsible
Often have Cats wondering around our street at night. I fear for their safety and also local wildlife

To be honest I am sick of seeing cats wandering around the area, getting into backyards, etc. I already thought these laws were in place. If I have to register my dog then you should have to register cats too, especially seeing as cats wander more than dogs
collars with address and name of owner helps return of wandering cats
I believe they could go further. Cats should be kept indoors. There is a cat belonging to a household on our street that is continually out during the day and night. I have seen it on two separate occasions during the day with a deceased lorikeet in its mouth. One of the birds it dropped on another elderly neighbour's roof and left it there for the home owner to get down. We constantly have cats fighting in our backyard and waking up the household
My dogs barking at cats in the middle of the night. So would much rather cats be inside at night. Local wildlife would be more protected if the bylaws came in. We see far too many bird feathers around from cats having caught or tried to catch birds
I support the limit on the number of cats a person can own to maintain sensible numbers per household. I support the introduction of registration which enables the cost of registration should reflect the cost of providing the service, compared to dogs. For example, the council will not be providing for cat parks, as it does for dogs. All else being equal, cat registration should be lower than dog registration. I am particularly supportive of the proposed restrictions on roaming. I regularly have to clean up cat urine under our outdoor pergola and occasionally are having to pick up cat faeces on out back lawn. I am regularly discouraging cats from hunting birds in our native garden
The changes seem reasonable
I absolutely 💯 support containment of cats. They are not only devastating to wildlife, but can be a nuisance when allowed to roam, and are at risk from injury when doing so. I would happily follow a full containment policy. My cat is indoors only, and when outside she does so on a harness. I have a neighbour whose cats are allowed to roam freely, which is a nuisance (plus they poo in my front yard)
To keep the wildlife safer
Have problems with cats stalking birds on our property, defecating and howling at night time. We do not have a cat and shouldn't have to put up with them on our property
Sick and tired of cats entering my property and sleeping on my outdoor furniture
Cats should be registered and micro chipped as dogs must be registered and micro chipped. Many cats roam around the streets, from house to house as they please and enter properties at will. Many residents do not want roaming cats in their properties. There is also the safety of the cat/s - out in the street - where traffic is concerned. Cat owners must become more responsible for their pets and keep them safe and contained in their own properties
Cats need to be controlled to save Australian wildlife and prevent being a nuisance to others
I have previously sent a letter detailing our concerns
Because all the cats are freaks coming out of the drains. Need to implement a trapping or catching plan immediately. Cats are out of control in our street. I have been emailing the council for approx. 3 years on this issue. Seems like nothing is getting done and it's only getting worse. I have them breeding in my front and pool are also in my spare tyre compartment of my vehicle. I've also spoken to the council about a rate reduction due to the inability to control the matter or have any plan in controlling the epidemic. I find driving to work with my car smelling of car urine and constantly cleaning up faeces in and around my front yard and in vehicles is unacceptable and something needs to enforced to reduce this
I believe the outline is fair for all. I particularly like cats being in at night to protect native animals in the area
Cats are pets and should be kept with their family where they belong. Not roaming the neighbourhood making noise and killing native wildlife
Annoyed over the amount of wandering cats at night. Fighting and urinating on my cars and front of house
Very frustrated by neighbours' cats on my property, urinating, fighting, setting off sensors lights all night, and eating my gold fish from my fishpond

The damage caused by cats needs to be reduced and this seems a reasonable place to start
cats should never be able to roam to prey on our birds
I love cats, however I know they can be detrimental to local wildlife and the environment. I've had to take a number of birds to the vet to be euthanised after being attacked by cats and it was distressing
We have a problem with cats using our property as a litter box
Cat management should be similar to dog management & evidence show cats damage our environment and need to be contained to their owner's residence
Too many household cats left to roam on to other people's property causing damage and nuisance. Overall harm to natural environment. Lack of responsibility taken by cat owners
They cause a nuisance at night and should be kept inside
We have experienced noise and defecation on our property over many years
Cats continually roam in our yard and poo in our pots and garden. They kill birds
There are too many cats roaming at night, the wildlife is suffering
Support that cats also have management like dogs already do
I believe all cats should be contained in their own yards as we have other people's cats coming into our yard leaving faeces and spraying. I also have friends that are allergic to cats & cannot sit outside on my outdoor setting as the cats have left their hair on them
I see far too many cats getting injured or lost in the area. There are multiple cat fights near my residence in the evening which is very frustrating when you're trying to get your baby to sleep
Dogs must be kept in yards, on leads not allowed to roam free pissing on people's cars, fighting with other cats and possums and destroying our native wildlife
As a responsible cat owner I fully support the recommendations put forward
The requests are reasonable and not going to cause excessive expenditure to cat owners to abide
Our dogs are required to be registered, gated, housed etc. For genuine reasons. Dog owners pay registration fees which contributes. Cat owners should do the same. I see cats in the street at all times. They kill wildlife. We have a beautiful native tree out the front of our home that attracts lots of parrots in the spring and summer but our neighbour's cat hunts them. The cat owners ignore it unless it returns home
We have one cat in particular that regularly roams surrounding homes despite high fences all around and dogs on two adjacent properties. The cat routinely prowls for birds
Something needs to be done about the cats that roam the neighbourhood. I actually think the proposed by laws are not enough
Feral cats in our area live in the drains causing traffic concerns and attack native birds and other wildlife
Cats are a pet and pets should be contained in their own yards. You don't let a dog go roaming the streets for the safety of the residents and the pet. So a cat is the same and must be contained to the owner's property. Also a cat should always wear a collar & a bell as it will alert the wildlife (birds) that a cat is stalking them to prey on them. The amount of faeces in front yards and sandpits caused by cats is also a concern that needs to be addressed with cats contained at home. Cats should also be microchipped, so they can be identified when found on the side of the road, or unauthorised in another person property
Have had enough of other people's cats coming into my yard and doing their toilets functions on my grass or digging in my bark to hid the smelly faeces. The amount of fights at night time with feral cats or owner cats is unbelievable
I think that cats should be registered, just like dogs are. I also agree that cats should not be allowed to wander at large. It is a danger to wildlife and to the cats themselves, as well as being a nuisance to others in the community. If I wanted a cat on my property, I would get a cat myself, but I do not. Cats can be trained and reared to be happy living indoors or in enclosed spaces outside. Owners have the responsibility to do this. It will also reduce the number of cats breeding with each other at large

Long overdue, the damage they do to bird life & reptiles in the area is quite distressing I think 10pm to 6am is way too long can't imagine how the neighbourhood would feel if pet dogs were allowed a free run to roam into their yards
Firstly I love cats. Grew up with them and owned 2 while my children were growing up. However, especially throughout the warmer months, I'm fed up with cats that hop our fences and walk through the back yard. The smell of urine on hot days is foul and I've broken up many cat fights over the years. Their screeching during mating season is awful. I know there are 4 different cats in our case as they trigger the security light. I'm very satisfied the council is heading in the right direction with these rules. Thank you
A sensible response to restrict cat predators & the future review to extend containment full time allows proper consideration of the previous part time containment
I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Cat By-Law, particularly the provision that requires cats to be confined to their owner's property between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am. This by-law is essential for several reasons, including the disturbances we have experienced and concerns about road safety in our community. Our neighbours frequently allow their cats to roam freely at night, which has caused significant disturbances in our household. Our dogs, who stay inside our house, become very upset when they see or hear these cats outside after 10.00 pm. This results in prolonged periods of barking, creating a nuisance. The cats often roam on our street, sometimes entering our backyard and even climbing onto our roof. This disturbs our dogs, leading them to bark 3 to 4 times during the night. These interruptions not only disturb our sleep but also negatively impact our performance in our professional lives, as we struggle to get the rest we need after a long and tiring day. This has been a constant source of stress and frustration for us. Additionally, I am deeply concerned about cats' safety on our roads and suburban streets. On multiple occasions, we have witnessed dead cats run over by cars. This poses a danger not only to the cats but also to drivers, who may swerve or brake suddenly to avoid hitting an animal, potentially leading to accidents. For these reasons, I strongly support the implementation of the Cat By-Law, which I believe will help manage these issues, improve the safety of our roads, and enhance the quality of life for both pet owners and residents in our community. Thank you for considering my feedback
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We have cats in our neighbourhood and at night it's dangerous for kids to step out of car or house coz of them making noise or hiding around
Dogs cannot roam the streets putting wildlife at risk so why should cats
To protect wildlife, and prevent stray cat population. To educate owners to be accountable and responsible to care for their cats and other pets
We put a lot of time and effort into creating a diverse garden that encourages bird and other animal life. Cats have proven time and again their propensity to kill and although there seem to be fewer cats

in the vicinity at the moment it only takes one to effectively target the blue tongue lizards and smaller birds that inhabit our garden. This has happened many times over our fifty years in this house
We have cats in our immediate vicinity that defecate and dig in our gardens almost every night!
Killing native animals, fighting at night time, defecate in my yard
Cats do so much damage to our wildlife, birds and possums. cats should be registered, and controlled to be inside a locked cage/cat run or house with no access to outside. If residents of the council area cannot provide a secure lockup for the cat/s within 6 months of this new law, then council should have the power to take the cats from the property, and the owner pay the Animal Welfare League for maintenance and feeding, until such measures are in place. I have recently enjoyed the presence of a large family of magpies coming to my back yard to drink from the fish pond. I am most concerned that uncontrolled cats could be attracted to the birds and cause them harm
Reasonable requirements consistent with other pet types and their responsibilities
Cat owners need to be responsible for their cats. Cats wandering at large is an issue across TTG and needs to be prevented
Had many wildlife injured and killed in and around our property from many cats in our neighbourhood. It's getting out of hand and there's no way to prevent it without it being illegal. Glad to have some support to keep our environment and animals safe
It's been a long time coming. There's no difference between cats & dogs, all should come under the same rules. (additional email feedback) So yet again we have duplication. Why not tell the State government to pull their fingers out & get the state law moving
Cats are one of the most significant issues relating to native wildlife. Responsible owners should keep their cats inside at night. There is absolutely no need for cats to be out all night. Heavy fines as a deterrent should apply
Cats have been a very clear nuisance within the area. Always woken up by noisy cats (missing out on sleep). Damaged property (scratches on cars). Always have the smell of urine through-out my front and back yard
I care for the well-being of cats. My cats are fully contained on my premises and they cannot wander and get hurt or cause a nuisance to anyone else. All are microchipped and de-sexed and well cared for. All of my cats are rescued born wild kitties from the TTG area. I feel so sorry for the number of wild born kitties in our community, as their existence is a result of neglect by people who have not done the right thing by desexing their animals. Personally my concern is not for the residents that dislike cats or complain about cats entering their property etc, or even the wildlife that some cats may harm, as this is a part of the food chain and nature. I feel for the poor cats who are not supposed to have to live a life on the streets in constant starvation and defence mode to survive. It is a terrible suffering existence for these cats that deserve to live in a loving home. They are the unfortunate victims of the situation that has been bestowed upon them by irresponsible humans. They deserve better and more protection from harm by horrible humans that go out of their way to harm them. I also would like to see the council provide a de-sexing service for free to cat rescue groups. The best way to get on top of the cat population is to reduce the breeding. I don't support cats being euthanised just because they are street born kitties
Cats seem to roam freely, defecating in my front and back yards. Owners don't care, but if my dog did the same in their yard I'd be held accountable
Great to see Council taking an active approach to cat management
Concerns of the number of feral cats destroying wildlife in our immediate area. Extremely annoyed at the frequency of domestic and feral cats defecating our property and in particular our organic vegetable patch
completely agree with the cat law. As someone who is allergic to both cats and dogs, it's important that cat owners take responsibility and keep their pets indoors rather than letting them roam freely in the streets. This not only helps to prevent nuisances for neighbours but also ensures the safety and well-being of the cats themselves

Cats entering, and defaecating in, my garden have reduced my quality of life. For example, after 35 years of my encouraging birds to visit my garden, no bird has nested in my garden within the last 12 months; this has not happened before. The number of cats in my immediate neighbourhood has significantly increased; I never used to see them in my garden
I previously had a cat for 17 years. I loved and cared for her and kept her indoors while we were out and gave her outside supervised play when I was home. The new By-Law supports responsible cat ownership and has good outcomes for all animals, domestic and wild
I have cats that enter my property at night. To defecate causing my dog to discover. Cat growling, and hissing, urinating at night
I live opposite to Dry Creek and have had stray cats in my yard and had evidence that they have killed local fauna
I think all of the proposed by-laws are fair and reasonable and protect our wildlife from being killed by roaming cats
There are cats residing in our street that roam our front and back gardens at any time of the day. Sometimes these cats sit on the boundary fence and torment our dog (which is residing in its own property)
I feel as though the impact of cat ownership and feral cats can have such a detrimental impact on environment and native species of animals here in Australia. I find them quite a nuisance generally, especially when they do their business in my yard constantly. The smell is horrendous and it's a constant issue for me to clean up after other owner's cats. They should stay inside and inside only!
Cats frequently roam into our yard. Cat faeces is an ongoing issue... Cats urinate in our front yard killing shrubs... Numerous cats are found roaming and being a general nuisance... TTG would do well to follow other councils such as Campbelltown & introduce Cats to be kept home 24/7
We have multiple cats who treat our yard as a toilet, or dumping ground for fauna they have killed (birds as well as possums and mice). My son is blind and we have to go with him to check the yard thoroughly before he plays outside to avoid accidents in cat mess. My wife is allergic to cats and at times, their mere presence can set off her allergies. We don't have cats for multiple reasons and should not have to deal with the mess they create in our yard because our neighbours are irresponsible, letting their cats roam constantly. I have been of the opinion for many years, if people choose to own a cat - it is the responsible thing to do to keep it in your home so it doesn't affect others or cause harm to the local wildlife
Have had problems in the past with neighbours' cats defecating on my property, and howling outside my windows at night
I've experienced along with other neighbours 5 cats on the loose spraying, fighting belonging to one house (They now have moved). None were vaccinated, desexed, or chipped. Four weeks ago adopted a street cat left behind by neighbours moving. They had five cats and I offered to adopt
I do not own a cat, but have to clean cat faeces in my garden and off my lawn. I have cats wee on my front screen door and car (under a carport with a garage door) as well as having to listen to cats 'yowling' and fighting at night
Cats should be paid for, registered etc. same as dogs and contained on their property
4 & 8 are essential to make 9, 10 & 11 work. My dossier below covers 8, 9, 10 plus 3 & 4. CATS - As 50 year residents we have had many issues with uncontrolled cats that know no boundaries. A fence means nothing to a cat. Our current issue is with our good western neighbour who had two cats (understandably territorial). But then he gets two more. The original two hunt the new ones off who make our home their territory. In spite of kitty litter trays being available for them all, the new ones don't use it. Our place and our eastern neighbours are their defecating grounds. To prevent this I have raked the bark off soft soil areas and laid various mesh and shade cloth under the bushes and trees. At 80 years of age with arthritis I should not have to do this. So what now? My neighbours and I have found cat faeces dropped straight onto payers and cement. Young kids are around. Very unhealthy. Their unfortunate habit of settling in on a warm car bonnet in winter (just after the car has stopped in drive or carport and left unattended) invariably leads to them urinating on the bonnet to mark their territory. The smell tests the toughest of nostrils as does urinating and spraying outside doors on

pavements. I would strongly suggest the curfew hours should be between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. as cats seem to take great delight whilst doing their rounds (usually spanning 4 or 5 other house / blocks) to parade around the roofs and fences where dogs are secured but not able to chase them off thus barking at them is their only retaliation available. A frustration for dog owners and other neighbours but strangely enough, not for the cat owners who seem oblivious to the cause
My reason is because I agree! - I am over harm to native wildlife and cats spraying in yards/my yard, this is not their yard! I am interested to hear how feral and nuisance cats will be dealt with if trapping is no longer available
In our street there are several cats owners (one with more than 2 cats) who allow them to wander anytime during the day. We have often had dead birds in our garden and on many, many occasions had cats defecating and urinating on our doorstep and walkway to our front door.) I am happy to have responsible cat owners living in my street and feel the proposed laws will provide a much more beneficial community. Presently there is a great deal of stress created by the roaming cats
I have long believed that cats should be treated similarly to dogs. I believe the Council needs to be aware of how many cats and dogs live in our Council area. Owners need to be accountable for their pets. Dogs have always been expected to be contained in the owner's yard or on a leash when outside that yard. Cats have the ability to escape backyards unless properly contained in a cat run or something similar. My major concern with roaming cats (day or night) is their killing of wild animals, most commonly birds. I have had the problem of male cats marking their territory at my front door and cats fighting at night in my front yard as it is 'neutral' territory. I support each part of the proposed new cat management plan
We have a lot of bird life in our area and feel cats need to be controlled as I have had several occasions of the remains of birds in our yard and they are always leaving 'faeces' remains in our front yard
Upset with local cat having freedom of neighbourhood, traumatising our indoor cats by appearing at windows at night. Also concerned for local bird life
It's simply common sense to ensure cats do not continue to damage the environment by destroying native animals & birds and roaming/defalcating in other people's property
Cats need to be controlled. Cats need to be identified if out so they do need collars. Cats should be indoors or in caged enclosure or on a lead. Same as dogs
There needs to be rules about cats, especially leaving their own property
I am absolutely appalled with the overall cat problem right across Australia, in all states and territories. Part of the problem starts with suburban cats that can roam freely around the suburbs whereby some, but certainly not all, turn into wild cats which is obviously not a good outcome. I have personally had an issue with cats all around my property wandering into my property, urinating, spraying etc. over many years. A dog would never be allowed to do this on a long term basis. I believe that cats should not be able to wander off the cat owner's property. Having observed cats patiently sit and wait for a long period of time to catch a bird, has made me realise just how harmful cats are to bird wildlife. (additional feedback provided separately via email) My thoughts regarding cats is that they should not be allowed to roam freely (at any time) out of the owners' property
Cats are always walking around in our backyard. Dogs don't like them, also we are near a reserve and they are always there
Even though I don't own a cat I have rescued strays and also assisted RSPCA with fostering kittens so I see a need for controls and legislation in Australia. Too many cats suffer from being allowed to roam and many "owners" do not care for the community when they allow their animals outside
All pet owners should have the same regulations - dogs or cats - pets should be contained on the owner's property and not be free to roam, desexed and microchipped, should be registered. Cats are pests when allowed to roam freely, spraying on doors, they also kill native wildlife
I would like to see a compulsory desexing of cats and kittens added to the proposed council guide unless they are breeding stock owned by a registered breeder
I hate that cats can roam free and cause a nuisance including urinating on cars and property. I think the new laws should be stricter
I believe that all pets are the responsibility of their owners

Roaming cats are responsible for preventable harm and death to native wildlife, for disturbance and destruction to the community and their property, and (as a former volunteer foster carer for the AWL) immediate steps need to be taken to slow the rate of breeding in the wild cat community to give much needed relief to animal welfare and rescue organizations, and vets
As a cat owner, I passionately believe cats shouldn't be allowed to free roam. No other animal is allowed to, so it's an outdated belief that cats should. They are predatory and decimate local fauna and flora, as well as decreasing their own life spans (average life span of an outdoor cat is 2 years, compared to 16 for an indoor cat). There are other options these days - enclosures/cat runs, leash training your cat, etc.
Fair and reasonable expectations for cat owners
In the past we have had trouble with cats on our property
Cats doing too much environmental damage and cause nuisance
I have a cat that patrols at night, lives two streets away, urinates on my door on a regular basis, fights with another cat at night in my neighbours' garden
I understand confining cats is difficult, but it's not fair to others to have cats fighting at night, disturbing their sleep, and shitting in their yard or spraying their stench around. I think the proposed rules are fair and balanced
I support everything in By-law 7. No. 1, 2 ,3 & 4
Fully support with containment. Cats not to wander at large most important - complete containment please. Complete containment must be implemented ASAP. The stalking and killing of anything smaller than themselves, and using my garden as their personal toilet, day and night must be stopped. Bells on collars are definitely not a solution and neither is anything else, except confining cats to their own property. I do not have a cat but have to put up with everybody else's and I'm getting very fed up with it. I also have noticed a big decline in birds around due to trees being cut down and the ever present cat threat
Part 2 - 9. Cats not to wander at large. In my opinion any cats that live with their owners in the Tea Tree Gully area should be secured on their owners' property. Not be able to jump fences on to other properties
Free roaming cats kill native wildlife and defecate in people's gardens and upset people's dogs at night
To prevent cats roaming at night, causing a nuisance - i.e. defecating nightly in vegetable garden - cat faeces is toxic to humans - it's a safety issues plus expensive to buy deterrent products to try controlling said cat
Cats while quite lovely pets are very destructive to the wildlife much of which is nocturnal
We have neighbours in the street whose cats wonder and toilet in our garden and at times cat fights at night. Also cats killing birds and small animals
2) Cats to be confined to their owner's property between 10.00pm and 6.00am. In my opinion Cats should not be allowed to stray and roam at any time of the day, as per dog laws however for the introduction of the new Cat Laws I feel Cats should confined to their owner's property between a minimum of 6.00pm and 6.00am. Tea Tree Gully Residents have been putting up with cats straying into their properties for way too long. And the introduction of Cat Laws is well overdue

Partly support (have concerns /issues with one of more aspects)

We got a cat to catch rats and mice (that we have a lot of because the creek runs through our property). I believe we will have a larger mice and rat population if cats are kept inside overnight. Our cat was killed by a brown snake last year. With more mice around, there will be more snakes around. Not a good outcome!
8. Requiring a cat to wear a tag around the collar ignores the behaviour of cats. A lot of cats do not like tags and will do their best to 'lose' the tag - repeatedly - if one is fitted. I suggest that a collar alone should be sufficient to identify a cat where the cat's details can be visibly inscribed on to the collar itself. This second option would resolve the issue with cats that do not like tags 9. I recommend a lean-in approach to this by-law clause rather than a single date of full force. Legacy older cats that are used to the outdoors exhibit very abnormal behaviours when confined. Furthermore, to keep a cat on a property would require most homes to spend thousands to retrofit cat-proof fencing or cat-runs which in a cost-of-living crisis is an infeasible impost to most. To address this issue, I recommend a transitional provision in this clause that grandfathers a phase-in of this clause's enforcement to account for older cats used to the outdoors, so that they are either so aged they cannot move freely outdoors or literally die-off. This would ease concern among current cat owners
They can still wander at large during certain hours, and therefore still impact native wildlife
Responsible owners/breeders confine their cats and are never roaming so collar and tags not needed, they can actually cause choking/hanging hazards. Number of cats for breeders should not be restricted to 2 and in my opinion be no more than 10
There should be an incentive/ reduction in registration cost for owners that have cats that are indoors only or have cat runs installed. I agree with the numbers limit, however there should be some movement for owners that already have over 2 cats as this might incite or lead people to believe they'll have to re-home existing animals
9. Cats not to wander at large. Cats should be confined to the owner's property at all times, just like a dog. They should not be allowed to wander at large at any time. This would then stop them being a nuisance and section 10 would not be needed. If they are off an owner's property they must be under effective control of the owner at all times, just like a dog 10.2 Cats not to be a nuisance. I think there also needs to be a dot point in here that a cat is a nuisance if it is killing or maiming wildlife
How big of an issue is cat behaviour in the council area? What is considered a nuisance? If cats are only to be on premises overnight how will this stop cats being a nuisance during the day. What responsibility does the owner have for cat's behaviour during the day? Does Council have the resources to implement and manage this bylaw? Will the management of this bylaw increase operating costs
4. I don't believe I or the responsible cat owners should pay a fee to register cats, however, mine have always been registered on the Cats and Dogs online. They are inside cats only and have never been outside. Responsible cat owners only keep their cats inside because they treasure them 9. I don't believe cats should wander at all. The proposed hours of 6am - 10pm is ridiculous. They can cause plenty of damage in the community during this time span. There is a cat in my area somewhere that enjoys using my front porch as a peeing station and my front garden as a pooing station. Do you think cats only go to the toilet between 10pm and 6am?? The said nuisance cat will continue to use my property as its toilet so I will not gain anything from this law. I am also unable to have my front door open for fresh air flow because it has been known to fight with my cats through the flyscreen which then causes me a lot of issues as my cats all then suffer immensely from the trauma. Your freedom time defeats the purpose of introducing laws 10. Cats that predominantly live outside are a nuisance hence the law should be inside only. The owners go to work and I guess hope their cats return in the evening for food. Between 6am - 10pm they are free to kill the birds, sleep on neighbours' cars, cause fights with other outside cats, walk on peoples' roofs and anywhere else they like, sleep under the pergola on chairs etc. and cover them with hair like the list goes on. Again - it defeats the purpose of introducing laws

11. A limit on cat numbers is ridiculous for the responsible cat owners. My cats are my life - 2 were foster rescue kittens through the RSPCA and 1 was rescued from a net in a farm. One of my cats weighed 320 grams when she arrived at my house with her siblings. When you bust your guts looking after 5 tiny kittens that only entered into the world because the parent had an irresponsible owner and manage to have all of them survive is so rewarding. (don't worry, I had a kitten from another batch of foster kittens die on my chest - it was the most horrific experience) I appreciate your attempt to bring in cat laws but the proposed laws are a waste of time. It should just be no cats outside unless in a catio and yes to all desexed as soon as possible (not 6 months old as 4 month old kittens have been known to fall pregnant which is cruel) What is the point of owning a pet if you just chuck it outside all day and go to work? NO Point in my eyes! Thank you for listening
1. My concern is that cat laws should be the same across Council districts. 2. What constitutes a 'nuisance' is subjective. 3. This bylaw targets responsible cat owners. 4. Collars can be removed by others. A microchip already contains owner details. 5. The law could cause an increase in cat problems as for some people it might become too hard or difficult. A curfew for cats is a good idea on paper, but a cat cannot tell the time
I would be happy to register my cat, but I will not pay a fee to do so, even after 2 years. It should be a onetime registration, not renewed every year. I refuse to put a collar on my cat as it is a choking hazard. Provided that my cats are not nuisance animals, why should a responsible pet owner have such a low limit placed on them? It would be better to have bylaws that regulate indoor only cats, or cat runs. Give free registration or discounts to owners who keep their cats indoors only
I could find no reference to cats requiring to be microchipped as part of the registration process
I don't think cats need to be registered, nor do dogs. It should just be law that cats and dogs are microchipped
There should be no time frame that cats are not to be home. (additional email feedback) I would like to say I agree with all the points except the time frame of cats staying home. It should be the same as dogs they shouldn't be able to roam at any time. If out and about under control of the owner. It is the roaming cats that kill wildlife and cause damage to other people's property. Hopefully there will be more sense as this moves forward
Our microchipped indoor cat has never worn a collar and it seems very unnecessary if she's not wandering the neighbourhood. She's a very active breed (Abyssinian) and I worry she'd be injured if it got caught
It is not generally advised for cats to wear collars. These are recognised as a choking hazard if they climb trees. I feel that microchipping is all that should be required. However, it is probably better if cats are not wandering at large to begin with
6. Cats have been a relatively cheap option for a pet and if registration fees are introduced there is another cost of living for those who keep pets for company - a well-known personal health and welfare benefit 8. I have previously owned a cat and tried to be responsible by putting a collar on it with a bell to scare away wildlife. Nevertheless, somehow it got its leg stuck in the collar and consequently was considerably injured from it. Surely microchipping is enough here?? 11. Again don't agree with this for companionship for those who benefit from pets - for some people it is their only family
I do not believe it is appropriate to start charging a registration fee to people who have indoor only cats. Registration of dogs is understandable, as some dogs can be physically dangerous, however registration of cats is nothing more than a money grab. I approve of the curfew and nuisance laws, but a registration (with a cost) is just another example of greed
Collars requirements - creates a strangulation potential. Cats naturally like to climb so if they would be strangled if they are trapped by their collar
I have tried several times to have a cat collar on my cats, however they have managed to get themselves out of them each time. They are also a choking hazard. My cats are microchipped so I think that is sufficient. I don't want to have to keep replacing collars and name tags all the time. I also don't

agree with keeping cats confined between 10pm and 6am, I think if neighbours have an issue with your cat roaming then they should address it with the individual owner directly as opposed to a blanket ban on cats being outside at night
Yearly payment not appropriate, you do not supply cat parks
The registration fees should not be waived. Why should dog owners pay and cat owners not? Dog owners have had to pay for a long time and cats are far more environmentally destructive. Cats should be confined to the home as dogs are
People who have only indoor cats, i.e. they never go outside except in a cat run or on a leash, should not have to pay a registration fee. I completely understand there is a feral cat problem, or owners who do not fully control their animals and this needs to be dealt with, however, everyone should have the opportunity to rescue their cat should they escape and council or others trap the cat
5. Do not agree with potential registration fee on cats. As a responsible cat owner who keeps my cats indoors, my cats are not using any council property like how dogs use sidewalks/dog parks/bins etc. Hence asking for a registration fee appears to be a pure money grabbing scheme from the council and as a renter, would influence my decision to remain in the council area in the future 11. The limit being 2 cats is too low. 3 cats is not a hoarding situation and is extremely unlikely to lead to unsanitary conditions and neighbour disturbance. Enough people want more than 2 cats that this would just add unnecessary red tape and waste both owners and councils time. I would support a higher limit, something over 5. After about 5 cats is when I would start suspecting a hoarder situation compared to just someone who ended up with a lot of cats. If I was on council, I'd be wanting to look at stats on how many people own X cats and would place the limit at like, under 5% of people own X or more cats
Generally cat tags are too small to hold all the details required. Should be enough to have just a phone number or address. Most people have one or two phone numbers plus the cat's name
Fee should be once off at most. A recurring fee will do nothing to curb bad cat ownership behaviour. Such cats will simply go unregistered whilst good cat owners will get a new annual tax to look forward to. A once off fee is the most that could be deemed acceptable here
I am concerned about the hours that cats will be allowed to wander. Birds and native fauna go to roost/rest at dark which is when cats do their damage. I listened to the August Council Meeting online and very disappointed the Council could not have come to a stronger decision, although I agreed with some Councillors. I believe cats should be totally controlled by either being confined to a cat cage or indoors in appropriate housing. They are not indigenous to Australia and should not have been introduced in the first place, along with foxes, rabbits and sparrows. Feral cats eat kilos of native birds and animals and people are just not responsible in de-sexing & controlling cats
Most cat collar are sold with what they call "quick-release breakaway clip-on collar". I've lost count how many collars my cats have lost. And they aren't young, meaning, they don't go far and climb trees any more. Going through a bush or fence is enough to make it unclip, safer than getting stuck. Anyone with an outdoor cat knows what they can get into. They are curious by nature. I would suggest it's optional to wear a collar. They are microchipped (I think all cats should be) so they can be taken to the nearest vet and scanned for information. To wander at large, I know some cats can cause nuisance, but cats are most active at night. My cats sleep during the day and go wander at night. If I keep them in, I'll become a cat because I'll be too sleeping during the day
I find section 9 confusing. (3 seems to suggest that an offense is not committed if the cat is wandering at large during the prescribed hours. I thought it would be outside the prescribed hours
Yes, I definitely support this as a step in the right direction. However, I am concerned about the practical application of this by-law. It isn't clear who will monitor this to ensure compliance. Cats should be confined to properties at all times - day & night. You don't see any other pet being allowed to wander at large during the day as long as they're tucked up at home by 10:00pm
I'm concerned about 3.2.2 on the by-law draft where it stipulates that cats must wear collars. Collars can cause serious injuries and are not universally recommended. Microchipping should be sufficient for identification purposes. I don't think collars should be mandated, for cat welfare. Regarding 9.1

and 9.2, these points on the by-law draft seem contradictory. In 9.1 it says cats must not be allowed to wander at large. In 9.2, it says that cats wandering at large within the designated times will not constitute an offence on the owner's behalf. I think cats should be allowed to wander at large between the designated times. I also think it's worth stating that my own cats do not leave the confines of our home: I just think the freedom of choice to allow cats to wander at large should be afforded to all cat owners
Having read through the recommendations from "Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc." I would simply suggest the council make their decisions based on their findings and research
Owners should pay a registration fee as do dog owners
A lot of cats are "house cats", which are kept inside and/or in secure cat enclosures outside. There is no distinction in this draft policy for cats kept in this way vs cats that are allowed to roam, e.g. higher cat limits, no collars required, etc. 6 - Registration every 12 months - why? Why not registration once upon getting a cat or cats, then updating change of details (e.g. moved house, cat passed away, etc). There does not appear to be any point in continual re-registration if details are unchanged, except more work for cat owners and the Council, unless the Council intends on making a profit from annual registration fees after the fee free period 8 - Identification of cats. A lot of cats really do not like wearing collars. Cats like to climb as well, and collars can be caught on things when they climb, which is dangerous to the cat. We've tried many times with both of our cats, and after replacing the collars many times, we gave up. They are both "indoor" cats with access to a large and secure outdoor cat enclosure - they are never allowed outside of the house or the cat enclosure except for visits to the vet. It is already a requirement to have cats microchipped and they can't lose their chip. Why the necessity to add the requirement for a labelled collar, and what will be the action taken by Council if a cat is found without a collar, which it may have managed to remove itself?
I agree that cats should be microchipped and desexed however I don't agree on the registration laws as council does not provide any resources for cats e.g. dog parks, litter bags etc. I believe the fines issued to owners not abiding to the microchipping, desexing, nuisance and curfew of cats should be enough
I applauded the measures to tighten cat ownership and management but there is still plenty of opportunity for cats to damage the environment and to be a nuisance. We have 5 cats that routinely enter our property and hunt, often during daylight hours. This is particularly distressing to us as we are seeking to create a wildlife friendly garden. It is our view, voiced previously, that cats should be kept on the premises of their owners, and it should be unlawful for them to wander freely into the property of others. We should be able to live without cats in our lives if we so choose. Cats are hugely destructive, and they and their owners have had a free pass long enough. Native animals and the people who value them need the pressure they exert lifted
Council not helping with nuisance cats
We have two cats, one of which is a companion cat for my adult daughter with a disability. Cats are extremely important to her, and she really needs a cat that fulfils her companionship needs - this might need to increase to 3 cats in future, if cats chosen were not suitable to be a companion. We have an old cat that would be extremely difficult to train to be an indoors cat - and even to stay indoors overnight. This is my chief concern. We have one cat who keeps losing her collar
5. Requiring registration of ownership of cats to individuals will interfere with rehoming organisations' work. It will also create a grey area when people do not own a cat but are transporting it and providing for its care. e.g. injured strays or caring for free roaming colony cats 9. Why is it acceptable for cats to wander into other people's yards during the day but not at night? It's not acceptable for a dog to be wandering during the day without an owner. Wandering cats can spread disease without necessarily causing a nuisance Other. Lack of detail on the management of roaming cats by council. There is a complete lack of detail on how the Council will respond to wandering at large cats especially if the council will no longer be trapping them. Is there going to be any enforcement of the new by-laws? How will council respond to

complaints of wandering cats? How is the council planning on dealing with un-owned cat colonies and reducing the predation of wildlife?
Re 3.2.2 and 8: I do not think cats should have to wear a collar and tag. Cats climb trees, jump fences etc. and a collar can be snagged and cause injury to the cat. Being microchipped should be identity enough; council should have the means to read the microchip in order to reunite straying cats with their owner
I have 3 cats wholly indoors or in cat area outside. They are not a nuisance never off my property. Shouldn't be restricted in number
I understand that permission can be granted for additional cats, but I think by placing a limit of 2 (prior to receiving approval for additional cats) it places pressure on animal shelters with cat numbers there. I feel working with shelters for a 'win, win' is far more beneficial
I do not think they need to be registered every year. I don't think we should have to pay for their registration
Dogs are not allowed to wander at large at any time, cats should not be allowed to wander at large any time either. Cats should be kept to owners' properties at all times to avoid risks to themselves (vehicle accident), damage to neighbouring properties (vegetable gardens), and damage to wildlife. This would also be consistent with nearby council by laws (e.g. Campbelltown)
I am in favour of cats not to leave their owners property 24/7. I am in favour of a registration fee equivalent to registering a dog
Concern that my cat doesn't come when I call them in at night. My cat has at times ignored me when I call them in at night (more frequent in summer). I can't keep my cat locked in all day as I have dogs and a dog door that my cat knows to use
I have lived in my current house for approx. 12 years and for the first 5 or 6 years we had lots of problems with Rats. Setting traps and laying baits had minimal impact on the number or Rats on our property and in our roof at night time. Over the last 5 or 6 years several neighbours have moved in who have cats that we regularly see in our street and our yard at night. The cats have kept the Rats under control and we no longer experience any issues with Rats in our roof. I can't remember the last time I saw a rat in our yard either and we would normally see them nightly. If cats are no longer allowed to roam at night there is a good chance that Rat numbers will greatly increase. Will Council do anything to help control Rat numbers if there is a noticeable increase?
9. From 6am to 10pm cats are free to kill native animals and defecate on neighbours' properties
The definition of a "Nuisance Cat" fails to include activities like: - a cat trespassing on other properties - a cat preying on animals on other properties
Cats are microchipped for identification and putting a collar and keeping it on are probably not practical. Especially with so much detail on Name, address, phone, need to be significant size will be causing safety concerns for animal welfare if it gets caught up hanging them 😢
8. Identification of cats I prefer mandatory microchipping as opposed to wearing a collar. Collar wearing can be dangerous; collars can be lost; my cats are completely indoors and do not need collars; my cat doesn't tolerate collars (they are 15 and 10 and are set in their ways). The policy objective for requiring animals to "wear" some form of identification is to reunite or connecting them with their owners. Microchipping is the safest, most efficient way of doing this. I recommend Council choose strategies that are in line with the policy objective and best practice 9. Cats not to wander at large 100% support this policy objective. Cats are not native to Australia and do a lot of damage to native wildlife that has a right to be here and living their best natural lives. Having said that, cats do have a role in rodent control in rural areas so not sure how we manage the semi-rural areas. Suburban living cats are at risk from dogs, other cats, interactions with wildlife (e.g. we have foxes in our area), and, most frequently, cars. I would prefer cats to be confined to properties at all times, not just a set period of time. It's counterproductive to let them loose at some times but not at others as they get used to

going outside. As the song says “How’re we going to keep them down on the farm, after they’ve seen Paris” 11. Limit on cat numbers What is the policy objective behind limiting cat numbers? What is the problem you want to solve? If it is hoarding - that is a mental health and/or public health issue and should be dealt with as such. If someone is a hoarder, a 2 cat limit will have little or no impact on what that person does. What is the evidence to support a limit of 2 cats? None. I went through this discussion when I was a member of the Dog and Cat Management Board (back during the time of the Citizen’s Jury, major changes to the Act and the introduction of DACO). There is no evidence. Cats can live communally. Some like to be an only cat, some love lots of friends. It depends on the space available (both floor space and height space), the cats’ personalities and the care they receive. How will you enforce this? (Rule 101 of policy development - don’t introduce something that you can’t enforce or can only partially enforce). Once cats are confined to properties (see point 9), how will you know how many cats there are? And what will you do if someone has 3 cats - take it away and add to the shelter load? Speaking of the shelter load, 2 cat limits will not help solve the current problem with unwanted cats. I have adopted cats in the past that have given me a 3 cat household. There was no problem and a cat was no longer on the streets and lived a happy and contented life. Why are you trying to stop this? In my experience on the DCMB and going through the Citizen’s Jury process, the only justification for a 2 cat limit was a false equivalency with dogs - you can only have 2 dogs, so it must be the same for cats. That’s like saying “I’m allowed to have 2 dogs, so I should be allowed to have 2 horses”. They are different species with different requirements and policy should reflect that. In summary, use evidence to support defensible, enforceable policy based on evidence. Also consider some form of transition period if you decide to proceed with the (in my view silly) 2 cat limit so that people are not forced to give up their pets to an already overstretched animal rescue sector
If cats are microchipped, they are already registered with a vet. To register with the council appears to be a means of raising revenue. The microchip has owner details so not sure why the need for a collar. At the moment I have 3 cats which are all rescue cats. They are desexed and microchipped and generally stay in our yard/house during the day. They are in the house overnight. Any limit on numbers could not include existing cats as that would be extremely cruel
Cats should be contained 24 hours a day. Dogs are not allowed to wander the street digging in people yards without someone getting in trouble for it! Cats stalk and kill wildlife 24 hours a day, NOT JUST AT NIGHT!!!
I am all for cats to be confined at night can it be 11pm -5am allowing people who work late or leave early
Paragraph 11 of the by-law seems to be too easy for a person to have more than 2 cats - they just have to prove the conditions are not insanitary and that no neighbours have any issues. Does the Council intend to physically inspect/visit every applicant wanting >2 cats or will it be a “rubber stamp” approval?
Existing residents with cats to have a fee free period for the life of the animal. I would consider 3-4 cats owned acceptable if council passed by law now for cats to be contained on the owner’s property. There shouldn’t be a fee to register cats if there is an option to select- Indoor cats / contained on owned property i.e. have a cat enclosure/catio. And do not deliberately let the pet roam at large throughout the day (and night)
I agree with all the cat by-laws, except restraining cats indoors between 10pm - 6am for existing cats. We have a 15 year old cat who actually does not venture outside our property (can’t jump anymore), and we have a younger 7 year old cat (we got him as a play partner for our 7 year old dog). I would support all aspects of the cat by-law for all newly registered cats going forward. I feel that for existing cat owners, that many will have to install infrastructure to provide adequate space for restricting a cat to the property (which will add costs to already stressed families living costs), and it could potentially be quite stressful to some cats as well. For existing cats, the aspects of this by-law “identification of cats” and “Cats not to be a nuisance” will sufficiently provide neighbours and council the capability to deal with problem cats/owners. I would support a rewording of “Cats not to wander at large” for all

cats, to not be defined as time-of-day, but rather a reasonable distance from owners' property, and (as with dogs) banned from National Parks. (additional email feedback) Hi CTTG, did the cat by-laws survey yesterday, forgot to add in that if cats are restricted to inside the property then more rodent control would be needed by council. Our cat catches quite a lot of rats/mice and I've only seen it with non-natives birds (pigeons mostly, some Indian miners) but that is much less than rodents
Hello. I have a few concerns with the by-laws. My partner and I have 3 cats. She had 1 when we met, I adopted a cat before we met, and since living in this house we adopted a 3rd that was "owned" by a house 3 doors down. They never fed it, never had it inside and it started living in my garage. I don't support the 2 cat limit if that means I must get rid of a member of our family. I'd like to know what the registration fee is please. Keeping collars on cats is about as possible as a rate reduction right now. We have had at least 15 collars lost. I don't support this one bit. Will the council be providing free or discounted desexing if this is forced? Our cats are desexed but i do not know if the recently adopted cat is. We took this cat in so that it wasn't starving and killing wildlife to survive. Also keeping cats inside for set hours is difficult. Ours spend most their time inside, but when I work afternoon shift and am not home until midnight it is not easy to get them inside when no one is home... Not everyone can fit a cardboard cut out set of rules, it is more important to identify the bad cat owners from the good ones, and control strays
I agree with microchipping and that should be enough...Cat collars fall off, cat collars can get caught in trees and cause strangulation, cat collars cause baldness and skin issues
You says cats should not be roaming from 10pm which is super late, birds start nesting again around sunset so it should be around sunset that cats are contained to their properties
My cat is locked up at night but we get up early she is often out at 5am… hate for her to be locked up by someone who sleeps in... how would it be policed
As a former Veterinary Nurse the requirement for a collar is concerning. We saw many injuries caused by collars e.g. the collars getting caught on objects, or the animals leg getting caught in the collar. With the microchip requirement are collars essential?
I believe cats should be restricted to their own property at all times. They are too destructive to wildlife and making a toilet from other people's gardens to only have night restrictions
Fees should be as per dogs from day 1. Change times for brr we inv (being) inside to 11pm to 5am. People should be able to have 3 cats
Cats regularly loose collars making owners pay for engraved tags on top of people microchipping their pets is excessive. Cats do not use resources like dogs (poo bags, bins and parks) so should not have to pay to be registered
The proposed laws are a step in the right direction but I feel they do not address the main concerns of most of residence. Which is that cats wander and cause a nuisance. My feedback below. Ref 9. Cats not to wander at large "9.2 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that a cat is wandering at large if the cat is wandering at large within the designated span of hours. 9.3 In this paragraph designated span of hours means between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day." The proposal read only restricts the cats from wandering from 0600 to 1000. So what is to stop the cat being let out to wander, defecating/urinating in my yard or killing native wildlife outside of those hours. Why would you not put the same restrictions on cats as are for dogs. If the animal is not in an enclosure it should be on a leash. Ref 10. Cats Not to be a Nuisance: 10.2.1 creates or is responsible for noise; 10.2.2 creates or is responsible for odour, or 10.2.3 defecates or urinates on premises without consent of the owner or occupier of the premises. How will the average resident take any action re this. I will have to be out in my front and back garden until 1000 at night and from 0600 in the morning to see the cat in my yard. If I actually see the cat defecating the cat will not stay still while I catch it and read the collar/registration tag to see who owns it. (I understand that trapping wandering cats is now not permitted that would help with

identification) So how and who too do I report this and what action would the council take if I cannot identify the cat? (I note that there is no mention in Item 10 whereby a cat killing native wildlife is identified as a nuisance item?) So this brings me back to Ref 9. If cats are confined or restrained as per dogs it is very unlikely that the cats will cause any nuisance. If they are in the owner's control 24/7 highly unlikely that they will defecate/urinate or kill wild animals other than in their own yards which is the responsible course of action
We have many cats in our area. Leaving faeces in our yard. Scratching cars. Not being desexed
Cats should always be under control of the owner and not allowed to wander. The 10pm - 6:00 am limit is too small. I used to own a cat and it never wandered so I know it is possible. Sterilisation of cats would help. Cats That are at large should be caught and the owners fined. Cats who's owners cannot be found should be euthanised
Cats should be under the same constraints as dogs, either within the boundary of the dwelling or on a leash / under effective control when outside boundaries. The confined times in draft of 10:00pm to 6:00am are not firm enough
Cats collars don't tend to stay on. Our cat removes his. Limits on numbers - should add foster carers as an exception. I think there should also be exemptions if you have a fully contained outdoor play area. What do people do with their additional cats when the by-laws come in? Are you going to end up with more strays?
Cat owners should have to follow the same laws as dogs, dogs wandering at large cause havoc, cats kill wildlife, defecate on non-owners' lawns/gardens, to own a lot of pets you have to either have them registered or you need a permit of some kind
Cat owner should be encouraged to keep cats on their property 24/7 by community education around issues pertaining to cat and wildlife welfare and given free registration for compliance. Workshops, funding and education for cat containment ideas. Free desexing for stray community cats will encourage more responsible pet ownership instead of a penalising attitude. I don't believe in collar for identification when cats are microchipped because it is a safety concern for the cat
I agree with every aspect except that cats must wear a collar and tag. If the law is that cats must be microchipped then why should this be mandatory. My cat will not wear a collar and my last cat choked themselves with their collar
Cats should be microchipped for identification purposes. Not be made to wear collars. Collars can be lost and can cause injuries. Registration will only mean that people already doing the correct thing i.e. desexing and microchipping have something else to do and how will this be policed?
Would prefer cats not to wander at large
Many cats can't wear collars due to strangulation risk
I have to pay to register my dogs who are confined to my property. Cats who are allowed to wander through the day, free to kill native wildlife and become a traffic hazard should also have a cost to be registered. The cost should also be higher as they cause more nuisance to the area than confined dogs. They should have to be confined to their owner's property at ALL times. Why should they be put wandering when it causes increased risk to the cat, traffic, wildlife and other animals kept on premises
Cats restricted to property form 10-6. We have a 10 year old cat who sleeps in a kennel at the front porch - he wanders between 4 homes and would become anxious / distressed if this were to change. Support all new cats /kittens to follow this, however would like exemption to be considered for existing older cats
8. I have no issue with the requirement for cats to be wearing a collar with the owners' details WHILE OUTSIDE. I believe it should be confirmed this is not a requirement while cats are confined inside the owners dwelling 11. I do not believe the Council should limit the number of cats to two. If a limit should apply, I believe it should be 3 at a minimum
The problem with suddenly setting a limit of 2 cats is what are those households that currently have 3 or 4 cats meant to do with their excess cats? The rescue shelters are full. It needs to not create greater issues of cats being dumped in the area. Perhaps for those that currently have one or two more there

can be an exemption for the life of those current cats, especially for older cats, with an understanding that the limit will apply in future and they must adhere to all other aspects of the by-laws such as desexing by 6 months and having them indoors at night. Otherwise the council must provide them with reasonable and viable humane options for surrender of their excess cats. Has the council discussed this with rescue shelters and local vets?
Should not have to ever need to pay for cat registration. It should be free. No identification disc on collar. Cats lose the collars too easily
We have three cats. All are restricted to indoor area and a Cat run. We do not allow them out or kill wildlife. If the restriction is two what do we do with the third. How do we choose which of our loved and bonded pets do we move on. Given we already have three can the number be changed to three or if you have three then you just can't add. I'm not sure why the number isn't 4. We don't show cats but enjoy their company and some family member benefit from their company
I'm concerned about the registration fee and desexing requirements for cats. My concern is that people on a low income or pension may find it difficult to purchase a kitten, register it, vaccinations etc. and desex it all within 6 months. Will there be some financial assistance maybe in a reduction of said fee or short term payments such as Afterpay to help with this
8. Some cats are notorious for getting their collars off and the "breakaway" style are relatively easy for smart cats to remove. Where does this leave the responsible pet owner if a collar/id has become dislodged. Shouldn't the microchip be the best option for ID purposes 9. & 10. From our own past experience some neighbours like to make vexatious complaints about pets amongst other things and we would hope that the penalty application provides for some defence against this 4. We do consider the legislation to be reasonable for responsible pet owners but it won't do anything to control the many that won't register/ID their cats due to ambivalence, effort, ongoing cost and to avoid the penalties
I personally have 4 cats (all rescues) and they have a cat enclosure down the side of my house and do not have any access to the outside world apart from that little area. I would agree to limiting cat numbers per house for those who let their cats roam outside but it is not fair to limit those who are doing the right thing and keeping them contained. Also, how do you approach current households that have more than 2 cats if these by-laws are put in place? Surely you can't force people to give up their pets??
11.I believe it is up to the home owner to decide how many cats they own 4. The cat owners who keep their cats indoors at all times should not be included in any registration process 8. No wearing of collars when the Cat/s never go off their own secure property 6. No payment should be made to council for a cat that does not receive any benefit/services, as a dog would for a dog park
Cat containment should be 24/7. Not time limited. Cats should not be allowed to roam at all
Don't believe there should be a restriction on the number of indoor cats. They are indoors only and are not a nuisance to anyone. This rule is penalising responsible owners. I have a son with disabilities and our cats provide emotional support as well as helping him learn to care for something other than himself
Should remain free, even after the initial 2 year period. Tags for cats don't need to be compulsory as microchips already meet this requirement and that is an additional expense for council that is not needed
If cat remains at property then shouldn't need to be locked in. Cat might be too scared to be indoors due to dogs on the property and chooses to remain on the property without wandering at all
9. Cats must not be allowed to wander at all. Any wandering cat should be allowed to be captured and fine should be issued to identified owners. For repeat offenders and nonregistered cats, cat must be rehomed through recognised rescue and charity organisation 11. Special permit for volunteers of any rescue organisation to encourage more volunteers

Cats should be contained as like dogs. Cats can do as much damage during the day as they can at night
I am passionate about animal rescue and have more than 2 cats and have had more than 2 for over 8 years. All my cats are indoors only, they always have been and always will be. If cats are indoors only I don't think there should be a limit to how many cats are on the property (within reason) I don't have an issue with free registration either for indoors only cats as long as it remains free
Given that it is law for all cats to be microchipped, it is not necessary for the cat to wear a collar and indeed it is unnatural for cats to do so and can lead to cats getting tangled up and choking. Responsible cat owners keep their cats indoors at all times, or in netted backyards so their cats do not roam. Responsible cat owners will be penalized so I feel that there should be a reduction in any registration fee for responsible cat owners. The people who have cats and let them roam will not bother with registration anyway. It is these owners who need to be re-educated on how to keep their domestic cats safe indoors and not left to roam. Perhaps a better approach would be to issue licenses to keep a cat after passing a suitability to own one test
5. Registration procedure - concerned that future plans to have a fee for registration imposes further financial burden when people are struggling and could lead to an increase in abandonment. Shelters and rescue groups are already struggling to cope with demand. Also concerned with requirement around collars. Collars can be dangerous for cats to wear, getting hung up and caught on things. If cat is microchipped, no need for collars 11. Limit on cat numbers - how will this affect those individuals who do cat rescue, clear colonies and rehome, fostering etc? The exemption process for these cases needs to be simple enough that it doesn't stop people doing this important work 9. I also think the rule about confining cats from 10pm to 6am doesn't go far enough. Cats should be confined to the owner's property at all times, not just night. That would get rid of the nuisance aspect immediately and save a lot of native wildlife
Cats should be confined to their owner's property 24 hours a day, that is at all times
How does this by-law address the problem of unregistered feral cats? Will the council be catching wandering cats and checking for identification? 5.1.5 states there would be a registration fee for cats. I understand that dogs have a registration fee as this goes towards facilities like dog parks but cats have no such facilities so why is a fee required? 9. States that cats cannot wander at large. While I agree in principle, how is this to be policed? Is it based on complaints and if so, what is the complaint procedure, what proof is needed that an identified cat has wandered and what are the associated penalties?
4. There is no fee amount mentioned at all for registration. What cost is it to a council for a home owner to own a cat if cats are microchipped and desexed. The responsible home owner is the one penalised for doing the right thing 8. I am not happy with it a cat having to wear a collar with their details if they are microchipped and desexed already. They are already registered when they are microchipped. Cats can choke to death if a collar gets caught on something
Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the current proposal in the draft "Cats By-law 2024" that permits cats to roam outside their owners' property boundaries. The City of Tea Tree Gully is known for its stunning natural environment, rich with wildlife and diverse ecosystems. Allowing cats to roam freely poses significant risks to this natural beauty, our community's wildlife, and contributes to the ongoing issue of feral cats in public spaces such as schools and shopping centres. Cats are natural predators, and even well-fed domestic cats can hunt and kill native wildlife. Birds, small mammals, reptiles, and other vulnerable species are at risk when cats are allowed to roam freely. The environmental impact is not only detrimental to biodiversity but also to the ecological balance within our community. Furthermore, the presence of feral cats exacerbates these issues, as they often compete with native species for resources and can spread disease. Roaming cats can create numerous nuisances within the community. From defecation in private gardens to noise disturbances from fighting or mating cats, the free movement of cats can lead to discomfort and inconvenience for residents. Moreover, feral cats at schools and shopping centres

present public health concerns and pose a danger to children and adults alike. To address these issues, I propose the following changes and additional restrictions: Mandatory Desexing of All Cats: All male and female cats must be desexed to be registered with the council. This will help control the population of both domestic and feral cats, reduce the likelihood of nuisance behaviours such as spraying and fighting, and prevent unwanted litters. Stricter Roaming Controls: The by-law should enforce stricter controls on roaming cats. Cats should not be allowed to roam outside their owner's property unless under direct supervision or on a leash. This is crucial to protect our local wildlife and prevent cats from becoming a nuisance to neighbours and the broader community. Curfew Implementation: Introduce a mandatory curfew for cats, requiring them to be confined indoors from dusk until dawn. This will significantly reduce the risk of predation on nocturnal wildlife and lessen the chances of cats being involved in accidents or fights. Feral Cat Management: Strengthen efforts to manage and reduce the population of feral cats within the council area, particularly in sensitive locations such as schools, parks, and shopping centres. This could include a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program and stricter penalties for those who abandon cats, contributing to the feral population. Registration and Microchipping: Ensure that all cats are registered and microchipped as part of the council's management strategy. This will help identify and return lost pets, reduce the number of stray cats, and hold owners accountable for their pets' actions. The natural beauty and wildlife of Tea Tree Gully are assets that should be preserved and protected. Allowing cats to roam freely poses unnecessary risks to our environment and community well-being. By implementing stricter controls, including mandatory desexing, enhanced roaming restrictions, and curfew measures, we can maintain a balanced ecosystem while ensuring that cats are kept safe and secure. I urge the Council to reconsider the provisions allowing cats to roam and to adopt these additional measures in the final version of the Cats By-law 2024. Thank you for considering these recommendations
Cats need to be restricted from dusk till dawn. No access at dusk to minimise the impact on our wildlife
Why are cats allowed to wander at all. Who will control nuisance cats? Who pays for damages caused by cats?
4.&6. Agree with registering cats, however, what is the fee after 2 years? Why should home owners pay a fee at all when the cat doesn't leave the property at all? 11. What happens if owners already have more than 2 cats? Are they expected to destroy or surrender these? Other. Fees and penalties if by law not adhered to. No fine$ amounts are suggested in this paper. If guilty of an "offence" what is the consequence?
My understanding is that cats are free to wander after 6am and must not be allowed out after 10pm. We have had dogs for that past 30 plus years and they were not allowed off my property unless on a leash. I currently have cats fighting in my front yard, spraying my front door etc. I am happy for people to have cats, however I don't see why I should have to clean up after them. Cat runs throughout the day and kept inside at night
Don't agree with cat collar. cat is microchipped and all info is there. Hand the cat into the council and the owner can pay a fee to pick up their cat. I think the limit should be four cats per property
I currently have 4 cats, all desexed, registered and confined to my property. They are indoor cats and have access to a cat run outdoors. They are never wandering at large. As I currently have more than 2 cats, would I be granted an exemption? Surely I would not have to rehome some of my cats due to the new laws when I am a responsible cat owner. More than happy for my property to be inspected. Thankyou
11 Limit on Cat Numbers My household is involved in running an Animal Rescue charity and this will often have more than two cats on the Premise. However, our household is not a cattery. This also includes pregnant mother cats, that could give birth greatly increasing the number of cats on the premises

5 and 6. Registration Procedure, Duration and Renewal Owning pets is great for mental health. With the current cost of living crisis people are already struggling with costs. And adding registration costs just makes it even more difficult for people to continue supporting their animals. As part of running an animal rescue, we already encounter a large number of people having to surrender family pets because of costs. Why would the Council want to make this worse? 8 Identification Personally we own two cats who cannot wear collars. Their skin ends up incredibly irritated and they end up scratching so badly that they require Veterinary treatment. I would not want to see these animals being treated badly simply because of this physical condition if they ever escape our home. Both are microchipped
#4,5,6 it is stated that ONLY the first two years will be free registration. Is the plan then to charge the absolutely massive fees to register after that time? The same as cost of dogs? Most people don't have the budget at the moment to pay those fees on top of every other thing council charges us for. 8. Not all cats will keep collars on and are very skilled at removing them also they climb making the risk of get hung very real. 9. If cats are to be kept in their own property will people be able to build outdoor cat yards on their property for their cats? Or will it be another thing that needs to be put through council for approval? Which will also cost more money. I do agree that cats need to be kept inside overnight. I would also agree to cat runs but if the plan is council approval at the cost of having to go through planning it is again another money grab from council. 11. Limit of two? What happens to the household that has more than 2 cats. Will they then be charged more? I would agree that people who breed cats need a breeder's licence if that is not already a thing. I see what is trying to be done but I think that council would do better to spend the money on helping with a 50% desexing campaign to help residents get on top of desexing which would help with cat population. Everything thing else although just looks like a new money grab from council. Council has not stated what the end cost of voting this in will be and I am afraid that these costs will be the straw that breaks the camel's back for a lot of families. Which in turn is going to mean a lot of dumped cats that otherwise had a home. Also there are a lot of people that care for and foster cats what will be the plan for them? Will they also have to pay to register as a foster with often my then two cats? These fosters are already spend every cent on food housing and vet bills for desexing are they expected to pay council as well once the two year free period is over? I am lucky enough to have full time job and can pay my bills and the extra cost that sometimes come up but there are many out there that can't and that are struggling and these are not just their pets but their family members. Show us what your planned costs are going to be in the future not just the interim
Collars to be worn at all times with ID tag. If this is a requirement can we assume Council will be issuing ID tags to owners once registration is completed (as with dog ownership)? If so, Council need to identify size of ID tag (in consultation with council residents) - which needs to be remarkably smaller and lighter than those issued to dog owners. Not necessary to have both name and phone number on ID tag. Either is sufficient given that the cat is required to be microchipped. This then reduces needs for larger sized ID tag
Cats should be fully contained at all times as of now, as wandering cats during the day will still contribute to the feral cat issue
11: I have 3 cats because I rescued two of them off the street. I have serious concerns about the management of colony cats in the TTG area. There is no support from Council to manage colony cats. Cat Rescues are overwhelmed and not everyone can afford to desex colony cats as I did (5 in total). I managed to rehome 3 but that is not easy either. I'm not against a 2 minimum but this would disadvantage people like me who are trying to help with the colony cat issue. I understand I can apply to the Council for an exemption which I will
8 If your legal advice is followed, who captures any offending cats 9 Allowed to wander or be out of the owner's premises between 6am and 10pm seems to miss the point. Allowing cats free roam between 6.00am to 10pm seems odd if you're trying to solve the problems caused by some cats (additional email feedback) I understand the nuisance provision which

is likely to now move to between those hours. This appears to just transfer the timing of potential problems. Why not the same as dogs? Who will, or when will the offending cat be captured if your legal advice is followed. Ironically, as I sit here typing this, a regular loose cat has run past my window. I'm not a cat hater but keep them on your own property. My neighbour seems to achieve this
Designated span of hours - I don't think that cats should be allowed to wander outside the premises at any time, i.e. 24 hour curfew. This should apply to all domestic animals
Cats MUST NOT be allowed to roam around any time of day - not just between the hours mentioned! They MUST be contained within the owner's property at all times. Any cat not having any identification on them to be humanly euthanised or made available to buy.
Owners name and phone number to appear on registration disc. How cats from neighbouring councils are treated. I have concerns about my privacy if my name address and or phone number have to appear on the registration disc. This is not a requirement for dog owners. The disc for a dog has a registration number which on enquiry to council the name and address of the owner can be obtained. My cats currently have the cat's names and my mobile phone number engraved. As cats have smaller necks the size of the collar and the associated disc would be too small to put on all the information required. To be honest there are people in our community that just hate cats. To have my name and address on the registration disc could make a target of hate mail/phone calls etc. The other issue I have is: how will cats from neighbouring councils be treated. They would not be subject to your by-laws. Possible legal action from those cat owners if their cats are impounded. A good reason to wait for State laws to be enacted. I don't have an issue with the 2 year duration. I am not sure how this will work. I am computer literate as I have worked as a computer programmer for 30. (I am still working). I feel for the elderly. They were not brought up with computers and many of them don't own one and don't know how to use them. It would be a problem if they were required to complete the registration online
Cats currently using my property (and surrounding properties) as 'public toilets', therefore I am in favour of total confinement within cat owner's property but five years seems an awful long time to wait. The problem is now and what rights do I have to try and stop this issue now?
8. Identification of cats - it is almost impossible to keep a collar on a cat they will worry at it until it comes off! Th fact that responsible owners have already had their cat or cats' microchip and tattooed should be sufficient identification! 9. Unless you get a cat as a kitten and train it as indoor cat and walk on a lead in your backyard - if you get an older cat or catch stray and have them desexed etc. it is difficult to confine them - if they are well fed etc. then they tend not to wander as much! 11. To restrict number to two I have an issue with we started with two but managed to catch and desex, chip and tattoo three strays that we now care for as long as residents register their cats as we have done and they don't cause issue numbers shouldn't be the biggest concern! If it is to be two then applying for additional cats as we would need to do should be made easy with proviso that additional cats desexed etc.
I don't believe cats should wear a collar as can be quite distressed if not use to it What percentage of revenue from Dogs &Cat registration will be used for what. Is this highlighted in TTG budget/ expenditure
I think a 2 cat limit is too low. I think 3 is more likely to receive community support as many households I know of already have more than 2 cats. Would they be expected to give up their pets?
Cats should be contained within the owner's property and not be permitted to wander at large. Wandering cats are the largest killers of native wildlife. Wandering cats damage property ... e.g. climbing on neighbour's warm car bonnets. Wandering cats disturb neighbouring pets. You own it? Then keep it on your property. No alternative is satisfactory!
I would to see add to the section of cats not to wander, that states cats cannot leave the property unless the cat is in the presence of the owner. Cats should not be allowed to wander unsupervised. I would also like see added that a ranger will patrol the local TTG area and will capture cats outside of the address that is cat is registered to and to help control the feral cats in the area

No trapping allowed by public - truly prosecutable, not just lip service; Oppose forced-to-confine cats born before July 2027. No mention of pre-existing ownership of more than 2 cats; 2 years leeway for full implementation too little time - cats will be dumped; Registration cost need to be low for 15 years to take proper effect - average lifespan of cat, else cats will be dumped; Offer free microchip & desexing for 2 to 5 years, else cats will be dumped, not just by low socio-economic group, but also high income group; Who decides “at large” and “nuisance” - excellent opportunity for neighbour vengeance
Cats are pets, like dogs, and should be treated the same as dogs – i.e. NOT roam at large at any time. They should be confined to the owner’s property
9 - It appears that cats can do as they want between 6am and 10pm? Cats should not be allowed to wander at large. Cats appear to be allowed to wander between 6am and 10pm each day, killing birds, sitting on our cars and urinating in air conditioning vents, walking on fences to disturb our dogs, mess in our garden and spray our home. All cats should be made to live inside or have a secure cat run. The damage to our property and environment as a results of irresponsible pet owner is not able to be fixed
It is a well-known documented fact that cats are an effective predatory hunter & killer of our native wildlife. The Proposed Cat By-Law No. 7 [under part 3 (Cat Management & Control), paragraphs 9 (Cats Not to Wander at Large) & 10 (Cats Not to be a Nuisance)] fails to adequately recognise & address the damage to/impact on wildlife. It is recommended that paragraph 10.2.4 be added to recognise the damage to/impact on wildlife. (Paragraphs 10.2.1, 10.2.2 & 10.2.3 give other examples of nuisances by cats, so, adding another important example is in order.) Simply requiring registration, or micro-chipping, or de-sexing, does not prevent the damage to/impact on wildlife. Things like responsible cat management & cat-proofing properties will. Therefore, it is also recommended that the proposed by-law be amended to include the provision for “trapping”, & a process for what happens to trapped cats, in the event of wandering at large &/or creating a nuisance offense. Without such a provision, the door is “left open” for people to take action as they see fit
I am supportive of containing cats and I register mine. The concern I have relates to the collar requirement. Cats can get themselves into trouble with collars when roaming that could become an animal welfare issue. It could be wise to check into how often a cat is injured by its collar when outside
Although the new laws are an improvement from current, cats like ALL other pets should be confined to the boundaries of the owner’s property at ALL times not just at night. as they annoy dogs then they bark and the dog is a problem. they come into my yard and urinate and defecate in my property. scratch and damage my property. Harass birds and chickens in my property
6. “Must be registered every 12 months with provision for a registration fee – a $0 fee is proposed for a maximum initial 2-year period”. I have no objection to registering my cat (I currently do so). I have a problem with paying for it. Firstly, the VAST majority of respondents requesting a fee were dog owners who were upset that they have to pay a fee, and want the pain shared Their opinions on this should be totally ignored. Secondly, there are no services provided by Council, nor are there any needed for cats. No cat parks, no cat obedience training, no bags for picking up cat poo, no cleaning (cats will NEVER poo in the middle of a walking path, they will instead find a quiet spot out of the way). Any “cat catching” will be performed by the same people that currently do any “dog catching”, so there are ZERO costs incurred by council regarding cats, there is ZERO NEED to raise revenue. Using this (or any issue) as a means to increase general revenue is something I will fight against, even if I have to run for Council to do so 9. “To be confined to their owner’s property between 10.00pm and 6.00am” I have no issue with this requirement in general. I do not allow my cat to go out from sundown to sun up. However... there are times beyond my control where my cat has been out all day and doesn’t come in until after 10pm. I trust that some common sense will prevail here and I will not be considered to be in violation because a cat let out at 8am doesn’t come back until 11pm?
9 & 10. I would prefer cats to be secured indoors 24/7 as I am allergic to them; however, by 7pm or earlier would be good. As soon as the traffic on my street eases off I have 4 different cats (without collars) who frequently gather in my front yard to fight or sit calling. This frequently happens also in the early hours of the morning. I chase them off but they often return. They sit on my front porch when

I am not at home (leaving fur that causes my allergy to kick-in) and urinate on my front doormat in the wet weather causing a disgusting (and hard to get rid of) smell through my house. Other. The detaining of nuisance cats. Had I known I could catch and detain the nuisance cats, I'd have done so and will do so if council will provide the means i.e. a cage. I understand that people love cats; however, my personal health and that of other allergy sufferers should take priority
I don't support the implementation of a registration fee. Currently residents don't pay a fee but must keep accurate registration details with Council. Implementing a fee (even after 2 years grace period) will absolutely impact those residents on low incomes and or experiencing financial disadvantage which will result in one of two ways, either releasing their pet into the "wild" or relinquishing to a shelter which will further impact Council and the already stretched services of shelters or residents won't register their pet at all. Please consider the financial impacts to the vulnerable in our community when making the final determination
I don't believe cats should be allowed to wander at all, for the following reasons: Cats that sit on the fence of a dog owners property and incite the owner's dogs to bark, and generally annoy the neighbours, and make it difficult for the owner to maintain their dog's behaviour. If a cat wonders on a dog owners property during the non-prescribed hours, and is injured or worse. It's the proper one responsible? What about the stress to the owner when they report the incident to the car owner. Who's responsible for any medical costs for the cat? Well there be any danger to wild life during those non prescribed hours. Perhaps the council should fund cat parks, and prescribed areas for letting cats off leed, along the lines of dog parks, and off leed walking areas. With the same clean up rules
Potential changes to include registration fees and full confinement. Cat registration has been free for many years and I question why this would change. Full confinement of our animals seems extreme as well as unfair. Cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens etc. are not bred to live indoors at all times. I understand the importance of an animal's potential to impact the environment but feel there must be a middle ground. A management strategy to address impacts other than total confinement. That is a very simplistic solution to a more nuanced issue. Work with us to find solutions
Risk of injury or hanging. I will not put a collar on my cat as it is hazardous for the animal. I have already had a cat severely injured by getting his leg caught through his collar
The proposed introductory period of 2 years of registration for $0 seems excessively long and wasteful from a Council perspective. Council should be equating cat ownership with current dog bylaws to put all pet owners on equal footing and help fund any enforcement initiatives. The first year should have full registration fees and as a compromise, waive fines for the first year whilst still issuing expiation notices to educate cat owners on the new rules. Cats should not be wandering at large at any time. No other pets are allowed to freely wandering around the neighbourhood regardless of time of day. Any pet that is not under the effective control of their owner is a nuisance and may cause untold destruction to native animals. The last part of Section 10 10.2.3 "which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with peace, comfort and convenience of a person" seems redundant as any amount of the aforementioned 'defecates or urinates' is interfering with the peace, comfort and convenience of people
I read on a previous page that it is proposed cats wear a collar with an id tag. I do have issues with this, it goes against all advice that any vet gives you and my past experience. Collars get caught on things it's as simple as that, dangerous to a cat's life. I don't really understand what the benefit of it will be given they should be microchipped
11. As an owner of 4 rescue cats who are all desexed microchipped vaccinated and whom are 100% contained inside with access to a professionally built fully enclosed back garden I don't believe I should be restricted to a restricted number of 2 cats. Each household should be assessed on the level of care that can be provided
Identification by means of a collar around the cat's neck: my cats are fully contained to home and secure cat run, 2 out of 3 do not tolerate collars. They don't go outside why do they require a collar when fully microchip. Prescribing the limit on the number of cats to be kept on premises to two (2) cats: responsible pet owners are responsible regardless of number. You can be irresponsible with one

cat. I have 3, registered, desexed, microchipped, pet insurance and inside to house & secure cat run. Where is the grandfather clause for more than 2 cats or ability to seek a 3rd cat if you demonstrate responsibility. To be confined to their owner's property between 10.00pm and 6.00am: why is this not 24/7, noting the risk to cats (cars/dogs) and risk to native animals (lizards/birds/possums) a responsible approach should be contained to house/secure cat run or lead at all times
Collars on cats can be a choking hazard. Older cats will not deal with a collar. No point in this by law unless the council allocates adequate resources to police. How is this by law to be enforced? Current complaints to council about a property with excessive cats results in no action
Feral cats. How are you going to police household limits on cats? How do we report nuisance & wandering cats??
If cats are registered and kept on properties I don't think there should be a limit rule. At least more than two cats. I spent most of my life with three indoor cats
NO. 4 & 5: I do not agree with having to register our cats as we already have them microchipped. This means they are already on a national data base and I feel the council is double dipping No 11: As an owner of a number of microchipped, desexed indoor cats I take great offence to the idea of having a restriction on how many cats I can own. I am a responsible owner, my cat's very rarely go outside and I pay council rates. I will not be dictated to and we do not live in a dictatorship. We already pay ridiculous overpriced council rates and now you are trying to dictate how many pets I can responsibly own
11 we currently have 3 cats and would not want to part with any. They a part of our family and we love our cats 12. Two of our cats love sitting in our garden, one is often in the front yard and the other at the back and one stays in doors. I think it would be very cruel to restrict their movements when they are used to freedom of our yard
I am of the belief that cats should not be allowed to wander freely in Australia in general. I understand this is no small feat. (9) I am concerned however on how this proposed system will be able to be enforced in a way which maintains trust and doesn't disempower cat owners. (7, 11) I also worry that a restriction on pet cats to two cats per home is too restrictive. (11) I hope there will be plenty of opportunities for education so that cat owners can understand the impacts of not restricting their cats, so that they can feel more informed and more motivated to adhere to these new restrictions. I also hope council can educate around alternative ways to provide pet cats enrichment within a protected environment (i.e. how to set up indoor/outdoor cat runs), &/or rebates for in-home resources to mitigate cats being able to roam freely during the day (or night). I should contextualise, that although I am not a cat owner now, I hope to be in the far future, and in dreaming of that future, I have thought about how I can be a cat owner who can both ensure an enriching life for my future cat, whilst safeguarding our beautiful Australian fauna/flora
I think cats should be required to wear a bell as well as an ID tag to alert native animals of their presence
If cats are kept strictly indoors a limit should not be imposed as they do not impact the wider community
I think limiting cat ownership to two cats is particularly limiting, I would suggest up to 5 as a more reasonable number
10pm is too late. Cats run in front of cars after dark. This creates a risk to all road users. they need to be confined after dark for both their own safety and that of road users. I see many dead cats at the side of lower north east road. I have had cats run in front of my car. It's a serious risk, they do not have road sense at night. Community member who has faced unnecessary risk while driving as cats dart out in front of cars and I have had to swerve to avoid hitting them
What the fee may be for a cat. I would think something around $5.00 per year per cat. As our cat is a pure indoor cat, there is no up keep by the council e.g. Poop bags, and Dog Parks which are supplied and maintained by the council

The by law states that cats are not to wander at large outside designated hours i.e. between 10pm and 6am. I disagree that cats be allowed to wander at large during 6am to 10pm. I give no permission for cats to be on my premises at any time. The by law also states that to be a nuisance a cat must persistently or to such a degree that it causes discomfort undertake actions such as urinating or defecating. Again, a cat should at no time be undertaking these actions on my premises or a public place
Cats should be contained. I believe cats should be restricted to their own property 24/7, except when on a lead and being taken for a walk
As responsible cat owners we restrict our cats to the rear yard outside in the day and keep them inside after 7pm at night. I believe the major problem is irresponsible cat owners letting cats wander at large etc. I am totally against having cats totally contained
I have no issues with registering cats - but I do not think that cat numbers should be limited for people who responsibly manage their cats (e.g. indoor only, desex them etc)
Our cat is an indoor and outdoor cat. He is chipped and desexed. We used to put a collar on him the ones that release if he gets stuck. Our vet said as he goes outside its safer for him not to wear a collar. We also found he would lose a lot meaning he was getting caught and could strangle himself
8. I do not wish my cats to wear collars. They can strangle themselves if they get caught in a tree etc. And if the collar is too loose, the cat finds a way to remove it themselves every time. Have tried collars on cats many times and it has never been successful in my experience. The microchip should be ample to be able to identify the cat. Other point - Policing of the policy - how will the policy be enforced? Are you sending council staff around with cat cages to trap cats that are out after 10pm and before 6am? What is the fine? Where will the cat be held if it is caught? Will you just put them down if they are not registered? What happens if my 87 year old mother's cat get out accidently - how can she catch it? Older people will be distraught if they are left to worry about what will happen to their cat because of this policy - you need to provide a better explanation on how this will operate before this can be passed by the community
Cats, desexed only to be maintained by property owner 100% indoors. Therefore, no collar necessary. Up to 3 animals, [cats & dogs] total
Fees should apply as they do for dogs. cats are a greater menace to the environment than dogs and more difficult to manage
I don't agree with free registration for any period at all. Council charges us annually to register our dog and cats should be treated the same
Cats not to wander at large, The draft Cat-By-Law 9.3 span of hours between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day. So, the cat owner can open the door at 6:00am and lets their cat wander in the surrounding properties and then call it in to come back home at 10:00pm. I can speak from experience that none of the cat owners that surround my property will be out rounding up their cats at 10:00pm. And what can I do about cats spraying our entrance door, defecating in our yard and attacking and killing the lizards and birds that call our property home, Council will recommend I speak to the cat owner if I know who owns the cat which I have done in the past, it is a total waste of my time as the owner suggests it could not be their cat and does nothing. The proposed draft Cat-By-laws with respect to Item 9 and 10 will do nothing to resolve the cat issues. Who is Going to enforce them if the owner does not? If the council is serious about dealing with the cat issues the cats should be kept on the owner's property Indoors or on a cat run. (Not to Wander at all). If you are a pet owner, then take responsibility for it. and if you do not then penalties should apply
We have previously tried to have a dollar on our cat and the collar would be removed or our cat would get it caught on things giving us concern for its safety. The cats wandering at large during a time frame is difficult to control, what if the cat doesn't return before the allowed hours?
I disagree with the requirements for the identification of cats (item 8 above). Cats are already required to be microchipped, so there is little benefit from additional identification, particularly when the collar may be lost or not well tolerated by the cat. Additionally, I support the curfew (item 9 above) being from sunset to sunrise. Council should signal that the period will be extended to 24 hours in due course

I own 4 cats. 3 are indoor only and one is in and out. I am worried about what that means for my household. My in and out cat does loose his collar at times and needs to be a breakaway collar for if he is in a tree and gets caught and it needs to breakaway for his safety. Having to buy a new id disk for his collar is frustrating and expensive all the time. Full address and phone number etc. is too much to fit on a small disk tag
I can imagine that although the first couple of years fees will be free, there will then be a cost to register cats. I think that limiting to 2 cats is not fair to some people (even though we've only had one at a time). I think it is a good idea to keep cats in at night (although there is always the odd occasion they get out and won't come back in). I don't support the 5 year plan for full containment of cats. Why do they have to have a tag with name address etc. and a microchip? Surely the microchip provides the same details? Cats may occasionally lose their collar and then be in breach of the law
We currently have 4 cats. All of our cats are fully contained. They are also all desexed, microchipped and registered. They do not wear collars or tags because we never let our cats out of our property. I think if cats are contained like ours are then we shouldn't be limited in how many cats we have
8. In regards to identification of cats, my cats are indoor cats with access to a secure cat run so they don't wear collars, I don't believe they are safe for cats. Travelling to the vet should be included as not causing an offence if the cat isn't wearing a collar. A vet visit is already stressful for my cats, I would not add to the stress of a vet visit by putting a collar on them that they do not normally wear. Though I do agree that 100% roaming cats should wear collars, I hope the council will encourage the use of breakaway collars as the safest option for cat collars, unlike the belt buckle style collars which are dangerous for them 11. I don't see the advantage of limiting owners to such a small number of cats. There is already a huge shelter cat overpopulation problem, and if people have to jump through hoops to adopt another, they may not bother. I understand that it looks like it would be relatively common to get approval for another cat given the permissions listed, I just hope that approvals are easy and common and don't take too long. Especially if long-term the council is leading towards 100% cat containment, there would be no reason to limit cat numbers so low if they can't cause a nuisance to others
8.9 Designated span of hours - There shall be no span of hours. Cats attack and eat native wild life whenever they are allowed to roam and are a nuisance / disruption when they wander where they choose. Dogs are not allowed this liberty and cats should have the same limitations imposed as a responsible pet owner. Containment of cats at all times shall not take 5 years to implement - this far too long. 2 years is a reasonable time frame. 10.2.1 We have a dog, which barks and creates a nuisance to our neighbours when cats enter our property. Our dog would not bark if the cats were not able to wander at large. We need to apologies to our neighbours that our dog is only reacting to a cat which is entering our property
I am extremely lucky and grateful to be living in TTG council, where there is a relatively high proportion of remnant bushland maintained in the council area (thank you!) and a real emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and ecological function. As such, I fully support all aspects of the proposed by-laws, EXCEPT the timespan for not 'wandering at large'. I agree that cats should definitely be confined to indoors at night. However I would go further and say that cats should be confined to a property 24/hrs a day, within 12 months of the new bylaws being enacted, as is the case in the neighbouring council area of Campbelltown. I think cat owners, and their cats, should be given time to adjust to any new arrangement. Campbelltown allowed a transition of 12 months from the requirement to being confined at night to the requirement to being confined to the property 24/hrs a day. This will allow owners to get established with cat runs or other cat-care facilities that they'll need to keep cats happy. PLEASE consider this approach for our council area, to safe-guard our native wildlife, and safeguard neighbourhood relationships. More and more, our council environment will be critical to the survival of our local wildlife. Cats can't help being effective hunters - that's what they are. I support cat management keeps wildlife alive, and cats healthy and happy. Thank you
Cats should not be permitted to wander at large at all. While the new bylaw does provide some controls in section 10 for nuisance cats, there is no reason why cats should be allowed to wander on property not belonging to their owners. We have several issues with cats wandering on to our

property, eating the fish from our pond and harassing our pets. Actually catching a cat that is being a nuisance or gaining sufficient proof that a specific cat is a nuisance seems to be very difficult and is likely to result in injury to the cat or the property owner. At a minimum, the allowed hours should be significantly reduced. Prime hunting time for cats is dawn and dusk. The designated span of hours in section 9.3 allows for hunting at both dawn and dusk as well as night time hunting which would further damage the local ecosystem. If cats must be allowed to roam, then reducing these hours to 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM should limit effective hunting time. Section 10.2 should also include if a cat causes damage to property. Cat scratching or urinating can damage paintwork and plants. In sections 9 and 10, there is no mention that a person may be guilty of an offense if they allow their cat to wander at large or if the cat is being a nuisance
People won't pay registration fees for various reasons e.g. they can't afford it and cats who are not microchipped or the microchip details are not up to date will be dumped or left to fend for themselves
Designated span of hours. Is too broad would prefer 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. Designated hours still provide cats the use of darkness, particularly in Winter to locate and kill birds in nests/nesting also the setting off sensor lights
No. 6 - a fee after a short period of free? No, I do not agree with the creation of a fee for a household with one or two cats. Added burden of costs creates more animals sent to refuges No. 8 - Identification of Cats Collars on cats are a risk, often causing injury and even death. It's an unnecessary extra burden if the cat is already microchipped. Why do both? The microchipping is more than enough. As above, collars are a great risk to a cat, whether indoor or out. Microchipping is a safer method and is already a requirement.)
I don't think that the proposed bylaws go far enough regarding cat ownership. I think that cat ownership should be the same if not more stringent than dog ownership. Not that I'm a cat hater by any means, but it's a known fact that cats do considerable damage to native wildlife and some domestic pets, even during daylight hours. In my opinion there should be no set time period (e.g. - between 10pm and 6am) that a cat should be able to wander considering the hours of daylight saving etc. Cats are a hunter and hunt very well in darkness, so I would propose that cats should not be allowed to wander between sunset and sunrise on any day. Having said that I would prefer if they didn't wander outside of the owner's property, just as a dog would not be permitted to without it's owners' supervision. Simply that as a keeper of birds that are caged, I have had cats on occasion come into my property and attempt to gain access to my birds, obviously with the intention of scaring or killing them
I 100% support the proposal for the new cat bylaws. My concern is for existing cat owners who are doing the right thing. We are a cat family and we have four cats. Our cats are absolutely members of our family, we love them, look after them and they do not go outside the house. I think that people who already own registered cats at the time that the bylaw comes into place should be allowed to apply for more than two registrations. Going forward maybe reducing those registrations over time perhaps. I could not give up any one of my cats and where would they go if we couldn't keep them? Thank you
I fully support they by-law but believe that the curfew is too short. It should be much longer overnight, from 7:00pm to 7:00am for example. I believe that cats should be contained to the property for their own safety, as well as the safety of wildlife and also to prevent nuisance behaviours
I have 4 cats. All rescue cats. Abbi 14.5 from animal welfare as kitten. Harry rescued from dubious house at 8 weeks. Now 9 years old. Charlie. 4.9 rescued from Kadina vet at 3 months. Was going to get put down that night. Rescued from terror farm. Billie. 2.9 rescued from Nuriootpa via Facebook. 2 days old and hand reared. Normal cat now but very, very lucky cat. How do I cull? No one because come near them and I go into mother mode and protect my babies with my life. I have a large cat cage and how many are in it is my business. I don't like collars. Cats can get choked. Find me one that won't potentially choke my cats in a tree. My son and family had a little cat that got the collar stuck in its mouth around its neck. It disappeared for days. On return it was ripped across its mouth i.e. mouth cut

right down to neck with collar stuck in it, severe infection and of course dehydrated and starving. Got put down at about 2 years. Ear tattoo microchip should suffice
The timing of 10pm-6am for cats to be inside needs to be increased and made longer the cats in the area are a complete nuisance
If you have purely inside cats I don't believe you should be penalized for looking after your cats properly? Understand the rulings for outside cats - I also think the cap of 2 is a bit low - maybe 4 would be a better alternative
Would like to extend hours cats can't be wandering to essentially require them to be indoors or kept inside the property. We have many neighbours with cats who roam and there is no way to keep them off our property. They cause damage to our garden but also stress out our 2 cats who are fully indoor cats
Currently we have 4 cats all rescues. We have enclosed our rear courtyard to ensure they cannot ever go outside so all contained at all times. Given this is the case, we would like to continue to have up to 4 cats on our premises and not be limited to 2. We have lived here 30+ years and always had them fully contained for their own health and safety
Have to wear collars… we have an outside from 7:30am - 6pm cat and we have given up with collars as he removes them within 24 hours. If the cats are microchipped and registered as ours our I do not see why we should be penalised for his removal. I agree perhaps limit numbers to 2 for new cats or people moving into the area but asking a family to get rid of a cat is in humane… and we can't afford to move (we would have years ago if we could) Would you get rid of a child
8. Cats are already identified if they are microchipped and have to be registered, not all cats wear collars or keep them on. Mine loses his on a regular basis 9. How can an owner you control this if the cat is outside? What is considered to be at large? The back yard, in the street? Most cats have a regular area the roam 10. Again what is a nuisance. My cat goes over the back fence and next door. If someone dislikes cats or is upset about them being in their yard they will complain
11. The limit should be higher, perhaps 5, particularly if the cats are kept inside. A limit of 2 is too low. I understand that there is a desire to prevent cats being a nuisance, and keeping them inside is the option we have taken to do that. We currently have one cat (another needed to be put down recently), but would like the option to have three. Fairly happy with the other proposed changes, although for inside pets, any registration cost is overreach. Perhaps there is room for nuance in the bylaws?
I agree with most aspects. Other than the number capped at 2. I would like the council to allow residents to apply for special exemptions to the number of felines allowed. I would welcome inspections of my enclosure. My cats aren't noisy. I am a responsible cat owner, my cats are inside my house or in their purpose built cat enclosure. I have 3 cats living with me. 2 are registered with me the other is registered under the breeder but lives 95% of the year with me. I am concern that I will be capped at 2. I feel this is unfair and would like an exemption. I strongly believe cats should never be at large **(see Appendix 8, Attachment E)**
I believer that responsible cat owners should not allow them off of their property ever, they should have to ensure that they can be contained on their property at all times to reduce the negative impact on wildlife and others properties. I love cats and know that they can be very well cared for within the home and if necessary, a cat enclosure. This should be mandatory as they can do a significant amount of damage during the day light hours as well as at night
11. Limit on cat numbers - Will there be a grandfather clause that recognises that, at the time of the new laws, a household may have more than two cats. Will the owner be allowed to keep these additional cats for the period of the life of the specific cat/s. Other - Will the new laws address the issue of stray / feral cats. I know of groups that currently 'manage' strays by way of regular feeding, capturing, neutering and possibly re-releasing or re-housing. But councils offer no support. Ideally the council would have a budget to deal with strays. My understanding is that, at the moment, councils will not assist in having a stray neutered (kitten) or euthanized (older that can't be re-homed). The groups that deal with strays either rely on donations or try to manage the stray populations at their own expense. The elephant (stray cat) in the room? How are stray dogs managed in the TTGC area?

With the intention being to introduce laws to control cats the handling of unwanted cats will have to be addressed. The council should assist with the 'disposal' of unwanted / feral cats. The fear is that, with the introduction of the new laws, there will be a spike in the number of feral cats. Is there a process whereby the council can assist in dealing with captured stray / feral cats?
I think there is a more reasonable limit on the number of cats - two is too restrictive. My sister, for example, has three indoor cats, all of which were rescues. She already had one cat when she rescued a bonded pair. I think provision needs to be made for people who already own more cats than the limit that is decided, and for those who are willing to take in and care for rescue cats as there are always more cats to be rescued than those who will take them. I do not support a cost for having to register cats. The cost and the annual renewal are both barriers to people registering. Particularly with the cost of living crisis, I am against fees that will stop people having the companionship and health benefits pets provide. I do support cats being required to be indoors at night, to be registered (but not with a cost), microchipped, to wear a collar with contact details. I do think having a limit on cats unless applying for special permission, is acceptable, but a pathway for exceptions for those who seek them available. Such exceptions could include rescuing cats from the RSCPCA, with conditions such as all cats being neutered, as well as vaccinated, microchipped etc.
3.2.1/11. In principle, I agree with placing limits on the number of cats housed on a property, but I would be wary of a 2-cat limit for unintended adverse impacts on adoption and fostering. If Council is committed to a 2-cat prescribed limit, it should not be arduous to apply for an exception, with exceptions favoured for good cause, such as adoption of a bonded pair or fostering rescue cats 3.2.2/8.3. It can be extremely difficult to keep a collar on some cats. While I think that a collar and tag is ideal, and helps to distinguish cared-for cats vs strays/ferals, I would want sufficient lenience on owners in circumstances where their cat manages to dislodge the collar. I would urge council to consult with veterinarians about this issue 5.1.5. I believe that good regulations make compliance the path of least resistance. Charging a fee makes people less likely to comply, and I believe that 100% registration of cats is much more important than cost recovery. I recognise the value of pets as companions, especially for isolated/vulnerable people, so I would hate to see their having to give up a pet because they cannot afford registration. (My objection is the same in terms of dog registration.) 5.4. doesn't seem to make grammatical sense. I can't work out what it's trying to say. If it's about transfer of ownership, it should state this (although that's covered in section 7). As it is, it reads as though, once a cat is registered to one person, it must immediately be registered to someone else
As I foster cats through a registered cat rescue group I can foresee difficulties with the limit on cat numbers as, for short term periods, I exceed 2 cats. It is unclear whether council permission would be per household or per cat (the latter being an inconvenience especially for emergency situations)
Cat collars are dangerous as they can hang themselves on tree branches. Also, the collars that release quickly are expensive to constantly replace. Also as cats are normally allusive to catch, how would a collar with ID help? I thought that them being having to be microchipped was the ID? Also cat management in general would be very difficult to manage fairly and cost wise
Cats should be contained to the owner's property at all times. This will stop Cats going to neighbour's property and defecating
Cats not allowed outside from 10pm-6am. This could potentially be difficult for us to do every night. Our cat is usually in the house for the whole night but sometimes we can't find him very easily. What happens if a cat is spotted outdoors during the forbidden hours? I don't think desexed cats that have a home tend to cause a nuisance in the neighbourhood so if owners are following the other rules, I think this one is unnecessary and very difficult to enforce. It also makes our whole family feel very anxious. The only way we can ensure that we follow the law is to keep our cat indoors all the time, which is not good for his mental health. The other option is to make expensive modifications to our home to allow an outdoor cage for him, which would still not be great for his mental health
The number of cats I have in my house that I pay for, that aren't free roaming, shouldn't be the business of the council. I have three cats. They have an enclosure. They never roam. It doesn't impact

anybody if I have 1 or 5. I appreciate the concern of free roaming cats, however cats that are contained and cared for shouldn't be the concern of the council
After having cats fight nightly within my property and keeping me awake and urinating on my front door and having to clean it daily it is getting a bit tiring. I don't own a cat (or any other animal due to time constraints), I don't mind if others have cats but keep them contained. While we are discussing nuisance animals, my neighbours large breed dog barks continually. I have looked at what to do to make a report and having to maintain a register of the times barked is ridiculous. I don't have the time to sit and count throughout the day if I am WFH the number of times it barks. Maybe a letter to the homeowner to say someone has placed a complaint could be suffice in the first instance. The owners are home all day as neither of them work so there is no reason they have to not hear the dog barking. Gosh, I sound like a cranky old whinger and just tend to put up with things but sometimes enough is enough!!
I don't think there should be limits of numbers of cats in a household if all other aspects are abided by. Many people are likely to already own more than 2 cats which would create difficulties around whether they should be expected to get rid of one of their cats. This law would likely create pressures on the local Animal Welfare League/RSPCA and increase the number of stray cats in the neighbourhood which would be an even bigger issue
Can the restriction of cats being confined to the property 10pm to 6am have the caveat added of "unless on a lead and under the control of the owner" added. I have a large cat enclosure running down the side of my house so my cat never leaves the property unless on a lead. I take the cat for a daily walk for his mental health just after 5am for about one hour. At this early time, it is rare to find people walking their dogs so it's an ideal time to walk the cat. As a responsible cat owner who has gone to the expense of containing my cat I would appreciate this being acknowledged by having the flexibility of walking the cat on a lead at 5am, and hence not able to harm wild life. Thank you
Want to ensure cats are registered and not allowed to wander into other people's property
Domestic cats who wander are legitimate and should not be killed. Baiting should never ever occur and the limit for cat ownership should be 6. I do not own a cat but I do know a woman who does and she keeps them very well within her house and a run. Those people should not be further restricted to 2 cats
3-4 cats that are kept inside in a large house is not an unreasonable number of animals. I believe the number of allowed cats should be increased to 4-5. I also feel that no cats should ever be allowed to roam. If an owner is incapable of caring for their animals and providing them with a stimulating environment, then they should not own the animals (just like every other pet in existence). Substituting personal care by allowing them to hunt wildlife is ridiculous
Cat owners should be required to pay the registration for their cats in full. As a dog owner there was never an option to not register our pets and ensure they're contained within our backyards. It's about time cat owners share the same responsibility for their animals with no $0 fee for the first two years. If cats can't be trapped or caught how do you police and ensure cats are confined to their homes between 10pm - 6am if there are no consequences if they can't be trapped during that time? Unlike dogs, cats are harder to catch therefore you need a trap. How does the council plan to enforce this aspect of the proposal?
8) Identification I have the most concern with this new requirement. i) Micro-chipping already provides sufficient animal identification. The whole point of micro-chipping is to enable an authorised person to identify and discover the ownership of a wandering or injured animal. It is mystifying and concerning as to why this ability needs to be extended to random members of the general public ii) The new by-law's additional requirement for a collar and tag introduces health and safety issues, leading to discomfort, misery from skin conditions, injury, or even death for the animal. As a former cat owner, I have experienced such issues when cats wear collars. Pop-off collars do not adequately address safety issues, and cats regularly lose them. Additionally, please refer to the following information:

- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1558787822000867
- https://www.pdsa.org.uk/pet-help-and-advice/looking-after-your-pet/kittens-cats/cat-collars
iii) The by-law requires the attached tag to legibly include the name of the owner and the address or telephone number. This would result in an overly large and cumbersome object attached to the cat's neck. Such a tag would not only increase the cat's discomfort, but would also heighten the risk of injury or death to the animal
9) Wandering
As a former cat owner, I can attest that many cats have a habit of 'not turning up' at night from time to time. This is just normal cat behaviour, and it is unclear as to why a cat owner who does their best to keep their pet indoors at night should be 'guilty of an offence'.
Apparently, Council is considering the future introduction of a mandate to keep cats confined at all times. Some cats actually suffer from severe stress if they are always kept indoors. This would necessitate the provision of outdoor enclosures and/or modifications to fencing. These, however, are prohibitively expensive; therefore I hope that Council will be prepared to provide such solutions, especially for low-income owners
11) Prescribed limit
Cats are very different to dogs, and therefore this limit seems onerous. I believe it should be increased to three. However, if Council is committed to applying Section 11.2 in a fair and reasonable manner, thus allowing more pets for responsible owners, this may be less of an issue

3. Effective control by means of physical restraint, with respect to a cat, means:
3.1.4.1 the person is exercising effective control of the cat by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed two metres in length restraining the cat; This section is encouraging inappropriate restraint of a cat. it is inhumane & cruel to put a chain on a cat. Many of us know that putting a cord or leash on a cat and leaving it unsupervised can cause cats to physically hurt themselves.
4,5,6... The registration of cats and the fee attached to that registration... there is nothing gained by charging that fee except as a revenue for the council. Over the years I have spent over four thousand dollars to create a safe environment, for any cat under my care and to protect the wildlife in my backyard. I did not receive any funding from the council to support me to do this project. Therefore, I don't believe paying a registration fee is going to be a benefit to me and others who have created safe pet runs. My cats have always been microchipped and desexed so there is no need for me to have them registered. Even if, they accidentally got out of their safe environment and captured by others the microchip would ensure that they would be able to reach me. I have heard of people being charged to have their pet returned to them. Especially with people who have paid dog registration and still they are out of pocket to have their pet returned. By adding all these costs to registration of animals, cats and even dogs it makes it difficult for your regular families to own a pet, it will become only the wealthy who can afford to have a pet. There are many studies out there that would tell you that pets have played an important part in everybody's life, who chooses to have one. It is good for their health and well-being.
11... I believe that 2 is a very small number and doesn't take into consideration other factors for example… keeping elderly cats as they may need rehoming due to unforeseen circumstances, keeping cats together as they have been paired/grouped/bonded. What would happen when blended families come together and each group has 2 cats each? Do they have to decide which of the 4 cats to keep? So wrong!! I believe that a specific number should not be stated. Some people keep trying to compare the cat by-law with the dog by-law. That's like comparing apples with oranges. They are not in common at all. Some dogs create a nuisance by barking a lot so I guess I understand that 2 may be an ok limit. Cats are quiet and not heard. An example of this is that when I owned cats the neighbours weren't aware of the cat's presence and were surprised when I told them I had cats saying they never hear them.
OTHER.... Cats who are kept inside and/or confided to owners' backyard in pet runs should not be mandated to be wearing collars. This should be up to the owner's discretion. Collars were needed to identify the animal's owner. This is not needed since microchipping was introduced. Many cats lose their collar and at times have them removed by people who try to cause them harm. Cats can hang

themselves when caught on something and also have it caught under, they front leg causing loss of circulation and possible loss of limb
I think limiting people to 2 cats is overly tough and unfair. Unlike dogs, they don't need walking, they don't bark, and they can be quite happy living inside or using a catio. There are so many cats needing goods homes that to not allow people more than 2 would create so many more homeless cats. If they're desexed, microchipped, registered and looked after I think you should have a much higher limit. Probably 4-5
While it may seem a good idea for all sorts of reasons for cats to have a collar with a disk, it is very difficult to keep a collar on some cats. Collars frequently get lost, and I think that a microchip requirement may be more useful for identification purposes. As to limiting cat numbers, animal shelters find it a constant challenge to re-home cats. If a cat enthusiast is prepared to look after multiples in a household, then that is more cats rescued, and less in shelters. Limiting cat numbers to a cat-lover will encourage non-registration and exacerbate numbers in shelters. Providing the other points are adhered to, e.g. a cat is kept indoors after a certain time, microchipped and de-sexed etc. There should be no problem. People who dislike cats for whatever reason should not be allowed to restrict the number of cats others may have simply because they do not like them. I am also concerned about what is to happen to people who already have more than two cats. Would they be required to surrender all but two? What would happen to the surrendered animals? Would shelters become inundated with forced surrenders? How will the council be able to police this policy? Will households with more than two cats be fined? What evidence would the council use to determine how many cats a household has - cats tend to roam into neighbouring properties during the day - would an occupant's word be enough to issue a fine? I would be very cautious about identifying feral/nuisance/strays as these, are often used by people who do not like cats/their neighbours who own cats to report to council or personally catch pets, and hand them in for destruction as a 'stray'
5. Registration procedure for cats - Opposed to registration fees for cats 9. Cats not to wander at large - Domestic pets go for a walk up the street occasionally - not likely to be a nuisance. They return home - heavy handed and getting mixed up with ferals 10. Cats not to be a nuisance - Cats cannot tell the time. Ridiculous proposal of curfew hours
Aspect 9. Our very strong preference is for cats to be confined at all times as is the case for the Adelaide Hills and Mitcham council areas. In any event allowing cats to wander for 16 hours per day between 6am & 10pm is excessive noting the commensurate higher risk for predation of native wildlife especially during longer night time hours in winter. We further note this length of time exceeds that allowed in By-Laws for other Councils; e.g. Campbelltown, Marion & Mount Barker along with Adelaide Hills & Mitcham Aspect 10. Please add section 10.2.4 stating "predates on birds and other wildlife" or similar wording in respect to causing a "nuisance". Also Section 10 needs to make clear that cats causing nuisance constitutes an offence as stated explicitly in By-Laws for other council areas; e.g. Adelaide Hills, Campbelltown, Marion, Mitcham & Mount Barker Aspect 11. Our strong preference is for the number of cats to be limited to one per household. Double this number is inviting double the consequences. We are less concerned in the case of 24/7 confinement Other. No section dealing with Enforcement. Need to add Part 4 dealing with Enforcement as is the case with By-Laws for other council areas; e.g. Adelaide Hills, Marion, Mitcham & Mount Barker. The lack of a firmly worded Enforcement section makes the By-Law seem for guidance only. We are passionate about protecting local wildlife especially living opposite the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and Linear Park. Domestic & feral cats roam into our garden at all times of the day & night as reported by our CCTV security system which sends notifications for every intrusion (most nights). We have experienced stalking and mauling of vulnerable ground-feeding native bronzewings in our garden along with regular stalking & killing of lizards. We have caught nine stray cats in our front garden over the past ~2 years using Council approved/supplied traps. We are also concerned with the huge potential for uncontrolled & unwanted domestic cats to add to the feral cat population. The

introduction & implementation of strict cat control legislation is overdue for the TTG Council area bordering the Hills Face Zone
Part 3 - Cat Management and Control 9.2 - allows cats to 'wander at large' between 6am to 10pm. I disagree with this as all cats should be kept inside their owners' house as they are known to kill multiple Australian wildlife and birds. 6am to 10pm is ridiculous. If people want cats why does the whole neighbourhood and surround wildlife have to put up with them from 6am to 10pm. Keep them on your own property preferably locked up inside
9.2 and 9.3 should be DELETED, or the designated span of hours should be reduced significantly to say 8.00am to 6.00pm. Cats wandering at large are a nuisance day and night. They urinate on my car, house doors and garden. They scratch my car. Cats also eat lizards and birds in my garden
(Concerns about) Keeping a cat inside 24/7. I have already started to think of ways to try and keep my cat in overnight 9pm-7am. (He already goes to bed with my 4 year old as he is a support animal for him) It is hard when you have a doggy door for a dog that lives inside and out and both are support animals for my children with challenges. I will have to look at removing the cat if we have to keep him contained 24/7 as I could not deal with the stress of trying to keep him in when kids leave outside doors open and the dog needs to be able to go freely inside and out during the day. I cannot lock a cat inside 24/7 that is used to being outside and inside. I do not have a room in the house to be able to contain him. It just simply is not possible
I would like to have cats confined to property 24/7
What are the rights of property owners who find cats "wandering at large" on their property, causing a possible danger to wildlife, entering areas that the property owner is not comfortable with and just being on their property. I would like the term "nuisance" defined fully, this will mean different things to different people. As I understand the draft bylaw, a cat owner's cats may "wander at large" all day until 10pm. This is when birds and reptiles are most active, cats are natural hunters, so this makes no sense to me. Is the cat owner responsible for ensuring that their cats remain on their property and if they don't, what can the other property owners do?
I don't agree with cats being allowed to roam off someone's property at any time, we have had times during the day when cats have been in our yard, this upsets our dog, who then will bark loudly at the cat. This noise then causes us to get complaints from neighbours re our dog barking. With their potential and documented damage cats cause to our native birds and wildlife, I see no reason why they should be allowed to freely roam off someone's property
I think cats should be confined 24/7. Confinement needs to be total
As a cat owner, I would like cats to be contained to their owner's property at all times unless on a lead / contained and accompanied by their owner. Provide one year's grace for owners to come up with a strategy to keep their cat on their property at all times
My Preference is that cats should NOT be allowed to wander at large. Should be confined to owner's property at ALL times. This prevents the cats from being a nuisance, and protects the wildlife
5. I don't believe that cat owners should have to 'potentially' pay for registration after the first 2 years of the new bat by-law. They should always be registered, but at no charge 8. Cats that remain inside 24/7 should not have to wear a collar with identification details. They should be micro chipped and registered with their local vet for identification 9. Cats should not be allowed to wander at large at any time. Owners have no way of knowing where they are at all times and what activities they get up to. They should always be kept inside but if owners choose to let them wander on their property ONLY they need to put into place ways that they can stop them from leaving their own property
The council should not be limiting the number of cats kept in a home. Families can have more than two cats and still be responsible pet owners. Our family had five cats growing up following a death of a family member and adopting a stray, taking our 3 intended cats to 5, and it was a really happy time
One of my cats regularly loses his collar. We must have replaced it ten times or more in four years. I am concerned that I'll be constantly buying not only new collars, but new engraved tags. This is expensive

and time consuming. My cats are kept in at night and do not stray far outside our property. I have never received feedback that they are a nuisance
While cats can wear a collar large disks would not work and some cats will get out of their collars repeatedly
Effective control / Wandering at large no penalties put in place. How can cats be allowed to be off premises at any time, like dogs cats should be confined on the premises no matter what cost to the owners. The identification of cats requires cats to wear a collar with identification tags attached, that would pose an issue as cats climb and a collar poses choking hazard. Given that a curfew is proposed how are cats to be effectively controlled / wandering at large, what are the penalties for noncompliant owners, how will / who will issue penalties on noncompliant owners. Without total confinement cats will still be able to wander, defecate, kill native flora and fauna and spread diseases that affect domestic live stock
I think limiting numbers is reasonable, however, restricting to 2 is not really as relevant to cats as it is dogs. they do not need as much space or cost as much to be cared for properly. Also, will people who provide foster care for kittens or injured cats be included in the exemption? they often have multiple animals at a time
Collar on neck. A cat should not wear anything around neck it could get caught and they end up getting hurt it should be enough that they are micro chipped otherwise I agree with other suggestions if you love and care for your cat or dog you will abide by the rules to keep them safe
Delete clauses 9.2 & 9.3 - cats should not be allowed to wander at large anytime without being in direct control of the owner using a chain or leash or other tethered device. If allowed to wander Cats will defecate on surrounding properties and destroy fauna with particular concern to native bird life. The same restraints that apply to dogs at large should be the same for cats
I don't believe that you should mandate that cats have a collar and ID tag. Cats are not dogs, and some cats will not stand for things around their neck. I know that if I attempted to put a collar on my cat, I'm going to end up in Emergency with severe lacerations. Further, it will be very difficult to put a collar on any older cat that is not used to one. If a cat is microchipped (which is compulsory), then there is already sufficient identification
As responsible cat owners, we prioritise the safety of our feline companions. This includes having them desexed, keeping them within our property limits, and having a love for all creatures. In my perspective, addressing issues related to dogs, such as incessant barking, off-leash walks, inappropriate urination, and failure to clean up after them, holds more significance in terms of time, effort, and cost compared to concerns about cats. The disruptive nature of barking dogs can lead to significant stress and frustration, prompting individuals to consider relocating, thereby straining neighbourly relationships. Conversely, such disturbances are not typically associated with cats. While implementing a curfew for cats may appear beneficial, it's essential to recognise that cats can pose a nuisance at any hour. Despite the potential benefits, I lean towards treating cats similar to dogs by mandating their confinement within the property to prevent accidents and causing a nuisance. The proposed legislation appears to prioritise financial gains for the council rather than community welfare. This law would impose expenses on the community, including costs for desexing, microchipping, annual registration, fines for curfew violations, and the emotional toll on animals confined indoors, being microchipped and desexed. It raises questions about the community's benefits from this initiative. If the primary goal is community well-being rather than revenue generation, registration fees should be waived permanently. I advocate for enforcing similar protocols for cats found outside their designated areas, akin to procedures for dogs, including fees for reclaiming animals from shelters. While I acknowledge concerns about the perceived cruelty of microchipping, I recognise its utility in identifying lost cats for potential reunification with owners or providing closure in case of the cat's demise
Cost in the long term. I'm very happy to microchip, register and keep cats inside. I don't want fees associated with it. We have 4 teen/young adults (our children) living with me and my husband. We'd like to have more than two between us. We find cats very helpful for our mental health. Secondly, we have a middle aged cat and our young cat recently died. Often the shelters have bonded pairs. A limit

of two cats excludes us from taking a bonded pair. Thirdly, I'm concerned about the revenue raising that cat registrations could become. I'm very willing to microchip, register and keep my cat/s inside, but I want owning cats to be affordable and so I'm concerned this is a slippery slope to the Council charging lots to register once the free period is over. Fifthly, we keep our cat/s inside always, but my children and I enjoy patting other people's cats when we're on a walk. Some families can't afford or are unable to keep a pet. It is nice to share the benefits of our pets with others
#9. I believe that cats should be kept on their owner's properties at all times. This is for the safety of the local wildlife, the comfort of residents, and also the safety of the domestic cats- a domestic cat cannot be run-over, in a fight, trapped illegally, poisoned or otherwise harmed, if it is kept on the owner's property
11. I think the limit on cats being only 2 is too low. I agree with a limit but it should at least be 3
The proposals will not address the problems caused by "un - owned" cats, i.e. strays, lost and feral cats. The proposals will place a financial burden on cat owners in respect to confinement of their cat, i.e. fencing costs or enclosure costs. The requirement to wear a collar as well as be microchipped is redundant and, unlike dogs, collars can be dangerous for cats causing injury and possibly death.
3.1.4 - Delete the word chain. I am interested in what the RSPCA says about cats and chains but it doesn't sound right to me 3.22 - Delete everything about collars - cats should be microchipped and this should suffice. Collars come off easily which is important but this is a fact of life and people should not be penalised for the collar working as it is designed to do. I have found two random cat collars near our place in the recent past. Although they look cute they can also be dangerous to cats if they don't fall off and I have never used cat collars for this reason. Cats go into small spaces, climb trees etc. and if the collar malfunctions can get caught up or worse hung. Dogs do not have these dangers so you can't put them in the same basket. Our cat performs an important function of rodent control on our large suburban block and should not be impeded from performing this community service 4. Cats are already registered (zero cost) and this is updated annually. This is enough. I do not agree with Council charging a fee for creating unnecessary red tape 5. and 6. Currently we register our cat then confirm annually with no fee payable. This is enough of an impost already so just leave it at that 8 - Cats should be microchipped. This status can be reflected in an ear tattoo. The collar ID is unnecessary as microchipping is far superior and readers are available at all vets 9 - Cats do move about and despite best intentions some can be in the wrong place at the wrong time. They should still be treated with respect and dignity whether you like them or not. We keep ours in at night and I agree with the 10pm to 6am containment period. I am concerned that legislation that talks about all the negatives of some felines and none of the positives of the vast majority of cats will lead some cat haters to think they have a right to be intolerant of their neighbours and trap family pets causing a great deal of pain and anguish
Having a neighbour's cat wandering at all hours, screaming at our bedroom window and at next door, we would love to be able to "do" something. Can't trap it, as it is "owned" (microchipped). I have a scanner having been a breeder up until Christmas 2024. Tired of all the baby birds being killed and left all over our garden
I feel that the limit of two cats should be lifted to three, as it is quite common for people to own three cats. Other than that, I largely support the introduction of Cat By-law
5&6 - registration is already required under law on DACO for all cats. What fee is being proposed? What cat related benefits or assistance will be given by council to residents with any fees collected? i.e. pound, desex assistance, etc? Revenue collected for dogs is returned to residents via dog parks, rangers, pound, etc. 8 - I have a cat who can't wear a collar due to skin allergies. Exemptions permitted? 11 Rescues/foster carers. how are exemptions provided for additional cats? I have six indoor only cats and a cat run. My animals do not affect anyone else. What happens in my house is my business, so to speak. Additionally, I co run a cat rescue and foster. The number varies depending on what I'm

fostering (i.e. I may have a litter of orphans, a momma and babies, or an adult). These are temporarily and are moved on to adoption partners once ready. Numbers vary frequently and quickly.
It is unnecessary to require cats to wear a collar as they are micro chipped. The council can obtain the same data that it requires by linking microchip data into the registration requirements and database. In addition requiring cats to wear a collar introduces a risk of harm to the cat. From personal experience cat collars can become caught on objects which leads to them reacting like any animal when trapped, causing stress and potentially physical injury. In addition it gives a child or a dog a means of grasping and harming a cat. I support the requirement for cats to be kept indoors between 10 pm and 6 am. If the council were inclined to expand this I could understand the requirement to keep them in doors between sunset and sunrise. However the requirement to keep them indoors for 24 hours is an overreach with no objective evidence -based reasoning to support such a measure. It is abundantly clear that the loss of native animals and birds has principally been driven by the destruction of their native habitat. The impact of domestic cats is by comparison somewhere between zero and insignificantly negligible. If seeking to justify this measure on the basis of protecting native fauna, Council should first identify the specific zones of remnant or restored vegetation reserves, then design a targeted set of policies and practices aimed at protecting those zones rather than introducing a blanket measure. As to potential issues with neighbouring properties, existing provisions, in conjunction with the proposed limit of two cats per property (which I support), are sufficient
The proposal seems to include nuisance or injured cats being “collected” by TTG Council staff Inspectors? Are the TTG Council planning on paying for vet care or/and confinement of cats until the registered owner/s can be located/contacted?
It is cruel to contain cats. They are independent animals, who need to have a large area to climb and explore. They really like climbing trees and roofs, wandering through bushes and snuggle at the warm sunny grass patches. Even relatively large outdoor cat run would not be spacious enough to be adequate for this. In addition not many people would have a space or financial means to install one. Also, cats are very useful in controlling mice and rats. When we had a cat, she brought a couple of baby birds, was told off and since then she would only bring mice and rats. My friends with cats saying the same. I’m also against cat registration requirement. This is just extra work for a council and extra hassle for residents. I don’t want my council rates to paying for this endeavour. Microchipping is totally sufficient in case a cat is lost or nuisance. Actually not me (and I’ve lived around cats all my life) or my friends never had any issues with cats creating nuisance. I would assume it would be a rare occurrence and doesn’t apply to most cats. However, on a side note, possums are real issue - they eating and keeps destroying my plants and most vegetables I was trying to grow over the years I don’t support using a collar as it creates a safety issue for cats. I support desexing. I strongly support humane management of feral and stray cats. I support management of nuisance cats
The next door cat roams - often crossing the road to another cat - causing problems. I mentioned to next door neighbour that I see a lot of dead cats on the side of Target Hill Road. He shrugged his shoulders and said “eh”. Both cats can be outside my bedroom, yowling, before 6am. There are quite a few cats roaming outside houses 1, 2 & 3 at the bottom of the street causing traffic problems (these are renters). We have had many cats in our backyard and often they walk past our kitchen. We were able to contain a cat in a large box while I went from door to door to find the owner (a renter). The cat from next door climbs the tree in their backyard to come into ours. Cats walk across the roof of a house over the road (the renter has no pets)
I believe the limit on cat numbers is too low and too restrictive. 4 cats maximum would be a more realistic limit, given cats need to be microchipped and restrained within certain times. I do not believe in cats wearing collars. Cat being microchipped allows for clear identification when/if required. I do not think residents should have to pay to register their cat/s, now or in the future. This is clear revenue raising only and does not add to the by-laws objectives
We have one cat and it is a support animal for my daughter who suffers from extreme anxiety issues. Our cat NEVER leaves the house except for short periods of time and ONLY on a lead. I would prefer to have a fine/ zero tolerance for roaming animals rather than a blanket everyone pays system. Given the cost of living today, it is hard enough keeping up with bills let alone having another one to the list. As

all cats are (supposedly) microchipped and registered it should be a simple process to identify those animals that are not housed correctly
5 & 6 - The proposed registration procedure may discourage people from registration rather than encourage. I think that a cat should be registered at time of ownership and updated at death or if the cat is rehoused. A microchip and registration should be sufficient. It should be assumed if the registration has not been updated the cat is still under ownership. Perhaps an annual "verification" of registration would be good but this should not include a fee. There should not be multiple fees - this seems like you need to "subscribe" to your own cat 8 - If a cat is microchipped I do not think it should be required to have a collar with personal information on it. Collars can also be a safety issue for a cat if they get stuck in something 9 - I understand the premise, however I do not know how this could be realistically implemented. Ideally cats should be kept inside but if they are already outside cats I think the focus should be on minimising risk. If a cat can be kept in, great. However I think there should be some leniency if a cat is outside but is registered, microchipped etc. There should be a period of time phasing into inside cat ownership but that cannot happen overnight 11 - I think there should be a limit but it should not be set at two. I think there should be a process where someone can "apply" for consideration of additional cats. They would need to prove they can maintain quality of life and if they have multiple cats they should not be wandering around
Cats not to wander at large at any time! - NOT OK to wander at large 6 am to 10 pm! PART 3 - 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 - CATS CAN BE A NUISANCE (by fouling neighbourhood properties as per 9.3 hours i.e. 6 am to 10 pm. This is not OK, not acceptable. I have had a neighbour's cat fouling at my backdoor near the clothesline. This has been a frequent issue and is disgusting
I have 2 cats that are locked inside at night, the third lives outside, my cats are unable to go into the front yard unless let out through the door, they are elderly and cannot jump the gate, they all have a big backyard to explore with shrubs and trees. As there are mice and rats here occasionally it is good that the outside cat catches them
8) Identification will be difficult unless there is a tag on the collar - who reads a microchip? 10) Make sure cats are kept indoors at night. Aust wildlife is active at night and cats kill them
9) I believe, that they should be treated like dogs and contained 24/7. There is a lot of 'nuisance' time between 6.00am to 10.00pm. What fines will be applied for a breach and how will it be policed? 10) As with (9) - How will it be policed? What can residents who are affected by nuisance cats do? What penalties will apply? I am affected by nuisance cats, fighting/mating - crying. They spray up my door and outside furniture and deposit dead birds in my garden. I feel very strongly about all of the above. I have tried to make a wildlife haven in my garden and it has turned into a war zone. Why should cat owners be treated different than dog owners? I believe large fines apply for these offences
9, 10. Keeping cats contained to the owner's property for only 10pm to 6am, is too short a time and lets the cat out to wander for 16 hours of the day. I have had property damaged and wildlife destroyed by cats. Outdoor furniture has been ruined, my car has been scratched, and many lizards and birds killed by cats. The owners of cats are not listening 7. How will council know who's cat is out and roaming if you cannot (carefully) trap them? The fines for allowing cats to wander should be the same as for dogs
9.3 Designated span of hours i.e. 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Cats wander our area during these hours and cause a nuisance. Cats urinate, defecate, spray and fight at any time in a 24 hr period. NOT just between 10p.m. and 6 a.m.!!! When gardening I have to be aware of any droppings that I have not noticed as the stink on your shoes remains for a long time even if you wash it off. Recent cat visits to my property without my consent in the last week include:- (1)when going out to collect my rubbish bins nuisance cat was sitting above the grate on my driveway where a blue tongue spends a lot of time sunning itself. (2) On lifting the blind early in morning same cat sitting by the bird bath and feeder in the back garden. (3) Same cat up by the back door early in the morning as I was going out to feed the birds. A few years ago I had to replace my front door as through constant cat spraying the wood had

deteriorated badly. I installed a metal security door in front of the new wooden door to help protect the wood which has helped to a degree. I do not hate cats I just do not want them roaming around my garden and leaving their 'deposits' behind nor frightening the wild life from my garden, over the past few years I have been planting more natives to attract the birds, bees, butterflies and lizards etc. The current cat problem in our area does not help in my mission. A few years ago I politely asked the owner of one of the cats to keep it in her garden but she replied that it was a very friendly cat and was an outdoor cat so needed its freedom to roam. Other neighbours have similar problems some of whom are not tech savvy and would not be aware of this survey
1) Wearing collars unacceptable. Cats shouldn't wear collars. Cats aren't dogs. Collars can be removed by trouble makers, fall off, hang a cat or as happened to one of my cats I adopted from a shelter be the reason for amputation of her leg 2) Cats shouldn't be require registration. I can take my dogs to a dog park or attend dog training lessons but what benefit do I get for registering my cat NOTHING 3) Limit on cats. It's not the number of cats one has it's the care given e.g. cat runs, microchipped, regular vet visits, stimulation inside cat 4) Those that don't care won't do any of the things suggested so why should good cat owners be punished 5) Limit of cats per household has scared many, cats will be dumped or disowned. What about blended families? How do they decide which cats to destroy? 6) Nothing suggests real solutions - just penalising people and therefore their cats. e.g. every 10 years a rate payer should be able to claim the desexing cost which is deducted from one's rates. How will you support the elderly, low income owners, cat proof their yard as I am reluctant to believe that you will help in this area Cats on chains! That's not ok. Why does the lead have a 2 metre limit? As stated nothing suggests solutions. By-laws but what's the consequences of by-laws other than a fee which hasn't been revealed I can't support anything without the full picture
Why shouldn't the Council be allowed to trap cats. Owners should be required to use fence rollers or cat runs. They should always be confined to their own property. Why should cats be allowed to wander? at any time? They can then come into my property and terrorise my bird, urinate on my car vents, defecate in my vegetable garden, howl in groups at night on my property. They kills birds in my garden. I am forced to only put my bird cage in my garden when I am able to sit by it for fear that a cat will come to attack it. Why should I be restricted because of other people's animals on my own property
Definition - disagree with cats being restrained. Cats do wander not necessarily doing anything harmful. Limit on cats - disagree families that want to foster cats can't if limit. What happens to elderly people who have cats if needed to be cared for by family members if limit on cats. Registration for cats is just about the money, no benefit for cat or owner. Trapping cats is a concern for animal safety and cat haters to trap and destroy cats because they can. (It is about the money unless Council is contributing significantly towards cat safe enclosures for home. I currently live in a court and on my walks and daily drives I rarely see a cat. As an owner of a property in Ridgehaven also I rarely see cats or have issues with cats. I do agree with cats being inside at night time. Dogs are provided dog parks are Council going to help families buy cat enclosures
Reference number 9. Cats should not only be restricted to be in doors between 10pm till 6am as the domestic cat in our area does all of its damage 24/7. This is the time it uses our backyard as its toilet defecating on our garden and urinates to leave its scent on all our outside doors, pot plants, rubbish bins, care tires and our garage Reference number 10. If cats can wander free between the hours of 6am till 10pm they kill our native birds, chickens and become a nuisance in the area this is when domestic cats should be in a secure cat run. These pets are just as bad as feral cats. The C.T.T.G does not tolerate this behaviour from Dogs so why should your citizens have to put up with the same behaviour from Cats

4 & 6. I see this as a cynical money grab unless you are prepared to do a one off life-long registration as they do with animals in NSW. It's clear you will use this as further revenue raising. Compulsory microchipping is sufficient for identification purposes 9. There is a clear lack of understanding that cats can and do much damage whilst wandering during daylight hours. I have terrible problems with them using my garden as a toilet due to no presence of cats in my yard. They also stalk and kill small lizards and birds during the day. That makes them @10 a nuisance. There should be a 24/7 curfew if you want to address anything more than money grabbing 11. It's nobody's business how many cats people have as long as they are confined. They don't bark, they don't attack people. Once again, another grab for invasive power and control

Neutral

I'd like to think we're already responsible cat owners. Our cats do go outside but are kept inside overnight. We haven't had any issues in our immediate surroundings regarding nuisance cats or strays that I am aware of, but then I do know of other streets that have big problems. I'm neither for or against the by laws
I do not see many cats in my area
Our cat is an adopted stray with a mind of his own. I cannot see us being able to restrain him in any way

Do not support/do not want a Cat By-law

https://petwelfare.org.au/response-to-draft-tap/
The law is a left-extreme law with the sole effect of leading to the disenfranchisement and execution of cats. The propaganda against cats is simply ridiculous
Council has provided a lot of information showing its support for and intention to control cats, either as part of State legislation, or on its own. I have seen no information giving coherent reasons to control cats and why Council is spending so much time and effort pursuing this control. I have never had any issue with stray cats and I don't know anyone who has. The only potential issue I can think of is that cats sometimes kill wildlife. Even in our urban environment, the number and variety of birds I see each day suggests that this is not a significant issue and certainly does not warrant bringing in onerous controls. Nor have I seen any information from Council which discusses the value of owning cats. People generally don't own cats without reason, but that is what Council's proposal infers. Cats are very well known for their value as companions, particularly for those with mobility issues such as the elderly and the disabled of all ages, because cats are semi-independent. They generally need no exercise or toileting. This means that children, the elderly or disabled people can easily have a helpful and affordable companion. I have seen nothing from Council which addresses the issue of depriving vulnerable people of their companion. Council has made no attempt to address how it will replace cats' companionship value and I think it is not possible to do so. These by-laws will mean that some of the most vulnerable people in our society will become more vulnerable. Not a good look, Council. Nor have I seen anything from Council which recognises that cats kill mice and rats. If cats are not permitted to roam freely, rodents will proliferate. Who would prefer this? One obvious result will be that we end up with more foxes and other wild rodent hunters. These hunters are not fussy and will also prey on birds and other small animals. Has Council considered the obvious results its intended by-laws will produce? That is, that the cats will be replaced by foxes and other wild hunters, which will be much more dangerous than cats and much harder to control. Cats (and other pets) are also well known to help and educate children in responsibility, caring, loving and companionship. As I mentioned above, I have never had any issue with stray cats and I don't know anyone who has. Outdoors, cats tend to be quiet and shy of people. They do not defecate on pathways, annoy or attack people, or roam around in packs. It seems to me that Council proposes to increase restrictions on cats and their owners for no useful or valuable purpose. Council has provided a lot of information showing its support for cat control and its intention to control cats, either as part of State legislation, or on its own. I have seen no information telling us the reasons that Council wants to control cats and why Council is spending so much time and effort pursuing this control. Dogs have always caused many

more problems than cats. One of the main reasons for the introduction of registration for dogs was to reduce the number of strays and particularly, packs of stray dogs, which barked and howled, raided rubbish bins and attacked people. Registration worked and stray dogs are no longer much of an issue. Now that dogs are microchipped, they should no longer need to also be registered. I think Council would help the community more by addressing continuing dog issues like barking and defecation on pathways, something that I have to step around every time I go for a walk
It is impossible to contain a cat at a very specific time. (even though my two cats are strictly indoors) I do not support this bill of having to pay registration (my cats do not go outside so what is this registration fee for exactly?!), I do not support the additional proposed changes of having owners name and contact number
I strongly disagree with “containment of cats at all times” and do not support it
It is not sustainable. What happens to cats caught? Some owners have outdoor only cats, they can’t suddenly have them trapped indoors. They will escape. If you want yards to be cat proof, it requires a lot of money. When we got our family cats we did not budget to have a cat run or indoor only cats. We also do not have the space for a cat run from any of our doors. Because of these by-laws our cats will likely be trapped and taken. Then what? We can’t afford to constantly pay, so they will eventually be put down. Our children love them and will be distraught. All for no reason. We saved them, as they were found in someone’s yard dumped. We paid to get them desexed and microchipped
The cat collar is unenforceable, cats have break collars because they naturally climb even when container and jump down so can catch the collar, a collar that doesn’t break is dangerous. Given they are designed to break off how can you enforce a collar rule. A dog collar is different, it is designed to be used to lead and restrain a dog. It won’t come off in the normal course of the animal’s activities therefore that rule can be enforced for a dog. There’s a chance you’re applying a rule for one animal, a dog, and using it as a standard for a different animal with different needs and a different type of collar. I’m this case not all collars are made the same! Containment during hours of darkness, presumably this is aimed at providing a warden during those hours that will now be able to catch feral cats? If not what is the point? Laws are pointless if they are not enforced. I understand there’s a lot of anti-cat sentiment. My concern as a prosecutor is that laws without proper thought, application and ability to enforce are pointless. Dog fouling is a good example of that, no one enforces it, those who don’t care still let their dogs foul, the problem isn’t fixed by the law! Cat by laws appear to lack thought about the issue it is trying to tackle, which is ultimately feral cats or those who don’t look after their cats. Collars can’t be enforced due to design, curfews won’t stop feral cats or those who don’t care, just like dog fouling! It appears to be a law driven by sentiment rather than ability to enact any powers. If that is the case then it will drive ill feeling in the community towards the council and a view they are useless and pointless which is counterintuitive which the council are trying to bring in the by law to win favour! Make sure you’ve thought through the enforcement of any by-laws and let me know when the night shift job of cat containment enforcement becomes available!
I have lived in this area for 20 years and never had any issues with Cats. As an owner of a cat I have microchipped, registered and desexed my cats over the years. Cats generally sleep during most of the day and therefore have a lot of energy to get out in the evening. I don’t think it is right to keep them confined to indoors as it is in their nature to play at night. I also do not use kitty litter as I have a baby and it is not hygienic. In my opinion and experience having cats all my life, they do not adapt well to collars especially with a tag attached. If my cat kept escaping from its collar as they do we could potentially be fined. I don’t think this would be fair seeing as I have paid for the already legislation requirements
Collar wearing can be dangerous. My cat has not worn a collar for many years. She is a very anxious 11yr old cat & I do not wish to be made to put a collar on her. Also my cat does go outside usually around 4 am to go to toilet & then comes back in. she does not venture any further than a cross the road as she is such a scardy cat that she never strays out of site of the house. I also don’t believe cats should have to pay registration. That is just another fee for council to collect money. They are registered, micro chipped & desexed. They should have enough evidence as to who the cat belongs to

Don’t find cats to be a nuisance in our area, due to other initiatives in the community cat numbers, breeders and unsprayed feral cat numbers are low compared to previous years
Very hard to train your cat to stay inside when they have been an outside cat for years. Have tried for years to keep inside but no luck
I strongly oppose the proposed local government initiative concerning mandatory cat registration and ownership limitations. My concerns are as follows: Anticipated Financial Burden: I am convinced that, in the near future, councils will introduce a registration fee for cats. This fee will likely be linked to property values, as has been seen with other local charges, resulting in a substantial and undue financial burden on households. This move would disproportionately affect homeowners, creating a hidden tax under the guise of animal welfare Lack of Services for Cat Owners: Despite imposing such fees, councils currently do not offer any meaningful services to cat owners. Additionally, many cats do not wear collars or can easily remove them, necessitating frequent replacements. The cost of continually buying new collars and engraving them adds yet another financial strain on households Infringement on Privacy and Autonomy: The mandate restricting the number of cats a household can own (e.g. a maximum of two cats) is an unwarranted intervention in private life. Such a restriction will likely lead to an increase in euthanasia rates as shelters become overwhelmed with cats that owners are forced to give up Increased Council Revenue at the Expense of Residents: This law appears to be more about generating revenue for the council than genuinely caring for animal welfare. It will increase costs for cat owners without providing any tangible benefits or support, functioning effectively as another tax masked by a pretence of concern for animal welfare In summary, the proposed cat laws would unfairly penalize cat owners, reduce animal welfare, and serve primarily as a revenue-generating measure for councils. I urge a reconsideration of this initiative, focusing instead on more supportive and less financially punitive measures for responsible pet ownership
Cat curfew hours: - Some areas, e.g. the one I live in, consists in narrow streets where cars drive slowly and the risk for cats is minimal. Enforcing curfew makes no sense for the safety of the cat, at least in those areas - I’m strongly against locking a cat in a house. They need space to roam around because that’s in their nature - My cat has been living for 3 years with the right to roam around, day or night. Now I’m supposed to lock him in at night? This by-law should not even exist or at the very least take effect in 10 years time, so that current cats die of age and new cats can be trained for the curfew. Otherwise, I’ll make sure to broadcast the recording of my cat crying at night directly into the bedroom of whoever designed that by-law - What happens if my cat does not get home at 10PM and I’ve failed to lock him in? Do I get a fine?? Max limits on cat: make that 3 at the very least. Finally, I’d like to point out that, FROM YOUR OWN REPORTS, cats are not nearly as much of a nuisance as dogs are. What is being done about dogs? This by-law won’t solve any problems is a giant waste of the council’s time, and is a pain for cat owners (talking about good cat owners, not the dictators who prefer to imprison them so that they may feel better). I mean, doesn’t the council have more important things to do? Is this were my gigantic council fees are going?
Do not want item 2 where to wear a collar, many cats refuse to wear a collar, they can be hazardous and strangle a cat, microchips should be sufficient identification. Do not want item 3 no minimum on amount of cats on premises it should be the owner’s discretion especially if an owner keeps them indoors or in a cat run. I regularly look after family pets and can have up to five cats at a time whilst I am pet sitting. Agree with points 1 & 4
There are so many benefits to letting your cat explore the wider world, a few of the most key ones are as follows: 1. Plenty of exercise 2. Helps their mental health

3. Express their natural behaviours 4. One big litter box 5. Unlimited entertainment An outdoor cat is far less likely to become overweight, which is due to the fact that the great outdoors just has so much to do! When out and about, cats are more likely to spend their time climbing, running and exploring which is all excellent for their physical health. It is more likely for indoor cats to have mental health and behavioural issues due to boredom. It is harder for them to maintain good claw health without trees and climbing. They are also at high risk of obesity due to lack if movement and stimulation
I rely on Australian Animal Welfare Act that aims to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and not to allow to amend the laws introducing cruelty to animals. Cats are "animal" and as 'any living creature other than a human being' have common undeniable natural habitual qualities and characteristics that TTG COUNCIL is denying of them. Thus this new proposed policies and rules ARE QUALIFIABLE AS CRUELTY against cats!
Completely disagree. I purchased a cat under by-laws that never required me to pay registration or have collars, tags etc. and my cat has for all her life had the freedom and choice of the outside world. Why should I suddenly have to confine my cat that's previously used to the outdoors I side and put a collar and tag on her and pay registration for her when that wasn't the by-law when I purchased her. Had this been the law then I wouldn't of purchased a cat. What do I get for my registration fee? Dogs get dog parks that don't benefit my cat or I in any way. Are you going to build cat runs in local parks and places so I can put my cat in and allow her to run around in a cat run? Absolutely ridiculous idea because of people anti cats that suddenly pull everyone onto their bandwagon. I'm sure you have other places to spend money other than on another campaign against cats
I don't agree fir the council to have any authority or powers over pet ownership at all Its not their business & I don't agree that they should receive money from us for anything - why should we pay them fees... they don't own us. I don't recognise them as any authority. They work for us & are public servants so why should we pay them they already live & get paid from our tax dollars And our rates which are not legal. If you ask for something to be done in your street they never do it so what are they getting paid for. Now they want more money & try & charge people for pets that we own... its insanity. No thank you
The proposed law is an invasion of privacy and a total disregard for the goals of our hard working adoption agencies. If you haven't received a complaint about a specific cat, you don't have the right to say anything about said cat(s). It is absolutely disgusting to me that the animals that provide me with safety and emotional support as a disabled person, are being treated like they are some sort of nuisance when none of my cats have ever set foot outside nor do I ever plan on letting them outside. If you wanted to ban outdoor cats that's one thing, but you're trying to limit the amount of cats one household can own completely disregarding the thousands of cats in a shelter who are waiting for a home, what's your plan with them? Are you seriously going to stop people from adopting a third or fourth cat, who's whole life will be inside, because of the outdoor and feral cat population? This By-Law is rushed, unthoughtful and personally discriminating. The only thing you will achieve with this by-law, is the unregistration of all future adopted and purchased cats as you honestly have no right to dictate how many animals anyone has as long as you haven't received any complaints and the property in question is well kept and hygienic, and the animals are well cared for. Find a better way to preserve the ecosystem instead of destroying a part of it that you don't like because yes, cats are a part of our natural ecosystem now too. To enforce this by-law now would cause irreparable damage to our family, are you asking us to euthanize the 'extra' cats we have? Are you asking us to give them away? Are you asking people to stop adopting? Furthermore, the fee for registering a cat has always been free to help with reducing the amount of shelter cats there are, are you actively going against this by proposing that after 2 years there will be a fee? This has not been thought through and I implore you to please not let this By-Law pass
We are headed towards cats indoors only. These rules are for cat haters. You can't walk a cat on a leash. You can't stop a cat from escaping or pulling off collars. I am all for keeping a cat inside during

the night, however this may not work for night workers. I would need to excavate the backyard to become a cat yard with separated area for dog. Just ridiculous
1. Don't agree with registration. Money grabbing AGAIN. Also penalises low income people/elderly who have pets for company and therapy. Another joy in life stomped on by government! I have had cats for 50 years+. Up to 5. Always desexed, always in at night and in the house except for ablutions. No neighbour complaints. Money grabbing AGAIN if someone is fined. Collar is reasonable except can be dangerous. 1 of my cats nearly hung himself on a tree branch. lucky I was with him. Bought stretchable collars next and they sometimes lost them, scratched them off. Desexing should be mandatory, except for some breeding purposes. This also makes them more docile, less territorial and likely to wander
Why should I register cat that is 100% inside, next we'll be registering our toothbrushes and TV's. Why should cats have to wear an ID collar if they're microchipped, just scan the chip. $0 registration for 2 years and then guess what happens, yep, another revenue stream for greedy old TTG Council.
Cats must be restrained 24 x 7 just like dogs. Fees should be applicable just like dogs
Whilst roaming Tom cats can at times be a nuisance generally desexing has a positive control to cat fighting. We have always had cats but don't believe they are any risk to neighbours or wild life in our area
Unnecessary. It will also be impossible to manage
I don't believe we should be required to register our animals every year, many other councils (interstate and in SA) workforce a singular registration for the life of the animal, I believe that is a far more appropriate option rather than continual registration fees
The by-law is unrealistic. To treat cats in a similar manner to dogs would not work as they are a different species. Using the type of collar that would be required would be dangerous for cats. Also, there are many different animals responsible for killing wildlife (including dogs) but the blame tends to focus only on cats; having a curfew will only place unnecessary stress on owners, particularly if you are unable to find your cat by the required time. I think having a limit on two cats is fine (although hard to police)
I have an elderly cat who was raised to be outdoors. He is microchipped and desexed but will take off collar no matter how many times I buy and put one on him. He goes outside to sleep and go to the toilet but mainly inside. Due to his old age and nature, I cannot contain him inside. He does not venture far and has never caused a nuisance to my neighbours. Cats are very hard to manage and train therefore these laws are difficult to abide by
My cat has been free to come and go as it pleases for its whole life. Preventing it from going outside at night will result in many unhappy cats, along with forcing owners to buy litter boxes
My cat does not cause any issues. We bring her inside at night. We register her, she is microchipped and desexed
I should not have to limit the number of animals I own. I should not have to pay to register my cats
I have a number of issues and concerns with the proposed by law. The by law reads as though the point of it is to insert a future revenue stream (after the "maximum" two year initial period) rather than to actually add any value in regulating cats. Cats are not the same as dogs, they don't have dog parks, usually aren't walked on footpaths and in public spaces. I already have a name tag on my cat's collar with her name on it, and it does not have my name on it but it does have my mobile number. I can't see any reason why I should have to pay to have that replaced because it doesn't have my name on it. Why is this a proposed requirement? What value add will this be, and how will it outweigh the inconvenience it is going to cause? How does council propose to manage compliance with this by law? What is going to happen if a cat is outside the bounds of its owner's property overnight? Is there going to be a proactive compliance program? Research indicates regulating cats is a pointless exercise and does not result in reduced number of reports of nuisance. The only possible outcome I can see from this by law is that the council is going to start charging money just so I can continue to have a cat, that for the record, is confined to my property at all times of the day and night. Furthermore the existing registration process for cats is ridiculously unintuitive and the mandatory fields make it impossible to submit when you don't know all the information

Honestly, this type of proposal simply leaves many in the community frustrated and questioning the purpose of local government. People that are pet owners love and care for their animals and the environment. Cat owners have their cats microchipped, so why are you proposing collars and name tags on each animal? The suggestion of a fee free introduction period raises more questions than answers. What will occur after this period concludes? If you are proposing such a significant change that will impact many families then you need to transparently report the proposed forecast fees. For environmental purposes, most cat owners already have collars and bells upon their animals and confine them in the evening where possible. What do you propose the owner does when the family cat occasionally escapes in the evening? A pet within the family softens the harshness of our world for many in the community, in particular those with disabilities, or living in isolation. Your proposal will simply add another layer of harshness upon many. Come on Tea Tree Gully council, you can do better than propose such a law upon our community. For example, the council would be wise to refocus time and energy upon the core business of streetscapes, community services, enhancing parks and gardens seating and amenities, and rubbish collection
By-law [1] is just a money-grab (another tax on households that own pets, that be it cats). By-law [2] is redundant, as legislated [1] already requires all cats to be micro-chipped, hence identifiable via a micro-chip reader. I'm not sure how a 'stranger' would be able to read a collar tag on a cat unless it is already deceased (cats have a tendency to be scared and avoid contact of strangers, hence rendering the collar name/address/phone number useless). By-law [3] severely limits households to have greater than 2 cats, there is no 'choice', but a 'dictation' of number of cats. Pets numbers should be a choice (within reason) not having that number dictated to you. 1 to 6 cats for a household... sure, but anything greater than is cause for concern/intervention. But again, all cats should be micro-chipped. By-law [4] specifying/dictating when any given 'cat' must be confined to owner's property would be hard to act upon for the most part. Some cats are indoors, some cats are outdoors, some cats are both. Restricting access for cats can be detrimental to their health, physical and mental. This by-law will be hard to control by households for the most part. Personally I restrict my own cat to my own property during the day (free to roam the yard), but on occasion my cat does wander to adjoining properties (gate left open, jumps fence), but for the most-part my cat is contained within my yard. At night time my cat is inside with me from dusk to dawn 99.9% of the time (as I don't want cat fighting over territories, nor vet bills)
Council seems to be looking for an excuse to murder homeless cats, restrict ownership and hamper rescue organisations. A better option would be to assist with desexing costs and encourage rescuers/rescue organisations to rehabilitate homeless cats. Cats provide unconditional love and companionship to the elderly, families, lonely people and children
I don't believe there is any substantial reason for the by-laws
I own 3 cats and want to continue owning 3 cats without having to gain approval, I register my cats already and do not believe I should be charged a fee for this. I do not believe and restricting my cats wandering as they should be free to do this. My cats do not currently cause the neighbours any issues, nor do any of the cats in my street or neighbourhood cause me any issues. I am happy with the current situation and do not want any bylaws
Collars on cats. Possibility of charges to residents. Limit to number of cats to two. No consideration to residents with enclosures or indoor only cats
There is no need for further laws and regulations. We are already overly regulated, and adding this bylaw does nothing more. Cats already need to be microchipped and registered at dogs and cats online. Adding a registration fee (which will occur in time) is nothing more than an opportunity for money grabbing. I completely disagree with any further measures regarding this issue or amendment
All animals should be kept inside including dogs, cats, and birds. No one should have to put up with another person's pet being a pest
The proposed By Laws do not take significant issues into consideration
I keep my cat inside at all times, with a cat run, and I don't feel I should have to pay a registration fee for an animal that lives at my property, for which I already pay council rates. Dogs are walked and use

the local surrounding areas for leisure, cats do not. As my cat doesn't wander the streets, I don't use a collar. The collar is noisy and constantly wakes me. I agree with having to microchip your cat and that people should not be allowed to let their cats roam the streets. Any cats picked up, should be addressed with council.
We are totally over governed and over controlled by councils and governments and the councils are very good at picking on poor cats who most have never caught a bird or done any damage to any wildlife. Men basically hate cats because they can't control them and I am sick of councils telling rate payers what they are and aren't allowed to do. The decision of what we want to do with our pets should be just that our decision
Cat bylaws do not work ever - an expensive failure wherever they have been tried - see Mitcham, Campbelltown etc. Relying on residents to inform on other residents' breaking the law is divisive and creates community disharmony and will enable [like the former hiring out of cat trapping cages] cat haters to kill and dispose of neighbours' cats which have caused no harm. Cat registration should be free if the council wants compliance and should be linked to financial assistance for getting the cat/s desexed. Partnering with CATS Inc for at cost surgery and help with taxi fares for those without access to a car. Cat registration should be free if the council wants compliance and should be linked to financial assistance for getting the cat/s desexed. Partnering with CATS Inc for at cost surgery and help with taxi fares for those without access to a car. The cost to council would be no more than the loss of income foregone and salaries for 'inspectors' for the vast majority of cat owners who will not pay for cat registration. [Worth noting that dog registration, necessary because of serious dog attacks] is never cost neutral and always has to be covered from the General Rate, i.e. all ratepayers]. Cat registration fees, as discovered by all councils which have tried this, will cost the council [i.e. ratepayers] a lot of money and achieve nothing. The same amount of money spent on cat desexing vouchers [surgery and taxis] would achieve good cat management and close to zero cat related complaints. If Council truly want good cat management and control then they must focus on the totally necessary mass cat desexing to achieve cat population control and management. Without this all other measures are a waste of time and resources; with cat desexing most of the other controls become largely redundant. Most vets do not recommend cat collars because cats can kill themselves or lose a leg. Special collars designed to come off if the collar endangers the animal are therefore easily lost and the animal is not identified; the collars are quite expensive and not very useful. Microchips are much safer [though there is always some risk as with all surgical implants]
Several points are unreasonable and partly dangerous for the safety of the cats and their owners
In general, I have no opposition to the current policies on the part of the state government such as the present policy of de-sexing cats or microchipping. As these actions minimise harmful impacts on the local community as caused by the very territorial nature of Cats, and reduce overall stray Cat population (De-sexing), or in the case of microchipping provide a monitoring process for ongoing problematic cats, whilst also allowing the Council to return lost cats to their owners. However, I am very much opposed to the additional policies proposed as part of the by-law. My particular concerns are with proposed Cat curfew but also include the limit to total Cat numbers at each residential property. Firstly, in relation to the proposed Cat curfew, Cats by their very nature are free-roaming and in my mind it is cruel to restrict Cats on exhibiting traits in line with their natural tendencies. This is especially so when considering the fact that Cats are already de-sexed, reducing the chances of fights developing. Furthermore, whilst domestic Cats do harm native wildlife, these same Cats also act as a form of pest control for our communities, minimising rodent populations, and therefore snake populations which otherwise thrive with increased food sources. In relation to limiting Cat numbers, I am of the view that where the alternative is to send Cats to welfare centres, and eventually euthanise Cats. That the Council would endeavour to actually encourage Cat ownership. While I assume the Council would work to ensure that Cat owners who currently have more than two Cats would be exempt from this policy, I would hope that the Council considers that if they do indeed want less Cats roaming the streets, encouraging domestic Cat ownerships over strays would be the way to go
With constant rising costs people have enough to pay as it is without having to register ownership of a cat with the council when they're already required to be micro-chipped. Cats are important for

people's mental well-being and though I'm supportive of the proposed curfew, a limit of only two is far too low. Some cats are crafty little devils and will find any possible way to remove their collar, having them be required to wear it through council by laws is just silly. Especially when, again, they're already required to be micro-chipped
Waste of rate payer money
I already have 3 cats. There would be no way I would be getting rid 1 of them to appease the council by law. They are our family no a device that can be thrown away. I don't think people realise just how much the rodent population will grow. Cats are what keep the populations down. And to do that, they have to hunt at night. With the amount of old houses being demolished around rodents are trying to find new places to live
When laws are hollow and cannot support the spirit of cats they should be disregarded. Keeping cats at home - unless you have a permanent enclosure they will roam - the idea they should have a curfew is ludicrous - once roaming they have a mind of their own as to when they return for din-dins. It is all well and good to suggest this yet the practicality of enforcing it is quite impossible - or do you know where we can get small GPS Tracking unit that can be used on an app on our phone and at a reasonable price? Some cats will never want to wear a collar that has a metal tag on it - they will remove it by force - suggest removing this
I do not support the proposal to 24/7 containment of cats, I think it's an issue that being pressed by vocal minority in the community and they're trying to push it through while the community in general in the TTG area are somewhat uninformed about what it potentially happening
We got our cat for the purpose of it being a therapy cat for our autistic son. We got a rescue cat, as we wanted to help in that situation. We have never owned a cat before so we researched on the internet, where all the information we found said that cats are happy being inside if they are provided stimulation and an open window they could sit in front of if they wished. Nowhere did it say that cats that had already been outside cats would not be happy inside. Our cat was provided stimulation, but it would rip into everything, and it was very difficult keeping it inside as it would constantly escape, no matter how much we would try to keep it from getting out. We also tried to get it to wear a collar, but it lost 3, within a day of purchasing. We also factored in the fact that we wouldn't have to pay registration into our decision to adopt the cat. I feel that the new laws would potentially make matters worse because people would be more reluctant to take on rescue cats if the new laws came into place. I also think there would be more rodents around with less cats around to catch them at night. These new laws would be particularly detrimental to many current cat owners
I think that it's perfectly reasonable for cats to be registered and to wear appropriate identification (not necessarily tags as these can be unsafe, but for example identification sewn onto collar). However, it is setting a double standard when compared to the treatment of dogs in the area. For example, the dog park on Memorial Drive creates noise and traffic nuisance (much of which come from people who do not actually live in TTG), it has driven all the koalas from the area, and has made the sports field unhygienic and unusable to anyone that has a fear of dogs or wants to play ball games or participate in other sports activities. The changes to Anstey Hill are having a similar impact on the wildlife and now have the paths strewn with dog poop bags and worse still poop. So, let's get some balance into the discussion about how we treat pets, and have some compassion for people that already have 3 or more cats and are likely fearful the direction being taken
Separate email provided with commentary **(see Appendix 8, Attachment H)**
This by-law will put a lot of pressure on animal/cat rescue shelters and is absolutely not supportive of cat owners and lovers. Rather than putting a restriction on owning just 'two' cats (which is an extremely low number), strict rules should be made to keep the cats indoors. I do not support the idea of having the rescue operations needing to euthanize the cats that do not get adopted. This isn't fair to the cats or to animal lovers alike. Hope you take this advice into consideration before passing unnecessary legislations
Would like to see what State Government proposals are re State wide legislation (or other proposals). Would like to hear other facts from other sources. Council bylaws could create a 'mish-mash' of regulations confusing? Unnecessary?

REGISTRATION
Introducing a new registration system will create an enormous administrative and financial burden for cat rescue charities such as SACR unless they are exempt from the requirement to comply. We note that under the proposed by-laws, per section 4.4.3, a person is not guilty of an offence if... "the person is responsible for the control of the cat only by reason of the cat being kept for business purposes at prescribed premises." Prescribed premises however, as defined at s3.1.7, does not include a cat rescue charity. Because of SACR's structure, it is unlikely we would fall within the scope of cattery or a pet shop and would thus have to rely on each of our foster carers residing in the Tea Tree Gully area actively seeking an exemption under s3.1.7.4. It is unclear what the criteria and processes are for obtaining this exemption and many of SACR's volunteers are vulnerable people for whom a Council application may be stressful and upsetting.
Further, "business purposes" is not defined and it is unclear if rehabilitating animals for a not-for-profit could be considered as such. SACR considers that in order to continue our valuable work of getting cats off the streets and into homes, cat rescue charities should be clearly exempt from complying with the registration requirement as proposed.
SACR is concerned that the registration fees are $0 for the first 2 years but it is not clear what the fee would be after that. The cost of living is already preventing many people from providing their companion animals with proper care and we do not want to see an additional barrier to doing so introduced. If indeed SACR is not able to obtain an exemption from the requirements to register cats in our care, the cost of compliance would need to be borne by our organisation, which would limit the amount of life saving work we can do.
CATS NOT TO WANDER AT LARGE
SACR is aware of the issues caused by cats wandering at large but we do not consider it reasonable to impose a penalty on cat owners if they are not able to contain their animals 24/7 without offering a solution. Just as the human needs fresh air and sunshine to be healthy and happy, so too does a cat and we believe it is cruel to confine them to a totally indoor life unnecessarily. For this reason, many of SACR's members have cat enclosures but these are often expensive to construct and, for those living in rental properties, are simply not an option. If the Council is going to enforce this rule SACR would like to see a serious commitment from Council to assist people in constructing safe cat enclosures.
LIMIT ON CAT NUMBERS
If a person is able to keep cats at their premises in safe and sanitary conditions, such as in a cat enclosure or indoors, SACR does not consider it is the right of Council to tell them how many cats they may have. Further, this is potentially unfair on existing residents with more than 2 cats in their household as they have been until now, led to be believe they could keep multiple cats with no issue. It is invasive and demeaning that they should have to have their homes inspected by Council unless the welfare of the animals is in question.
Section 11.3 states that the limit shall not apply to prescribed premises but as outlined above, a cat rescue charity and its places of operation (in SACR's case, this is volunteer's private homes) are not explicitly stated as prescribed premises

Naming a few:
1. Cats by-laws do not solve problems, they create bigger ones. It is a waste of ratepayers' money and a potential for power abuse
2. Cats are not dogs and cannot be managed the same way. Cats cannot be confined, they are naturally free-ranging animals and do not adjust well to permanent confinement in small areas.
3. Limiting cats to 2 per property more likely would stop residents from taking responsibility for the unowned cats and getting them desexed
4. New version of Cats by-law encourages cat-haters to trap and kill cats. It is divisive for the community
5. Yearly fees likely would not stay $0 forever and even small amount would make a burden for low income earners and pensioners
6. Cats enclosures is absolutely absurd idea cause as it was mentioned it is a simple cruelty for cats to

be confined - no matter at home or backyard enclosure. Costs of that enclosure even with promised rebates wouldn't be affordable for many cat owners
10. (Cats not to be a nuisance) - Do not like cats to dig where my flowers are 11. (Limit on cat numbers) - One cat is enough
We've had an ongoing cat issue for over 6+ years which we've had no help with so me and neighbours took it upon ourselves to stop them at least breeding over 30+ cats at one stage - I've paid on a pension thousands and also finally found out about TNR after I paid all money and have to put cats in my name event though they weren't mine - I will be penalised for cats that weren't mine but now have kept a few to help
Definitions - disagree with cats being restrained using a chain. Wander at large - that's what cats do, doesn't mean they are doing anything harmful. Don't agree with just 2 cats, happy for 3. I would to foster cats one day. I don't want a limit. Also aware if elderly family member passes on the limit could affect the pet. Registering cats is just a money avenue. Trapping cats is a concern - what about returning people's pets and this could lead to cruelty. I live in a court I rarely see a cat and they certainly aren't a nuisance. I agree they need to be indoors at night. How would feral/stray cats be handled safely and caringly. How can cats be kept home?
Even though registration fee is proposed to be zero at first, I cannot be sure that it would not grow (in fact, I am nearly certain it would) - on top of the usual vet bill size, this can become quite a burden. Cats not wandering at large/being a nuisance - do you propose a "stay at home" warrant for cats? They are fully capable of wreaking havoc on a house when they are stir-crazy. Or would you suggest cat-proof fencing over the whole backyard? Not everybody nowadays even _has_ a backyard and the fencing would be another financial burden. Even if rebates are given at first/to some, the total cost of cat ownership will grow. Re: identification: Many people believe microchips to be bad for a cat's health. Many people find collars to be a strangulation hazard (alternatively, if the collar is easy-release, a terrible money sink). Neither way is fool-proof for ID (microchips don't always read, collars get lost). Mandating for cats to require both guarantees their owners both sets of dangers, both sets of financial losses... and still can't protect those owners from an "unidentified cat" fine. I'd prefer for people to make their own decisions regarding their own pets. Registration on a website (and any move towards all-digital methods of inter-person communication) is pretty complicated for the older/disabled people. They are unlikely to be able to keep the details up-to-date, either. And, anyway, who would think about updating details "within 72 hours" when their cat is lost or worse? Also, the more records there exist, the more chance of a data leak. Cats are usually adopted as an "easy-maintenance" pet (mostly self-reliant, not needing daily walks like dogs or heavy lifting like, say, an aquarium water change). Having to keep records up to date on a website is not something a cat owner would find easy to do, resulting in extra stress, lapsed records, fines and suffering... and more administrative work for Council staff, too. All problems that could be spared by _not_ adding any registration requirements. In all, this by-law would be a financial burden and, as usual, most affect the most vulnerable groups (disabled, elderly), who need the animal companionship the most. It will also be a poor use of tax funds better spent elsewhere. It will also be an administrative burden to all involved

Unsure

Some cats will not remain inside despite best efforts and causes them stress if you keep them inside
I have issues with some of the new proposed laws. I personally do not want my cats to have to wear a collar and identification tag. When I adopted them from the AWL they came with a metal tag and collar, which they managed to chew through and puts holes in the metal tag. I didn't want them to break their teeth so I removed them after a month. I also have had a pet cat in the past that had a collar and hung itself. Which is a horrible thing to happen to a pet. Cats are more curious then dogs and get into difficult situations so it's something that would concern me greatly. I would also like to state that it would be good if you could petition to the council to keep more than 2 cats. I already own 2 and I would hate to have someone close to me pass away and know that I couldn't take in their cat

because the law states I can only have 2. Just the little things like being able to petition to have more than 2 cats at your property. So that there is some wriggle room in the policy would be appreciated. It would also stop having to potentially put down the cat or give it to the already overwhelmed shelters
If you wish to own animals, birds, fish or other pets you should be obliged to keep them confined in your own property. Common sense. I cannot let my pet animals roam the district causing damage, interference or death of other species. I have photographs of too many cats roaming my property during the night

Appendix 2: Verbatim comments – Fee approach

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Strongly support

I believe cats should have the same restrictions as dogs - that is not let roaming loose as some do chase the birds
I think you do need to apply it gently as they haven't needed to do it
Hope when fees come in they aren't as expensive as dog registration as the council doesn't need to maintain parks etc. for cats
Would love a discount if cats permanently indoors but that would be impossible to track
I agree but think after the 2 year free period, that the fee should equal that of the one for dogs.
The fee when it is introduced should be a nominal fee or I can see many not paying
Any future fees should only be enough to cover administration of the rules
This is the only way it would effective, maybe extend it to free for existing cats but new cats have to pay
I think while the requirement is new & to encourage cat owners to do the right thing that a $0 fee is preferable. I don't know how it would be governed or applied if cat owners don't do the right thing.
Assistance for those on a pension
Dog owners have paid registration fee since at least the 1960s. It is now time cats are registered to at least allow proper management of cats before our native birds are all but extinct
Sooner the better
Although I don't agree with fees not starting straight away
A fee should be charged as soon as possible - two years with no cost seems very generous
Cat registration should be free, at least for existing cats. Any future fees should be very low in comparison to dogs, given the costs incurred for dogs (cleaning up faeces, poo bags, catching, dog pound). And fees should have a sliding scale to encourage desexing and microchipping.
If dogs need to be registered so should cats.
I would assume this would be managed via dogs & cats online, same as dog registrations so have no issues with the proposed registration fees.
Wonderful idea, cheaper desexing
I don't think it should be fee free. Dog owners are giving grace periods. If you can't afford the fee then don't have a pet
I think 2 years is too long - 1 year is plenty
Dogs are registered so should cats be
I strongly support registration but it needs to cost something. $0 for two years??? Seriously??? Then what, an extension for another two years??
Dogs have to be registered and fees are paid. Cats shouldn't be treated any differently.
It'll help make cat owners more responsible
Should match dog rego costs
Like Dogs, Cats should be registered and a fee paid every year. This legislation has been too long waited. Registration fees should be charged immediately legislation approved. Even if the fee only covers administration of the licensing initially and increases to sustainable fee after two years. Fee must be high enough to pay for control officers and a cat holding facility at Council
Unregistered cats, even in urban areas, should be considered feral pests and humanely destroyed
With the cost of living, we can barely manage. Being disabled, my two pets are my only company through the day, so please don't make the registration fees so that I can't afford them anymore. But yes, cats should be registered for sure

How will this be enforced? My neighbour has a dog and several cats, none are desexed and by council law all should be
Our dog has to be registered and indoors causing no disturbance so should be same for cats
I think a grace period of 2 years is generous to get people used to the idea that they will have to pay registration fees in the future
I fully support the proposal that all domestic cats & Dogs be Registered. Moreover, the Registration Fees and penalties for cats and dogs should be the same for both breeds
People are more likely to register their cats if the fee is free
Many owners put up signs with photos of their lost cat. If someone finds a dead cat that has been hit by a car at least they have closure what to happened. My neighbour had a beautiful cat and they never knew why he never came home
There should be fees applicable just like dogs
applies to dogs, should apply to cats
Fees should be the same price as dog registration fees
Responsibility for having cats, like dogs must be taken by the owners, and damages in one way or another must be righted as with dog owners
Also make it a part of the registration to also include the proof of a permanent cat run or you can't have a cat at all
It's free. It's easy. Ffs people
It should be the same as dogs but the cost should be smaller
Not sure why the council would begin with a $0 fee for the first 2 years. I have had dogs nearly all my life and have paid council fees for each and every one of them every year. Cat owners should not consider themselves different than dog owners
There should be an amount cat owners pay from day one. Dog owners have to
There does not appear to be any viable argument why cat owners should not be subject to the same regulations as dog owners particularly as cats are much more feral in behaviour.
One has to register a dog/dogs so why not cats
Should be no free period
I am currently registering my cats every year with the TTG council
I think the fee should start straight away
There should be a small fee to cover the cost to council of managing cats
A one year fee free is acceptable. Then a small fee after. This will help with controlling pets and clean up the amount of strays we have in the area. Council could also help with reduce fees if the cat is desexed
I think a $0 fee should only be for the 1st year, a discounted fee if the cat is desexed or proven to have an appropriate cat enclosure. A portion of the discounted fee or even a full fee if the cat is not desexed to go to the local cat rescue centres
Fee free for the first 2 years is a good idea to get people on board
As a dog owner, we pay annual registration; it should be the same for the CATS
Registration fees should be in place now, equal to dog registrations
It is fair for cat owners and the rest of the community
Having a fee free period allows cat owners to become aware of the new by-laws
If you own a cat, it should be registered. Owners of cats can be so negligent and irresponsible when purchasing or breeding them. The laws need to be strengthened. The impacts on environment, native animals and local community has become so problematic. It's unfair to the cats as well for owner's being so irresponsible. If a cat is not registered, it should be considered feral
Dogs are registered so why not cats. This also gives council information about how many cats may be in the community
I believe cat owners should register their cat(s), but feel 2 years fee free is too lenient - 12 months should suffice

This may encourage residents to only have 2 cats instead of multiple
I think one year fee free would be more than sufficient
We have had 3 dogs over the years and they have always had to be registered
There should be a fee as well
Yes, I agree cats should be registered, just as is the requirement for a dog to be registered.
Why are you waiting for 2 years? It should be immediate
Their owners should be responsible for them
Responsible pet owners should have no problems being accountable, in all regards (financial included) for their pets, and it might dissuade others not to mindlessly acquire pet cats
The 2 year free fee period will give cat owners ample adjustment time
I think this will make it more acceptable for cat owners, especially with the current cost of living issues
Very reasonable. Unsure of all the support options/assistance. Be responsible for your pets.
In my opinion cat owners that provide proof that their cat cannot escape from their property should have zero fee but still need to be registered
May force cat owners to be more responsible and think about keeping multiple cats
I support the introduction of cat laws for Tea Tree Gully area. My two concerns with the proposal are: 1) $0 fee is proposed for a maximum initial 2-year period. There should be a $0 fee for a maximum of 6 months only. Council needs the revenue generated by the registration fees to employ appropriate staff to oversee the new cat laws are being adhered to and promptly follow up on any submitted complaints. Rate payers should not be hit with increased rates during the implementation phase
There needs to be incentive/ reduction for owners that have enclosed cat runs or fully indoor cats
Dog owners' registration fees contribute to services that are used by dog owners (e.g., dog parks). If the fee increases it would be good to make clear what the fees will be used for (I'd be happy if they contributed to a cat specific social benefit directly related to cats - like a catch and release desexing program of feral cats)
In fact, I would like to see a continuing fee free registration into the future
As I'm not an idiot, I'm not impressed at having to pay a fee later down the track. We all know it won't be $0 for ever. You're only doing that to soften the blow when you introduce the actual fee
I hope individuals will register their cats. A discount for pensioners may be a good idea
Isn't a "free fee" an oxymoron? Given the damage cats are capable of during the times they are allowed to roam it is only fair and reasonable cat owners provide some compensation for the damage they inflict. Not that it will bring back the native animals they will kill
My cat is already registered and microchipped. I think this is the minimum of cat ownership required.
Cat owners should be paying yearly registration fees to fund Council cat related business activities. (The mayor has no idea what she is talking about - saying cat owners shouldn't pay registration and cats shouldn't be confined.)
Before my cat died this year I would have been more than happy to pay registration.
Know responsible owners will comply but not sure how to ensure rest do
It's should be free all the time cats don't use resources like dogs do poo bags bins parks etc
Reduction in fee for pensioners and a reduction in fees once desexed
Pet owners should be responsible. If a fee is required then council SHOULD be enforcing any new law it brings in
Discounted registration for confined cats not wandering at large
Great that there is a fee free period
My only concern is that if there's a fee some people might choose not to register their cats and this would not be helpful
From memory, the procedure for registration could be made simpler, particularly for people without good IT skills

Two years fee free is a good idea, but what will be the fee when the 2 years are up. many people that own cats are elderly and live alone. A cat provides company and is someone to take an interest in. These people may not be able to afford a large fee
2 years is too little time, will have to look at 5 to 15 years to take into account about 3 generations of cats - else cats will be dumped. Or cats born before July 2027 are free
There should be fines as a deterrent if laws are not followed
Cat registration should be fee dependent on if cats are registered microchipped and contained. I have no issues in paying a registration fee but would expect to be paying less for my cats as I contain them at all times. Revenue raised from cat registration needs to be spent on free or subsidised desexing programs
I'm all for registration, but I don't see a need for a fee. I can understand dog fees, there are people who go out and collect wandering dogs, and check dog walking areas for off leash dogs, plus the creation of dog parks and the provision of poo bags etc. What will the cat registration fees go towards? There won't be cat parks, and if council is stopping trapping of cats, that's less man hours in that area
I think it is a good idea, and a considerate move, to provide cat owners with a grace period regarding registration fees
The initial free registration should encourage more people to register
The fee should not be prohibitive. Concession for seniors?
Registering cats can help differentiate between cats with an owner and feral or neglected cats
Stay with the $0 cost unless more people register with a fee
Why do they get two years free registration when they've gone this long without ever having to register their animal? As a dog owner, where's our exemption for paying fees every year? Has the council considered the number of cats that get rescued or placed in to pounds for rehoming each year? Why do they get 2 years? Registration is part of pet ownership like any other cost and perhaps paying for registration in the first year after the laws are passed is beneficial. If the cats are as the council requires desexed, and microchipped the amount of registration I would assume would be low anyway. Will cat registration be cheaper than dog registration as proof of obedience training for dogs reduces the registration fee - I doubt this would apply to cats so I assume the registration for cats will be lower than dogs anyway. So why the need for a two year transition period? In addition, my dog is confirmed to my property and isn't peeing or leaving excrement on other people's private property in the middle of the night. I've had cats continually pee on our front door and ruin plants in our garden bed from fighting each other. Where's our compensation for property damage caused by another person's cat? But it's okay that they get free registration for two years?
The fee free period should encourage all cat owners to register their cats during the first two years
I think a $0 charge is a good idea at first. Increase it later
When can the requirements begin to take effect? ASAP would be desirable
Why should it be free for 2 years?
Any support is better than none
There should be no fees included in the registering of cats. It will simply result in people not registering their cats. The current council system is best for the health and wellbeing of cats and cat owners
Registration fees are appropriate to administer the system, and should ultimately benefit the animals provided it is not sidelined as just another revenue stream for the council

Support

Would prefer registration fees to come into effect within 12 months
I think only the first year's registration should be free, as it's a yearly fee this gives them plenty of time to get use to registration fees
I agree with the fee free period, as it will help encourage owners to register their cat

Registration fee should be kept very minimum unless the council will be providing services for cat owners the way they do for dog owners. For example the registration fees could be used to give people discounts for cat food, vet visits/desexing, or cat enclosures
If the purpose of free registration for first 2 years is to encourage engagement, then I agree
I feel that if a cat (such as my own) is an inside cat 100% of the time a reduced registration fee should be applied. I understand this would be hard to police though
Agree that cat owners be given a grace period to pay registration
Although a small fee would help the budget 😉 no support, as that comes out of the rates that I pay for services that I use. If someone wants a cat. They pay, not I
We agree with the staged approach to this by-law, as it is likely to gain more support and uptake than going straight for fees. However, we strongly support a fee for registration, and think this should be a mandated requirement after the roll-out period. We presume that the reduced fee for dog desexing/training will be emulated for the cats also. Perhaps another incentive for cat owners to keep their cats indoors or in cat runs would be further reduced registration fees
The fee free period should be 12 months
Cat owners should be required to pay the same as dog owners. They should not be given a free ride
Why would it be fee free when dogs carry a fee?
My cat is already registered
Many people will need time to adjust to the new laws. The no fee period is a good idea
I assume that concession fees will apply for low income households and concession card holders. If not they should
I think one year's grace should be enough time. Reduction for concession card holders should be in line with dog registration requirements
This will help understand the volume of cats at one household, also put responsibility onto owners.
when a registration fee is implemented, it can be a cost issue for some owners
As long as registration fees are kept to a reasonable level with an option for concession discount I am happy to pay a small fee
Cats should also be desexed particularly male cats. I have no problem with a registration fee.
I support this though I believe that a fee, say $10 would be reasonable
A $0 for the first year is more than reasonable. I don't believe it should be 2 years
Fee free should only be for the first year
I'm not supportive of a fee while I don't know the amount
Not sure why they should be given 2 years grace period. That seems a bit excessive to me. I accidentally forgot to pay my dog registration on time one year and was significantly penalised. We all need to take responsibility
One year should be enough
Community awareness, with council supports is necessary
Unsure why the first two years fee free. If they own the pet - it is making an environmental impact from day 1
As long as it is not used as a revenue raiser, but as a neutral cost centre, then I'm OK with it
Why 2 years free? No, should be an immediate registration fee - or make dogs free for 2 years as well (hah funny jokes hey)
This allows cat owners time to transition into the new costs.
It does help to monitor numbers of cats in a household. If there were only one of two cats I'm sure only a nominal/ nil fee would be sufficient
$0 for the first year and discounted the second year then same price as dogs after
Would a fee from beginning make people consider owning a cat and being responsible OR lead to more dumped cats?? Hard to know

Can't see how it would change anything - caring owners control their cats. Would micro-chipping and then registering negate the need for extra registration (double whammy)? Just make it very cheap - but compulsory
One year free is more than sufficient
One year would be sufficient
Two years fee free is very generous of the council. I'd like to see fees introduced from day 1
Because it may encourage cat owners to comply
1 year would be enough, but OK with 2 if means it happens
As a cat owner, I think cat registration is a good idea
I support this as it is a new cost for residents
An estimate of the registration fee after the 2 free years should be given
as said previously I don't believe cats, nor dogs, need to be registered through the council. If you are going to help cat owners with registration and registration is going to continue, you need to do the same for dog owners
Think it should be 1 year free then small say $10 from then money to be used to control feral cats and owners not containing them
I support this so long as there is no fee in perpetuity. I don't want to see fees introduced in the future
There should be zero recurring fees for the life of the cat
My cats are registered with the Central Animal Records. This needs more explaining. Would I still need to do this every year? Would I still need to have both cats registered in the council and Central Records? Would this be easy to do? Done Online?
Yes, ease people into the requirement. Seems fair
I think keeping registration at zero cost will encourage people to register their cats. As soon as cost is introduced, and if it rises, people will be less compliant about registration
Should be free fee unless the council starts actively helping with nuisance cats
I don't want the fee to skyrocket after2 years. Fee should be reduced if cats don't wander outside ever
There should be a fee It should be small at the start but quickly match that of dogs
I support being able to identify cats to return to owners but I don't support it if it's used to justify killing unowned or semi owned community cats that are not registered
Waive the fee or keep very low to support cat owners experiencing financial or housing distress and avoid dumping of pets
As mentioned previously, keep it free
Zero fee for first two years of By-law coming into effect is fine but then the ongoing fee should be $0 or very minimal amount or you will get people not registering and dumping their animals cause they can't afford any cost!
Given that this matter has been in the public eye for such a long time, & will not come as a surprise to most, it is recommended that registration be implemented as soon as is practical (while complying with reasonable/legislated consultation processes)
This could have an adverse outcome- people dumping cats rather than paying the fee. This could be true if cost of living pressures continues to have an impact on households
Happy to pay registration fee online with dog ownership
Another fee imposed with little return. What will the fee be used for what return does the owner get? I see no return for the registration fee for my dog. Why not leave it at zero for ever?
The fee free period should only be 12 months. 2 years is too long
Please see previous comment. Indoor cats do not impose any financial burden on the council. Therefore the cost of registration should be low
I would strongly support cat registration but not for free
If a fee were to be introduced in the future, I would suggest the fee reflects how the cats are housed. For example if the cat is fully contained and therefore not a nuisance to the neighbourhood at all, then the fee should be minimal.

I found out after losing Charlie temporarily that rego on cats and dogs online with microchip number etc. on that is a string safety measure
no registration fee should be required for cats
I support registration, but would strongly advocate for free registration to continue indefinitely, as the best way to ensure near-100% compliance
There shouldn't be a fee even after the first 2 years
I have no objection to a registration as long as it is not too expensive
Cats should be registered and microchipped the same as dogs
I support the annual registration but do not support a fee being applicable in the future
I support a minimal fee or a zero fee option. The fact that no costing has been provided gives me concern- it's like getting something done without getting a quote. How can I support it if I don't know how much it will cost?
I do not have a problem paying a small fee for cats
Would rather pay registration fees than to not adopt multiple cats
I would like the registration to be kept at $0 or a very small nominal fee as there are no facilities for cats so I don't think that registering them should warrant a fee like with dogs. For dogs, there are dog friendly parks, there are bin bags for poop collection and this all costs money. Cats have no such infrastructure and therefore it just seems like a way to make us pay more towards the council and honestly a money making scheme
If you cannot keep your cat at home then do not own them

Neither support nor oppose (neutral)

If the council is actively providing a service for cats then fees are fair, if not then no
Offer a discount to dog owners who have been doing the right thing, if you offer it to cat owners, and if you waive cat fees, waive dog fees for 2 years as well
Fee should start as soon as the by-law is passed
I think there should be a nominal fee to cover some of council's fees
When the council change this to a fee paying service, what is the revenue to be used for? Will it be to fund de-sexing of the wild born cats?
Start charging straight away and make cats inside their property only. Have a subsidized de-sexing program using money from registration
Assume fees will be introduced after 2 years. How is council going to ensure cats have been registered?
What is the cost to ratepayers to manage this process?
What is the fee first, before I decide how I feel about this
I believe they should be registered - not fussed about the fee
I have no issue with cats being registered as long as the fee remains at $0. I do not like that the Council can apply a fee at a later date
One of the decisions in getting the cats was that the registration was Zero dollars. No change for the first two years indicates a decision has been made to charge for registration at the end of the two years following introduction. If the charge for registration is solely for the purpose of covering cost for registration then just don't register
As per my previous answer, the responsible cat owners will be the ones who will register and pay after the first two years, so what is the purpose of registration, it will not affect the roaming cat numbers it only serves to make money from the owners that are doing the right thing
As a cat owner, I fail to see what service would be provided to me through this fee
A modest registration fee, as for dogs, is necessary
Registration is simply a fund raiser. It won't solve the cat problem
Registration should be free
The $0 is a way to lure people in to register and then after the 2 years - it will just be another revenue raising avenue for the council of which there will be no benefit to the cat owners or the community

Would perhaps be more favourable if it was explained where the money for registrations would be spent once they came into effect
I support a registration being permanently fee free. I do not support fees for registering pets
First two years free is just code for 'but we will charge afterwards'. Unsure what a cat uses that the council needs funds for. Dogs have dog parks, use footpaths etc, an inside cat doesn't even leave my property
I am unclear about the free two-year period - does this mean that after the two years there will be a fee involved, and if so, will it be the same as dogs? Also I do not understand the purpose of registration other than revenue-raising, e.g. if a cat is caught, the owner should be identified by the cat's microchip, which should contain the owner's details, so what other purpose would registration serve?
Given there are many cat owners who purchased their pets long before this bylaw can into existence, I believe that this extra fee is an unexpected and unplanned cost in cat ownership. I also believe it would put off some people adopting cats from charities
I agree they should be registered, just not sure about charging a fee
I support the concept of registration, however I dislike the idea of needing to pay a yearly fee for what is an extremely common pet
I support the principle that the beneficiary or the user/consumer pays. On this basis Council should bear the initial cost of the implementation of its policy as it is of benefit to the entire community. However beyond that it should be able to recover its identifiable incremental cost of administration of the database through the registration fees. Council should likewise be able to recover the cost of compliance and enforcement activity partly or wholly through infringement charges.
I think cats like dogs should be registered
He already is microchipped so I can't see any point in registration, and he has always managed to remove and lose any collar that we have bought for him
Any fee should be then used to assist the rescue shelters with costs of food/rehabilitation of homeless cats rather than absorbed into council for other expenses costs
What will happen after the first 2 years?

Oppose

2 years fee free is excessive. Dog owners don't get 2 years free rego. 6 to 12 months is more appropriate if absolutely necessary
One year notice is plenty
Cats should be registered just as other animals are
I see no reason for free registration. Cat owners are prepared to pay significant sums for food and veterinary consultations, and a fee from the outset might encourage owners to realise that they have responsibilities towards other members of the community
Dogs must be paid for so why not cats. Dogs are more easily controlled & managed. Cats are a nuisance
My cat is microchipped and already registered. This is an unnecessary duplication
My views on cat management changed entirely after reading the reports from Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc. Unfortunately, my main issue with our local cats is them pooing in my garden, which won't be solved by sterilisation. But most other issues will, and so I support the simple recommendations from Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc., and suggest not going down other costly paths like registration and enforcing indoor containment etc.
Registration fees drive enforcement expenses and could be put towards rehab of wandering cats
We don't need to register every year. What would the cost be after the first two years?
Not sure what the purpose of the registration is. People who have cats which stay indoors entirely would certainly be opposed to paying a registration fee
Microchip cats are already registered on DACO. I would not pay a fee to register my indoor / contained on property cat(s) as if they are outside it would be by accident plus unlikely to roam from my property

Dogs owners have to pay so cat owners should also have to pay from the start To the question below, council should provide support in discounted registration if they have proof of desexing
Why wait two years. 12 months' notice for registration should be plenty
This should only be for owners who let their cats out and don't keep them inside/in an enclosure
This is just another way to make money
There's a risk that imposing a fee in 2 years would lead to animals being abandoned
I don't see the need for a fee since the council provides no facilities for cats
Only one year free registration - even that is iffy
I woth everything but having to pay for my cat. I already pay registration for my dog
If registering cats is free for 2 years then dog registration must be free for 2 years
Why should I ultimately have to pay council to register my cat when it is never let out of my house? Answer... another money grab
I fully agree with the requirement for cats to be registered every 12 months. I strongly disagree with the $0 fee for the first 2 years. Cat registration should be placed on equal footing with dog registration from the first year. The extra funds Council collect from this should be used to educate the public and enforce the new bylaws. Potentially look at waiving fines for the first year of registrations and use the expiation notice to educate owners or the requirement for the following year
Why should it be free for 2 years? We have to pay for our dogs so people should pay for their cats
Why are there no fees
The proposed fee is not documented in the by-laws or information sheet, do it is hard to determine whether the proposal is reasonable. The period of time with no registration fee should also be extended
I imagine there will be a cost after 2 years and how will unregistered cats be policed?
Happy for a registration process, but I oppose costs for cats kept indoors
I see this as a money making scheme. I would love to see statistics as to the cat complaints to warrant this proposed by law
Not sure what the purpose of the fee is. It doesn't really cost council anything for someone to own a cat so it just feels like an unnecessary money-making scheme in the midst of a cost of living crisis. Again it feels like we will be burdened with more stray cats in the neighbourhood as a result
I understand the need to pay for dog registration- you provide dog parks, and often have to pick up dogs wandering etc. I'm not sure what the fees for cats would be covering? Hopefully if there are fees they are a lot less than dogs
I don't want to have to pay in two years time. I'd like it to be free always, or like $10 per rego
Registration is already a requirement under the dog and cat management act on DACO
No need for owners to pay for no service. Council should contribute to cat enclosures or no fees if owner has to fund it solo. What would the money for registration of cats be used for?
My cat does not use any facilities like a dog park or anything so I don't see why I should have to pay for registration
I don't think cat owners should have to pay a registration. What is it for? I believe it is a reason for councils to collect money. I think we should have to register our cats yes but not pay a fee
There are no services provided by the council for cats and their owners so I do not see what a registration fee would be need for. Dog parks are maintained and poop bags supplied but there is nothing on offer for cats so no fees should apply
Registration fees are just a cash grab that will be misused by council
Nil fees for life if this by law goes ahead
Whilst I oppose the introduction of registration fees, so long as the amount was relatively small
See no need for owners to pay more money for a limited service. If have a cat enclosure should pay no fees. What would the money for registration be used for?

Strongly oppose

Why free? Charge owners! Us dog owners have to pay!
Cats should be registered and 0$ fee
I feel cats should be registered but this needs to have some sort of fee attached
There shouldn't be a fee free period. If that is the case, they should do the same with dog fees
Are you going to give me free registration for my dog???? I have to pay to register my dog and I almost got fined because I was away on holidays and had people rocking up to my house to check I still had the dog, but your saying that people who have had cats for years get free registration for 12 months... no way do I support this. It is extremely unfair
No fee free period. Make them pay equivalent to dogs' registration
There should be no fee and a onetime registration
As before. No need for a fee. The council is doing no work, why am I paying to register my indoor, microchipped cat?
Fees are not appropriate, council does not supply anything for cats compared to dogs, e.g. Dog parks
Full fees should be immediately enforceable
As previously advised, I do not agree with a fee for registering cats
Is this a separate registration from the Dogs and Cats Online Management board? Why should I have to pay the council a fee in the future when my cats are 100% indoors and do not use any council resources (like a dog uses sidewalks/parks/bins etc). The current system of registering my cats with DACO is fine as is. Another registration system would be annoying, confusing and a money grabbing stunt
A small fee should be paid. Dog owners have to pay a fee, so why not cat owners?
What is the purpose of constant renewal if details do not change. Just make it a once off registration when the cat is first obtained, with the onus on the owner to advise of any updates
I am a responsible indoor cat owner and do not believe I should have to pay a fee for having an indoor pet that the council does not provide and supports for
As long as the cats are kept on the owner's property and don't harm/kill other animals and wildlife I don't feel this is necessary
I wish a fee to be paid, not fee free for 2 years
Should pay from day 1. Dog owners don't get discounts or any other support
I feel cat owners should have to pay their registration fee straight away and not have 2 years of $0 fees.
People should pay the expected fee from day 1
They should be registered in the same period as dogs, dog owners don't get a free ride for 2 years
Desexing and microchipping is already law and that can't be managed. How Will this be managed?
They should have to pay, as we do (exorbitantly) for dogs
Should be free for ever
You have to microchip and desex a cat before six months already. What cost is it to the council to have cats in homes that the council needs to be reimbursed for
If you want pets registered that is fine but it should not have a cost period! Not just for the first 2 years
As a dog owner I am required to pay a registration fee every 12months. The same should be for cats, this will help with responsible cat ownership
Make the pet owners pay for registration as we have always had to do for dogs. Our Neighbours have 2 barking dogs, have fires as they wish and will not register anyway
As previously indicated, registration I'm fine with. Paying a fee I'm not. The council doesn't incur any costs associated with cats, they provide no services for cats (no cat parks, no bags for picking up cat poo, no cat obedience classes), so there is nothing requiring funding. the VAST majority of those in favour of a fee during consultation were dog owners, who wanted to share their pain. Free registration in perpetuity is the only by-law I'll accept without a fight
Please refer to my previous comment

The administration of the registration is online and requires the owners to undertake the majority of the work. Registration is administered by the state government with little impact to council. I am not supportive of funding the enforcement arm of this initiative. We pay considerable rates already
I strongly oppose the recommendation of registering our cats as they are already on a national database
It's just another revenue stream
Cats should be afforded the same registration as dogs. That is every 12 months with a nominal charge. The first 2 years could be a reduced transition fee (not $0), there after increase to the nominated fee. Cat ownership should come with a cost so that perspective cat owners know what they are committing to.
Why only 2 years free? Dogs have a fee, but dogs place a cost burden on the council in terms of bins, walkways, etc. Cats do not create this cost burden, and therefore, there should be no fee for keeping one or two cats
They should pay for the registration as you do a dog
There should be no fee free period. It has been tiptoed around for so many years. Just get on with the process. Dog owners have to register their pets within a certain period or face a hefty fine. Why should cat owners be exempt??
Registration of cats may help council keep track of how many of cats are in the district however fees do not help cat owners. If registration needs to happen then there should not be a fee attached to it at all!! Cat owners are not given special services that warrant charging a fee. Charging all these fees will only add to the cost of having a pet cat which could lead to more cats being dumped. Once again there is a known link to how effective pets are in helping people destress/good for their well-being so make it affordable for anyone (everyone) who chooses to own cats not to just those that are financially better off
Cats are not dogs and do not require a registration fee. This is a grab for funds for Council. Dogs are registered because they can viciously attack people
The registration fee should be at least the same as for dogs. There is no justification for treating cats differently in this regard. Council needs to be firm in introducing this long delayed By-Law and not charging for cat registration sends the wrong message. Owners need to accept full responsibility including associated costs for controlling their cats especially given the innate instinct of cats to kill.)
I pay enough in Council rates. I don't want to pay to register my cat as well
Compulsory Cat registration should be brought into effect next year in line with dog registration period for 2025/26
There should be a registration fees same as for dogs. Cat owners should contribute to the management and control of their cats and not be subsidised by all non-cat owning rate payers
Registration for cats and dogs should be offered free of charge at all times. However, if the animal is discovered outside the owner's premises, a penalty should be imposed. Personally, I would be open to an increase in the fine amount to compensate for the lost revenue from registrations. The question arises: why should cats and dogs receive different treatment compared to other types of pets that people may own?
I do not think fees for cat registration should be charged as it can all be done online. Allow people to microchip and don't bring in unnecessary red tape into effect that requires increased work by Council for no benefit
Microchipping is sufficient. I do not support registration
There should not ever be a fee if the requirement is continuous registration. The first registration may have a fee but the renewal every 12 months with a fee is appalling
1) I feel the Council is withholding info. How much is the fee going to be? 2) Registration is unnecessary when a cat is microchipped - the purpose being the cat is returned to its owner not a revenue raising exercise 3) Once again people who do the right thing are penalised e.g. paying a fee

4) Registration is a waste of time - who is going to police this. Owners will deny the cats theirs 5) What do I get for my fee? Nothing - I can't take my cat to a dog park?
I do not think that cat owners should get two years free registration as they have had no fees for years. I never got free registration from this Council when I had Dogs over many years. Some cat owners will get rid of their cats after the two years free registration. Council should get revenue now. In 1977 I built my house in Modbury North my wife and I had cats and they stayed in the house during the day while we were at work. The cats were trained to use a litter box. Cat owners have had it easy for too long and they should start taking more responsibility for their cats. The same laws we have for Dogs should also be implemented for domestic cats
Just another TAX
The whole issue of registration of cats seems to be a way to introduce a new tax, which will hit the most vulnerable the hardest. Both cats and dogs have to have microchips, so their owners can be identified. There is no purpose served in also requiring them to be registered. If Council was being honest and wanted to help its community, it would remove the current, parallel requirement for having (microchipped) dogs registered
Is there any information to what this fee goes towards? What about those doing the right thing with indoor cats that do not pose any risk to wildlife or cost to the rate payer (for capture or wildlife recovery etc). If registration must be implemented then make it free. The cost of living is already exorbitant
Waste of time and money
Unnecessary fees for families already struggling with high council rates
I am convinced that, in the near future, councils will introduce a registration fee for cats. This fee will likely be linked to property values, as has been seen with other local charges, resulting in a substantial and undue financial burden on households. This move would disproportionately affect homeowners, creating a hidden tax under the guise of animal welfare
Aren't the council fees I pay every year enough? They are already massive. Take the money from there. I shouldn't have to pay to store an entry in a database. If dogsandcatsonline charge you, use an Excel spreadsheet or use good old pen and paper
Costs should be $0 forever. Cats do not have any impact to the council. What would the money be used for? With the costs of living I could not afford any fees after the period
TTG Council is assuming and overreaching their supposed legislative powers
As said in previous comment. Why introduce a fee when there never was one. People just won't register their cats and will play dumb if they go missing or get caught. You'll end up with more ferals and strays. It's absolutely ludicrous. My cat will have to go to a rescue or be put down as I won't be able to afford registration and cat runs etc. to keep her caged
See previous comment
The registration for cats has always been free, to change this now and expect after the 2 years that there will be a fee, would actively work against the work of all adoption agencies and advocates meaning we would end up with more cats in a shelter. Is that what you're working towards?
Yes...council money grabbing through registration and possible fines. Disadvantage to elderly/ low socio economic who need companionship / therapy pets. You should give costing in advance of decision making!!! Definitely support these people IF you adopt this by law
See previous comments
Why should cats have a 2 year free period when dogs don't, discrimination at its best
As per previous comment. I disagree with the entire registration fee mechanism proposal. This should not happen
What occurs after the fee free period? You need to be transparent with the community. Question 11 is redundant as no fees should apply
By-law [2] is redundant, as legislated [1] already requires all cats to be micro-chipped. this is just another money-grab/tax for households that own pets (cats). Micro-chipped = registered.

I do not believe I should have to pay any further fees for my cats or dogs as I pay council rates. Pet registration should be covered within the council rate fee already
Registration is not required. Cats are already microchipped and registered through dogs and cats online. The proposal for the council to take on this role is of no value, adds additional burden to pet owners and with time will result in further costs to the pet owner. Adding this amendment does not have any value
People would have cats and may not have foreseen the cost of registration forcing them into financial hardship
Desexing Needs Greater Priority above all the others above
already pay council rates, I refuse to pay cat registration fees for a cat that resides within my home. This appears purely to raise revenue for council, and will not stop the issue
Just another revenue raising for nothing in return
Cat registration should be free if the council wants compliance and should be linked to financial assistance for getting the cat/s desexed. Partnering with CATS Inc for at cost surgery and help with taxi fares for those without access to a car. Cat registration should be free if the council wants compliance and should be linked to financial assistance for getting the cat/s desexed. Partnering with CATS Inc for at cost surgery and help with taxi fares for those without access to a car. The cost to council would be no more than the loss of income foregone and salaries for 'inspectors' for the vast majority of cat owners who will not pay for cat registration. [Worth noting that dog registration, necessary because of serious dog attacks] is never cost neutral and always has to be covered from the General Rate, i.e. all ratepayers]. Cat registration fees, as discovered by all councils which have tried this, will cost the council [i.e. ratepayers] a lot of money and achieve nothing. The same amount of money spent on cat desexing vouchers [surgery and taxis] would achieve good cat management and close to zero cat related complaints
Stop the taxing of the residents, people need cheap food, health and SERVICES not more greedy money grabbing councils
My cats are desexed and microchipped. They are registered with the microchipping company. They do not need to be registered to the council
Please see previous response
Registration of cats creates a situation where residents don't necessarily comply for fear of Council policing. Reduction of fees may assist those who participate. Registration can drive problems 'underground' i.e. non desexing of animals
Would prefer that council spent the same money on cat desexing vouchers
Here is the example of Victorian councils where cat's registration has been introduced. It has been linked to a limit on cat numbers. So, all owned cats must be registered, but each household can only register 2 cats. There are a number of problems with this approach: 1. The limit fails to take into account the owner's facilities. For example, each unit in a block of 6 flats can have 2 cats, making a total of 12 cats, whereas a person with a large backyard can only have 2 cats 2. Registration does not make irresponsible owners into responsible ones. People currently doing the wrong thing by their cats and the neighbourhood simply won't register their cats, and nothing will change 3. People with more than 2 cats may either hide them, or let them roam, rather than taking them to almost certain death at a shelter. Roaming cats will continue to breed 4. People who through the kindness of their heart feed stray cats can't get them registered if there are more than 2. Here lies a major problem with this approach: if the cats aren't registered, they won't be taken to the vet to be desexed. So, these cats will continue to breed. People who take pity on strays in the first place are unlikely to send them off to be killed, so the problem of undesexed cats is inevitable under the Victorian legislation It is impossible to verify registration and cat numbers. Cat are not like dogs; they are small, they are excellent climbers, they can hide and they don't bark. It would be impossible to prove how many cats live in a house. Identification of registered cats raises further problems. i.e.:

-- Cat collars and tags can pose a risk to active cats. There have been cases of cats being hanged or strangled when collars get caught, or injured by getting jaws or legs caught in collars -- Some cats are very good at removing collars, leaving them unidentified. Cat bells do not necessarily save wildlife because a quietly stalking cat does not ring the bells Microchipping is useful because animals who reach a vet or animal shelter can be reunited with their owners. However, to make microchipping compulsory is a major financial burden on low income earners. There is also a problem of verification; unless cats are friendly with strangers, they have to be trapped in order to be scanned and scanners don't read chips through the wire cages
Well the people who have 'saved' the cats already have done so much to help this issue why should we be made to pay on top of what we've already done (thousands of dollars). It's not a fair system for us when we're made to help because I have taken lot to AWOL/taken to every vet in district, every shelter - none would take the cats
Initial $0 implies something greater afterwards. Pet ownership is expensive as it is. I hope the council will not add extra to the vets' rates and food costs. Besides, even $0 is already a cost - the administrative work involved in registration, fines, etc. is paid for from the taxes

Unsure

On the whole I support a registration fee. However, there are many elderly residents who rely on cats for emotional support and who do not have the means to pay fees. They should not be denied their pet just because they cannot afford the fee
As long as it remains free I don't oppose it. As stated before my cats are indoors only and always will be. As such I think registration should remain free
How can you support or oppose this when you have not given notice of the proposed fee. Cats live a LONG time. 2 years fee free is not much in relation to their lifespan
Registration concessions should be provided for responsible (indoor) cat owners
How much will the fee be after the 3 year free period is finished
I am concerned that this could turn into revenue-raising. Current dog registration fees start at $56, which on an annual basis is not cheap. Both cats and dogs provide great company for people, particularly those who live alone. Meanwhile, animal shelters are desperate for more adoptions to avoid having to kill homeless animals. Fees, in addition to the costs that adherence to the new by-law may require, only place obstacles to potential pet ownership
Any annual fee when there has never been one for cats will just come across as a money grab
All our felines our house pets and have enclosed verandah for outdoor use, so are no problem to anyone. We were Council inspected many years ago. Any fee needs to be small as a cat is a perfect companion for an older person and they may be financially compromised, especially at present
Yes. I have addressed this above. You already charge exorbitant rates and now want another revenue stream. That's ALL this is about

Appendix 3: Verbatim comments – Potential supports and assistance

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Yes (Council should provide some level of support to cat owners)

Cat owners should pay for all those things themselves
I believe that there are other organisations that already provide services for free or discounted microchipping and desexing. So the council should support other assistance
Assistance for those on a pension that have a cat prior to laws coming in to assist with desexing microchipping and fence toppers may help those that may not otherwise be able to afford these things
Discount should apply to pensioners, concession card holders. This does not apply to me, but I think would be appropriate for people who fit those categories
Also discounted registration for cats that are kept in the house/enclosure. However owner to pay a penalty if cat is caught outside house/enclosure
In line with the by law, financial supports should assist microchipping and desexing. Full containment has not been endorsed, so cat runs etc. are not applicable at the moment. Existing cats should be grandfathered and not incur a fee. Cats obtained after the 2 year period should only incur a fee. As the aim is responsible cat ownership, not fee generation microchipping and desexing should be supported, perhaps for people on a pension
Cat proofing rebate to pension or some concession card holders, maybe. But not for everyone. Cat proofing something that should be in place prior to purchasing a cat. The same as dog proofing a yard. Defiantly if the cat is for a pensioner or special needs to keep the person company and their mental health stable
All of the above 100%
This would help with the cost to families
Cat owner and dog owners should have access to the same support
Free desexing and microchipping will assist immensely
For existing owners I think supports are necessary to make for an easier transition
As I said, it's so vital to not make keeping a cat cost prohibitive due to the vital role they can play in our families. People will be better about new rules if they don't cost too much. If support is to be offered to people in need, council should consider more than just if you are on Centrelink because almost any disabled person with a partner who works is unable to qualify for Centrelink. This does not mean we are able to survive well on one wage, the wage income hasn't been lifted in, what?, two decades?? We are living off of the savings I made before I was disabled. Council needs to play a bigger role in supporting its citizens when they have fallen through cracks. Such as an alternate method (e.g. doctors note expressing inability to work) to demonstrate need for concession on things like cat and dog fees
Assistance should be provided for low incomes
I believe that assistance to dogs and cats should be equally apportioned. Cat owners should not have any financial advantage over dog owners. This is a user pay society - to own a dog or a cat, there should be no advantages, or disadvantages for either breed owners
Make this the same as for Dog Licencing
Animal ownership is important to people and low income individuals & families should receive financial assistance for registration otherwise they may not be able to afford to have a pet in their lives
Ask people i sure people on a pension or unemployed would love to assist people in need of help. Ask people if they would like to volunteer in making cat enclosures. I'm sure people on a pension or unemployed would love to assist people in need of help

Assistance will encourage compliance
I would happily take advantage of a rebate or assistance to cat proof or have a catio installed
Discount for pensioners
This would help support cat owners particularly those for whom some of these recommendations maybe financially difficult to do without some assistance from the council
Discounts for desexing cats (except for registered breeders) and microchipping
Once the fee is charged, a portion of this to the local cat rescue. This will deter people to give up their cats & helps control the feral ones & the kittens
There will be many owners who are particularly resistant to keeping their cats on their own property. I think that a good approach will be to provide relevant support to help them with this, otherwise it will cause disagreements between the owners and the council/community
Consideration for people who already have more than two cats, and are proven, responsible owners
It's about ensuring cats don't impact on native wildlife. These three areas will help with that
Free desexing of wild born cats through cat rescue groups
Annual community education opportunities, fee supports (when fees are introduced) similar to provided for dog owners (e.g. pensioner concession, new kitten registration, new cat registration - 1 April to 30 June). Don't support cat-proofing assistance or discounted registration fees for the life of the cat. Pet owners should have some responsibilities to care and pay for the support services for their animals (same as dogs)
So long as vet fees with desexing cats is a reasonable fee, say $100- $200
Anything to encourage community participation and responsibility with cat ownership is so important!
For owners who responsibly desex and microchip their cat a discounted registration fee would help. For pensioners and disability discounted registration fees would help as they get great benefits from cat ownership
I am comfortable with assistance in keeping cats in yards. I am NOT comfortable with assistance for registration, other than to stagger payments (i.e. quarterly) AND I believe registration should be at a level that it contributes to the assistance provided for yard containment
A cheap desexing incentive would be fantastic, rebates and help keeping cats in properties would also be a good thing. We should be encouraging this as an indoor cat is a safe cat
Assistance with desexing should be first priority then the RSPCA and AWL would be full of unwanted pets. All kittens rescued from the RSPCA and AWL are already desexed and microchipped so this would not be required and be a waste of council resources
No fee for indoor only cats
Discounted registration for pensioners
In favour of all of these as policies, but I wouldn't directly use them
Some of us have cats that are exclusively homed indoors. None of these measures reward pet owners for doing this
All are very valid points. Again would like to see free registration for cats into the future, i.e. past two years
No Fee, it's insulting… Strongly oppose registration with fees. Would accept free registration, but only with the guarantee a fee would never be introduced
Pensioner discount. Lifetime discount for existing cats would provide an incentive to comply with the requirements at the time of implementation
You can't win really, we rescue kittens and cats from the animal shelters coz they need a home, yet now it appears owning a cat is going to be problematic which will deter people from owning them. A better idea is to crack down on people who don't desex their cats to prevent the amount of kittens needing homes
I think that anyone who has a disability (any disability, including autism or other mental disability), also should be immune to having to pay any fee

This assistance should also cover anyone “looking after” stray cats. This would encourage people to trap and desex them to stop breeding
It will be difficult as people who own cats generally don’t believe their animal is capable of doing what they do in someone else’s property
Assistance with desexing would encourage compliance, as would discounts for registration and creation of an enclosure
If the registration is kept as a simple one off registration with the owner updating any details as necessary, then why should a fee be charged? What would Council use the money for? An education program, or maybe a do it yourself course for home owners to construct their own cat enclosures. In most home layouts, it is relatively simple and inexpensive if you do it yourself. I can’t select the “Other” box - it is greyed out, but in my experience, the majority of cat issues that annoy residents are caused by male cats, even desexed ones - not all, but most. The only issue we have with other people’s cats are those of male cats that know we have (desexed) female cats on our property, and they try to get to them, and spray on our outdoor items - cars, BBQs, pergola furniture - it is annoying. Perhaps it is worth considering an incentive to own female cats rather than male cats as a part of the process?
If it does go through that cats need to be registered than a big discount or exclusion should be offered to indoor cat owners
Zero cost rehoming for registered cats but fees for wandering unregistered cats
Discounted registration fee for seniors/pensioners/people on low income. Cats are a companion animal and often those who need this companionship are people in vulnerable situations such as elderly, disabled, living alone and so forth. This is true for a friend of mine in another council (both disabled and living alone). My friend cannot afford to pay much of a registration fee as she relies on the disability pension. The same is no doubt true for many others, so the registration fee should either be kept very low or else discounts should be available for such people
Fee reductions if cats aren’t allowed outside
I think even working with shelters and vets for assistance with vet expenses could be a win, win for cats, owners and the community
Microchipping and desexing a cat can be expensive; any relief in those areas would be greatly appreciated
Perhaps offer a rebate for residents to purchase a fixed & unfixed (for renters) cat enclosure that companies will accept
I think all the supports/assistance should be considered for those struggling with cost of living, on concessions, disabilities, and also those with pets for support reasons (mental health etc). This can be funded from the registrations of cats and dogs. I don’t support “Assistance with desexing for cats born before 1 July 2018”, it should be mandatory desexing for all existing and new cats. That, along with registering and microchipping should all be mandatory with no grace-period (whether support/assistance or not)
Subsidised desexing, and a council based adoption program would be nice
If owners have cats they can fork out costs to cat proof their own yards, but deserve help with desexing and microchipping where possible
Same as dogs, discounted for having them registered, desexed 6 months after being born
Support and education will make a change in cat numbers and community attitudes towards cat ownership
Council should be supporting desexing and microchipping events. They also need to provide a service where they trap and remove stray and unwanted cats living in drains and suburbs breeding exponentially. These are the ones creating lots of problems and nobody does ANYTHING about them
Desexing cats is expensive, especially to pensioners and low income households. If introducing this councils must make it viable and accessible for all, and provide assistance. Otherwise the risk of dumping cats or people just not declaring them will occur
If cats are confined to a house or cat run initial registration fee only. There is no need to charge for a pet that is not out in the community and not bothering anyone

I also think an education program to support domestic cats do no need to be let out to roam, they are quite content to be indoor house cats and to think very carefully before getting a kitten
Desexing days
It has to be financially viable for owners
No registration fee for owners who have cat enclosures. Charging a fee for an animal inside your property is money grabbing by council at its finest. Don't penalise residents that already have desexed, microchipped animals and who have existing cat proof enclosures
I think any assistance should be given on the basis of the status of the person concerned, e.g. on a pension etc. To own an animal is a privilege and comes with responsibility. If you are a home owner, working etc. the financial responsibility falls on you to meet the requirements of owning that animal
As a responsible cat owner, I have a deep love and concern for our native wildlife and the threat that "free range" cats pose to our native fauna. I think that providing "perks" and discounts, microchipping days and assistance in deserving cats will help with compliance and keep the cat population controlled, lowering the risk to our wildlife
If a cat is registered, desexed and micro chipped they should be free to register for there while life
Discounted registration for cats registered prior to end of free registration period | excellent option. Will be incentive for persons to register. Microchipping days - again could be used as incentive for those needing to register cats prior to end of fee free period
Help with desexing would begin the process of minimising the colony cat numbers
My cats are not allowed out. I have the back verandah which I had enclosed with netting by the Cat Pad people. Cost was $1,600. I can afford this and am happy to pay to protect my cats, but many people on minimum wage or pensions may not be able to afford this, so financial help in this regard would be beneficial
Discounts for pensioners as it is with dogs
Assistance/free desexing & microchipping for cats born before 31 July 2027
Given that cat-proofing a property by residents with cats is probably one of the few effective solutions to stop cats killing our wildlife, it's reasonable to provide an "incentive" for owners register their cats. i.e. owners can get a registration rebate on demonstration/proof that their property has been cat-proofed (but not before)
The grant or rebate idea is interesting
It strikes me that cat proofing yards is a preferable solution to confinement. We are responsible pet owners that monitor our pets. Don't implement solutions based on 5% of residents bad behaviour
I think indoor cats should be free for life
Some initiatives to work with local businesses to offer discounted equipment to help cat owners update their house/ backyards to contain their pets would be welcomed.
None of the above for me personally but I am certain others would appreciate at least one of the options
I would be happy to pay upfront lifetime registration for my 4 cats with the assurance this money is used to fund a desexing and microchipping drive
Free desexing to all residence to get feral cat population under control
Assistance with free desexing days would be fantastic initiative!
If we have to contain the cats to our yard this would be a considerable expense for fences etc. keeping cats in house can also become expensive with cat litter. Smells, extra chores and then frustration cats may start scratching when currently this on trees outside all these things need to be considered and different supports offered
Assistance with desexing cats regardless of when they were born would be fantastic! It's an environmental issue, as well as everything else discussed by this survey/draft bylaw
Discounts / rebates offered for desexing cats
Cats can provide valuable support for people with disabilities and elderly. I would support concession of registration for 1 cat for these categories of people (pensioners/disability). I would also support a

rebate or grant program as proposed limited to an introductory period. I would also support the idea of cat parks or off leash areas similar to dog parks in lieu of ability to wander at large between 6am and 10pm
I believe it should be free to register cats where those cats are 100% contained at all times (and desexed)
Cats are hard to control especially if they want to go outside. So in order to keep them on your property fencing is required but also expensive
Level of containment to be considered. Fees vary on types of containment
In relation to item 12 - yes, rebates for cat runs and other cat-management facilities to promote keeping cats on property all the time! Perhaps even rebates for neighbours of registered cats to also install rollers, if the owner doesn't
Partial rebates or grants should be provided to those on welfare payments to assist with cat-proofing their premises. Providing free or cheap desexing and microchipping should assist with both reducing the number of cats as well as aiding in identifying cats found wandering at large
Free registration for households with no more than 2 cats
Pensioner discount cheaper rates for cats in an enclosure or even free. I want to, put those things on the fence to stop cats leaving my back yard but expensive and I don't know how to get hold of reputable dealers or tradies
I don't really need support atm. But had to click one. I believe there would be older residents that would benefit with all of the above
I do not support punishing people for having pets through fees
I don't support registration discounts because I don't support fees for registration
Vouchers for desexing would be beneficial as offered for dogs in some councils
All of the above. Pet owners are often responsible people. If they had the ability (physical, financial and land owner approval) to keep their pet safe in an enclosure most owners would do so.
Discounted reg for life of cat if reg in free period, rebate or grant for cat proofing, free desexing prior 2018 and microchipping days. These are all important and should happen
Previously, one could get a microchipped and desexed cat from a shelter and, from then only, only have to worry about costs for food, kitty litter, and veterinarian fees. Now, registration and cat confinement will place additional obstacles for current and future cat ownership. - Registration fees should be permanently waived altogether for low-income owners - Cat-proofing should be provided at low cost to all, and at no cost for low-income owners. Cat-proofing for owners who are renters will be of particular concern, since some renters have to move house repeatedly through no fault of their own
Helping residents in rental situations to cat proof that rental property, cat proof their yard. I disagree with the comment it being registered cat as you are assuming that we all agree that cats need to be registered. I believe that if the TTG council staff are really committed to encouraging responsible cat ownership, that whether the community go down the path of registering cats or not registering cat the council should provide assistance with cat-proofing yards, desexing, microchipping and information on about how to keep cats at home. I think council should also explore ways of helping residents in rental situations to cat proof that rental property
Desexing days
Discounted registration fee - suggest discount for only 5 years or 10 years
You discount dogs' fees for people who have concessions so it should be the same for cat owners. People who purchased a cat before all of this came into place never thought they would have to factor this into their budget when it came to owning a cat. The cost of enclosures and other things for cats is almost impossible with the rising cost of living and as soon as company's find out that you need these items the price will jump up. Have you thought about how many people will complain about these enclosure's and the smell coming from them or the look of the property
I think assistance for the first few years is OK. After that the assistance should be removed
There shouldn't be any fees for registering cats if they do not go outside

Registration fees set the same as dog registration. Note as a dog owner WE had to provide dog proofing our residence to keep our dog from wandering at large with no support from the council. No support or assistance, if you want to own a pet cat you pay to look after it and all that goes with being a responsible owner
If a cat is an indoor only animal, a discount on registration would be fair. I think assistance with desexing older cats is a good idea too. and discounted registration for microchipped and/or desexed cats as is currently done for dogs would be the most equitable
At the very least, registration should be free for the life of the cat for those who were born before this law. If the council want all cats to be microchipped, then they should offer a voucher which can be used by their preferred vet
I'd rather money went to keep registration free or incredibly minimal ($10) always rather than money being put into other things. To charge high fees seems to be revenue raising - a cat that lives permanently inside is of NO impact/cost on the Council, so why should we be paying? I'm sad this makes having a cat less affordable - having a cat has been so helpful for our family (for mental health, for life skills in caring for others, for social skills for those with autism - my son's year 2 teacher said "I don't know what therapy you've been doing over the last two weeks, but your child's social skills have improved so much this fortnight" ... we'd got a cat from RSPCA that required him to 'read' the cat's body language about whether he wanted to play or be left alone etc. Please don't make it hard for people to have cats that can help the mental and social health in our community. There is such a need for mental health help and having a cat is a cheap, scientifically verified help for this national concern!
There must be some reasonable assistance for cat owners to achieve the outcomes you are expecting. If not, I predict there will MORE strays as a result of your cat laws because people will abandon their cat due to the difficulties created, physical and financial
Support microchipping where necessary and continue online registration with Council. Keep it simple and do not add more work for no reason. Do not charge registration fees for additional red tape that won't improve anything for anyone. Desexing and microchipping support could be considered where there are issues. The RSPCA and Animal Welfare League already do a fantastic job. I think most ratepayers would appreciate Council keeping registration fees as zero and not over complicating things
What? Is this a joke? Do the TTG Council wan to back-date desexing to 2018? a cat desexed in 2018 would now be 6 years old
Rental owners may need assistance if renters have cats/dogs
Why can I only select three? I would select all of them. And the assistance with desexing should not have a cut off. Do you actually want to help with cat ownership or just put people off owning them?
For the elderly and low income people cats can be good therapy for people
Make it similar to dogs - cheaper for pensioners and for desexed cats
They should be limited and reasonable. I agree with them because they help both cat and non-cat owners
1) People in rental need Council support 2) Stating that help be given to registered cats only is not acceptable. I don't believe cats need to be registered. Details are attached to microchip numbers 3) Council needs to have details on trialled methods of cat friendly yards. Council needs to dismiss registration, cats' numbers per property if cats are in run etc. Council needs to provide incentives e.g. cost of microchipping and desexing off rate payments. Council needs to be upfront and state what the fee is, who will manage this, will you build a cat pound, what is the wage per financial year of cat catcher, no cat catcher or cattery away from dogs. No by-law as pointless. No!! registration the assisted payment for desexing can be deducted from rates
Keeping cats contained on property is very difficult. Paying support for cat enclosures would be useful
A rebate or grant to assist with Cat-Proofing for registered cats is a very good idea
Just pick up my rubbish and maintain the roads

If my senior cat can't go outside to go to the toilet then the council should help with a considerable amount for me to have an enclosure in my back yard
No registration at all. The registration, if council would like to have one, should be free permanently
Due to the large gum trees on my property it would not be possible to have netting installed
You should do ALL 4 of you are forcing people to adhere to these proposed by laws...AND all the time not just cancel it when you feel like it because it's getting too expensive!!!!
Inside cats should not have to be registered at all, but those who need to register should be free for life
Singular registration fee for the life of the cat
Support to enable low income families to have cat ownership and to rescue organisations for cost of food and vets. Subsidised costs (particularly for low income/pension families) would assist more homeless cats to be homed. Cost of cat proofing (i.e. enclosures/fence top rollers etc) would also benefit non-cat owning neighbours as it would prevent cats from entering their properties
All Cats should have desexing available to them if required, regardless of age and this should be paid by the Council. People with disability/elderly and that are unable to facilitate this should be given Council assistance to do so
Free cat desexing - no cost to Council [i.e. rate payers] because the information is already available from state Government DACO [Dogs and Cats On-line]
These options are all great ideas. I am of the view that if the Council wishes to impose such measures on Cat owners, it should be the Council who should be willing to help foot the burden of their own making
I agree that council should rebate ALL desexing and microchip days. Council should not be charging registration fees. How absurd! Having to be forced to pay for registrations is ridiculous. Just goes to show how money hungry the council is
All cats should be microchipped before they arrive in their forever home
Cats, like most pets play an important part in people's lives, especially the elderly and mentally and physically challenged. It's important that as a community we support these people and their pets. Failure to do so will ultimately manifest in other areas, and might be accompanied by greater cost to the community
Cat-proofing properties is an enormous expense and unless Council is going to offer substantial assistance in this area, it is not reasonable to insist people contain their animals
I would prefer that the council does not introduce the bylaw. If it is introduced, then we need free cat desexing. This would be of no cost to rate payers, as the information is available through DACO. (Dogs and cats online)
Educating, not penalising, not pushing, not making more division between cat lovers and cat haters. 1. Free voluntary AKA not compulsory microchipping 2. Education on responsible cat ownership 3. Free NON-COMPULSORY registration 4. Free desexing. Money from enclosure rebates can be used for that. It gives more sense for money usage and is targeted and specific
Making people accountable before they buy or get cat - desex cheaper rates. People can't afford it so don't bother every other country do cheaper days or free. Now I left with the cats in my garden as TNR you have to taken them back to where you got them from. It's absolutely not fair to me or cats to kill them now. Which has been suggested to me Council came to my house one time only cause of new neighbours. None bother to help me!
Keeping cats contained on property is very difficult. Paying support for cat enclosures would be a great idea. No fees if have a cat enclosure
Assistance would be a great step towards helping owners keep their cats within their yards. I would support this

No (Council should provide some level of support to cat owners)

With respect to Question 11, we do not think Council should provide further support other than as indicated above (reduced fees for desexing etc...). Basically we wish to see cats and dogs treated with equity, whereby the same standards are upheld regardless of cat vs dog
The cats are owned by private residents, not the council. I believe the council does not provide any support for dog owners, therefore council should not provide these suggested supports
I do not agree with council having anything to do with pets full stop
How about leaving the system alone, all the proposed changes come with a nasty string attached - Indoor cat owners don't deserve this hassle. DO NOT PASS THIS BY-LAW - none of these options are appropriate because it spits in the face of work already done to ensure free registration.
No fees, as the proposal should not proceed. No support is necessary and the proposal is not supported
No by-law in the first place. Otherwise the rebates would eventually end, but the fees/fines/taxed staff work/paperwork won't

Appendix 4: Verbatim comments – Information and educational materials (other topics)

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

There should be some information highlighting the damage to fauna when cats are left to roam at night. There should be some sort of online reporting of nuisance cats
Yes. I think it should be made clear (if not already) what are the consequences of cat owners who fail to comply with the Cat-By-Law
Cat owners should have material to understand the impacts of irresponsible cat ownership.
How to manage nuisance cats on your property
Enforcement and incentives to comply
I'm a strong believer in a bell attached to their collar, as this will warn the wildlife of their intent to attack
Their impact on wildlife
As outlined previously, just the safety factor of keeping cats in their owners properties
A place where I can see pictures of other people's cats, preferably with little hats on
The effect that defecation outside has on other animals. A neighbours dog ate cat faeces in its own yard left by a strange cat and contacted near-fatal toxoplasmosis, costing the neighbour $45k in emergency vet bills
Effects on local wildlife from cats that roam
IF full-time containment becomes law (and I DONT support this), then education and advice about cat runs, psychology and well-being for confined cats, exercise and nutrition
Low cost Cat proofing home to keep own pets safe
Something to assist cat colonies- awareness programs and or support- similar to RSPCA with fostering- where food and litter is provided but just needing homes for some in the meantime. It's not the animals fault they are homeless
Impact of cats on your local wildlife
What cats do to native animals
There needs to be a feral cat plan, so that feral/unowned and stray cats have a pathway out of the open environment, similar to dog shelters/pounds. Education material needs to have some focus on the damage that cats do to the environment/native wildlife, and perhaps some of the registration money can be allocated to rehabilitation programs designed to mitigate this damage. The education programs need to highlight that even cat owners don't necessarily want other cats roaming the streets, and that not everyone who wants cat reform is a cat hater. The programs need to also highlight that caring appropriately for your cat is part of your responsibility as a cat owner and this comes with costs
Information on how to lodge complaints or reporting nuisance cats
No I believe you have covered all topics
The damage they do to native animals
Permit other owners to trap cat at owners expense
Dealing with "offending" cats
Let property owners know how best to deal with roaming or feral cats, contact number for assistance or rights for trapping or driving the offending animals away
The impact ALL cats have on the native environment. Pet cats also have a huge impact on native fauna, despite many owners being unable to imagine their pets destroying wildlife, we know they do when they roam

Keeping cats at home could talk about ways to enrich cat's lives when they are confined to the property
Regular vaccinations and worming
Awareness of the damage cats do to Native wildlife and disruption to non-cat households with fighting and mating of strays
Ensuring pet cats don't enter the yards of others
Ban outdoor cats except on a leash. The same as dogs
What information is given and how does one report a feline that is a nuisance and only a colour can be notified with??
I will repeat, the only way this will work is to implement cat runs or no cat will be allowed
Just keep them inside. Not that hard
Cats should be kept inside or in a cat run at all times. Cats cause so much devastation to bird life and they are allowed to wander. There should also be a limit on how many cats you can have - same rules should apply for both cats and dogs
where to take any captured wondering cats. What procedures to follow if a cat found deceased- procedure for informing council/owners of deceased cats
The level of destruction cats does to the Australian environment should be shown
Fact sheet showing the type of damage cats can do to wild animals in Tea Tree Gully area, as well as some educational effort in schools about this topic
No - people have cats around here and I'm happy for them to have them but control at night needs to be enforced as they are breeding with the strays. What's the plan to reduce the strays????
"Consideration training" of neighbours who don't wish to have someone else's pet on their property
Simple plans for cheap cat runs or perhaps supply of materials at a cheap price
If possible, targeted ads via social media for those who aren't getting mail. Mail outs for those who don't use social media. All of the local vets, bus stops, temp signage should have information on this change. The dog and cat management board should also put up ads covering all councils with continuous education
Environmental impact of unrestrained cats. Hygiene factors related to cat excrement & the diseases that can be contracted & toxicity factors e.g. toxoplasmosis
Creating and maintaining "cat-runs" in owners own premises
No I think you've covered everything
No there's plenty of online information regarding cat care and suggested responsible owner practices which people who have cats should already research if they choose to own or care for a cat
No leaving food outside that might attract rats or other animals, particularly overnight. Rats a real problem in the warmer months
The damaging effects of roaming cats on our native wildlife, i.e. how many birds and other small animals are killed by them
Grants helping the cat rescue homes or part of the fees paid to them to control the unwanted feral cats. As they are under extreme pressure with feral & unwanted cats
Why it is good for the cat to stay at home (for their health). Why it is good for wildlife for cats to stay at home
Information about disease risk for humans especially babies, children, pregnant women and people with a weakened immune system. For example, gastrointestinal illnesses, cryptosporidium, parasites and especially toxoplasmosis
Suitable, escape proof enclosures
No, the above is a very thorough and broad range of educational options
The effect they have on native wildlife
Public education on the horrible life of street cats and asking for communities to consider adopting rehabilitated rescue cats to help end their suffering. Not to support euthanasia of these.
General health, feeding, welfare and enrichment

Bird species has reduced in my area. I would appreciate knowing how/why populations of birds say sparrows, blackbirds etc. no longer live around here
Cats need deleted registration microchips kept home & are a nuisance
- Managing spraying and fighting cats - How to introduce new older cats to dogs - Training to use litter tray
I would like cats to be contained to yards in less than 5 years
Owners cleaning up after their own cats on other people's property
I'm not sure what body or organisation would be able to do this, but an awareness campaign on the destruction by cats of native wildlife in our area would be useful. I wonder whether someone like Chris Daniels would be willing to provide relevant information. I would like to hope that if well-meaning cat owners realised how much havoc their well-fed cats are wreaking on vulnerable small creatures and birds, they would agree without complaint to the new management plan
Council should be pro-active in managing nuisance and feral cats
Health of cats
Provide broad statistical evidence of the damage that cats can do to birds and also to wildlife if they become wild
Information to show that cats can live inside and can be happy within a home
Common diseases and how they are spread to other pets
Information on the impact stray cats have on our native wildlife
The damage roaming cats do to the environment i.e. native fauna
Statistics on the rate of harm to wildlife (Australia wide and local) caused by the wild cat population, rates of cats/kittens surrendered to rescue organizations, rates of euthanasia of homeless, sickly and/or unable to be rehomed cats and kittens, and mental health stats of vets and animal carers
The effects cats have on the environment, and how detrimental it is. How to properly enrich your house to have a happy indoor cat. Promoting why it's better to have indoor cats
Trapping of stray cats
Assistance with desexing through Cat Inc? Information on Cat Aids. (flu)
Information on garden cat runs and products to keep 'happy cat' confined to their own yards
No matter what you do, there are always going to be some irresponsible rogues out there that will simply have multiple undesexed cats and let them roam and breed out of control. Just be mindful that the policy intent behind your cat by-law should be to control this scenario, not punish responsible cat owners
Impact of cats on native fauna
Benefits of indoor only cats. People seem to think you're depriving them of their natural right to hunt and explore, but recent research shows other ways of providing enrichment through play and multiple indoor playmates
No, it is all covered above
In that information it should be clear the damage that occurs. Wildlife well known. Damage to cars not so well known, scratch paint and windows, if urinating on cars makes the car not worth much or can be extremely expensive to get clean
Helping cats to adjust to being indoors when they're used to roaming, and maybe reducing their stress in the transition
I think you should include the effects that cats have on native wildlife as well, i.e. show photos of contents of feral cat stomach?
Information on what residents can do with stray/feral cats that they are "looking after". The information already published doesn't help much in a practical sense
None that come to mind
How to build a suitable cat cage with access to fresh air, sun & shade

Yes, the impact of cats on native wildlife should be included so that cat owners are aware of what their cats get up to when they're out and about (busy killing birds)
Maybe information relating to the type of cat enclosures that could be created on the owner's property. Information as to why cats need to be contained (relating in particular to the danger to native animals, in particular birds.)
As mentioned, possibly a how to "Do it Yourself "cat enclosure construction at home, so it is more affordable and the cats cannot roam and cause issues
Impact on the environment
Environmental enrichment for indoor cats
So much waste of money and time just bring it in
The diseases that cats spread. Including diseases they can catch through fighting and sharing water bowls (FIV FeLV); diseases they spread to farm animals https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news-and-media/media-releases/cats-have-12-million-impact-on-agriculture-in-australia ; diseases they can spread to humans through their toileting e.g. toxoplasmosis. The damage that wandering street, feral and pet cats do to native animal populations
Identification of cats and collars and Feral, unowned & stray cats
Advice the general public that they are not allowed to kill cats. Recent stories from other councils includes acts of cruelty as "cat-haters" take the "law" into their own hands
Something for the neighbours would be useful e.g. how to deal with problem cats, how/when to approach the owner in a firm but respectful way, and when/how to contact Council. Also what a neighbour should NOT do, such as trapping, poisoning, shooting cats on their premises
Yes - consider the breed of cat & if you are willing to have as an indoor cat or have a large 'catio' if used to being outdoors
I think that covers it. Remember that cat/dog owners need to take responsibility for their pets so I don't think the education or workshops below need to be overly extensive
Being a responsible neighbour and member of the community?
Training cats
Agree with the above
General information about cats health and welfare. Their biology etc. A lot of people don't know they can become pregnant as young as 5 months old. Males should be desexed. Education about the benefits of a TNR program
How is this going to be enforced? What will actually make people contain their animals overnight. I highly doubt the council will be patrolling permanently for non-compliance so will it be up to us to locate the cats homes and discuss with the neighbours? The plan will make next to no difference
Financial assistance
Distress roaming cats cause to others in the community
Desexing and education on misconception that indoor cats aren't happy cats
Cats can be trained to walk on a lead. Responsible pet owner common sense. Treat you cat like you treat owning a dog. It is that simple
Yes
Cats at night. Education on how cats impact our wildlife
How to successfully have a fulfilled indoor cat, how to build cattery additions for the best of both worlds, what to do if you stumble upon feral, unowned lost or Stray cats and how to take care of them/charities and local organisations that work towards removing or rehabilitating them
Vaccinations
The danger cats pose to native animal populations. Cat owners must understand the consequences of letting their cats roam
I believe that there needs to be strict laws in place for cats. My kids are scared of the local feral cat population that affects my area. I have multiple cats that travel through my back yard every day, these cats leave messes, scare my kids, harass my dog and kill the local wildlife in my area. If it was a dog

doing this it is my belief that council would be more reactive to this situation. I have also rescued kittens from the feral cat population that have ended up in my back yard, this shouldn't be my responsibility
Keep your cats on your own property. Council already does not get involved with managing poor residents, there is no action that is taken for barking dogs or fires that are unsafe and in breach of rules, so what makes you think you will manage this new by-law. I am happy to attend a workshop and show people the damage to my cars and house as a result of cats being allowed to be on my property
With respect to Nuisance cats & Feral, unknown & stray cats, & the damage they have on our wildlife, some scientific, fact checked details (i.e. what cats kill, killing rates, ...) could be developed as part of a communication/education package to further inform residents of the benefits of the Proposed By-Law
Impact of roaming cats on native wildlife and the environment
How about: the benefits to your emotional health of owning a cat, why cats are different to dogs (ownership, council services etc.)
Perhaps the issues of allergy sufferers should be mentioned
I'd like to see educational programmes run by local vets and RSPCA on the benefits of desexing and keeping cats safely contained
Who to contact at council to enforce the by law including housing unwanted cats
Responsibilities of owning a cat. Daily costs of having a cat. Keeping cats confined to your home, how the council can help
Why it is important to keep cats at home (i.e. environmental impacts)
Provide information to cat owners on the damage roaming cats do to native wildlife
Responsible pet ownership for those considering getting a cat
There is concerning misinformation about keeping cats from roaming being cruel. This is absolutely not the case and all animal welfare organisations support cats being kept safe. Members of the public should not be allowed to use council platforms to spread misinformation. Indoor cats live longer and are healthier
Perhaps a booklet on "Are Cats for You?" Responsibilities of owning a cat
Educate people that cats can live quite comfortably inside the house, they do not need to be outside. If you want them outside then the owner must invest in some form of cat run
Desexing, Microchipping, Keeping cats at home, Nuisance cats, Feral, unowned & stray cats
How is the by-law going to be policed?
What are the rights for the property owner and how to deal with cats that are wandering and causing a nuisance on their property
People should be informed about the damage cats do to Australia's natural wildlife and why containment prevents this
Information on outdoor cat run options, with examples relevant to different price points. Information regarding safe collar types for cats, only breakaway collars are a safe enough option for cats. I would also like to know information about what happens if my cat were to get out and be collected by council, what are the steps, what efforts do they make. Where does my cat go and how do I get it back etc? I don't expect to ever have that issue, but if I did I would like to know the process ahead of time. In keeping cats at home, please also include information on mental stimulation for cats. I'm sure a lot of cat owners are against containment due to how difficult their cats can be, but games and puzzles for cats, large cat scratching posts etc. can all help redirect that energy. Also include information about how someone can apply to have an additional cat, what that process is and how long they can roughly expect it to take
No all the above is good
Yes. Biodiversity reasons for keeping cats inside and on property - cats are very efficient hunters. That's how they've evolved. We need to protect our wildlife from predation - cats are, unfortunately, a significant predator of native wildlife within our council area
Effective methods to cat-proof a premise. Risks of allowing a cat to roam
Veterinary costs. Pets cost money and if people can't afford it, they shouldn't have a pet. Simple

Would like council to encourage more people to keep their cats fully indoors. Could provide information to counter misinformation that this is bad for cats, they will get bored or destructive etc., that it's difficult to do
Cat owners should be provided with resources in regards to de-sexing (discounts times etc) and how to secure yards
You haven't listed 4. To be confined to their owner's property between 10.00pm and 6.00am. It's very hard to confine a cat that is already used to freedom, ours comes and goes through the dog door. If we don't see the cat that day we can't keep him in. Confining him will mean reviewing what we do with the door and obviously training and anxiety on all sides to being inside at night. I can understand waiting to introduce these laws but it would be better to make everyone aware that these will be implemented from a certain date. If a cat, born after the implementation date, is not compliant with the rules then there will be penalties. For cats born before then there should be some interpretation/leniency. Cats need to be trained to be inside cats it's usually something trained from birth so they don't know any difference, I believe there are 2 or 3 cats in our street that go outside.
I would hate to see. Cats euthanasia due to the capping of 2 per house hold
Cat's impact on wildlife, including cats that do not bring home 'trophies' - many people don't understand the impact of their cats on wildlife as they don't see them killing animals. Information on the diseases and dangers posed to their cats by being free to roam outdoors
Keeping a stimulating environment for cats in the home may reduce their tendency to stray. I would also urge Council to ensure information is available in multiple languages, at least targeting the largest immigrant language groups in the City
Vaccination
Access to equipment to safely trap wandering cats and council to manage the collection of any cats caught. It should not be up to the person who is being impacted by wandering cats to attempt to find the owners. If the owners were responsible cat owners, the cats would not be roaming
Feral, unowned & stray cats. How many are there?
Damage caused by cats to our native wildlife. Every cat should be required to have a bell on their collar
Presumably, education on keeping cats at home will not be restricted to how owners are expected to comply. This is an opportunity to provide education on how to make the home environment more appealing to the cat, especially at low cost, in addition to information on all other factors that affect the pet's well-being
Whether council introduce the cat by-law or not I think they should provide information and resources to the community regarding the above topics excluding 'Registration'
Keeping cats happy inside
- Catching stray cats by property owners using Council approved traps - Where to take stray cats noting the Animal Welfare League at Wingfield has stopped accepting stray cats - Enforcement and penalties that apply for contravention of the By-Law - Re "Should Council decide to proceed with a Cat By-Law". This wording concerns us given the huge efforts by many people thus far in pushing for cat control legislation and the expectations raised by Council with the survey conducted in 2023 - with notably ~80% of responders seeking action. Prior to the survey we sought action in 2022 regarding cat control legislation from our local counsellor Peter Field who failed to respond to us. It will be an immense let-down to the community if Council does not proceed with a firm & effective Cats By-Law
Keeping cats in their own house. Education about cats effect on native animals and birds
- Cat management for NON cat owners (neighbours of nuisance cats) - cats proofing, dealing with neighbouring cat owners, reporting nuisance cats - Council's avenues for dealing with nuisance cats. (Perhaps outline the avenues available under the Dog and Cat Management Act.)

Rights of property owners who have cats roaming on their properties. Define nuisance. Define feral, unowned & stray cats. How to identify these and what property owners can do about these cats. I firmly believe the only way to keep cats contained is within a self-contained cat run
Adding details of the wildlife killed by cats and how they are a pest in the outback
Where to get and the cost of cat enclosures
The destruction that cats bestow on the environment if not confined
Yes. What can be done about the cats that don't have owners?? The strays, the lost and the feral cats?
- Caring for cats should feature in all sessions so that animal welfare is first and foremost. Let's not forget they are animals that deserve respect and consideration. Many are much loved pets. Others have encountered horrible humans and suffered through no fault of their own. They all deserve second chances at a happy life. As the RSPCA says, rescued cats are grateful creatures. How they start out is not the end of that story. They can become loving family pets. - A how to build your own cat enclosure series and how to add rollers on fences, what works best and what doesn't would be good. Perhaps in collaboration with the Men's Shed? I would definitely value something like that and attend to learn more
Humane "cage" containment
The benefits to cats and wildlife if kept as indoor cats. Anything related to cat ownership and keeping them inside with an appropriate outdoor area
No support to be given - The owner makes a conscious choice to acquire a cat. The owner of a cat that has defecated on a neighbour's property should be required to remove the results
Consequences of allowing the cat to wander. Same consequences as for dogs wandering
Education needs to be provided but only who care will listen. What's the purpose of having to contact you within/after 72 hours if a cat gone missing? Why do I have to contact you asap after the death of a registered animal - makes no sense
Information on the deaths, injuries of bird life and other small creatures that cats cause
Support cats to be safe
Cats should have a bell attached to their collars so we and our native animals can hear them coming
No. My sister just received a STUPID letter about potential dog biting. Really?
No tree information about deducing BOTH male and female
If you wanted to be useful to your community, brochures on desexing, microchipping, nuisance, feral and stray cats would already be in circulation
If people don't know that stuff already they shouldn't own a cat
Information about Cat Advocacy groups who can help people when they are being unfairly treated in council areas and housing
How about some positives like how much joy, companionship and improved mental health cats can provide. Health and joy it seems are becoming expensive items too!!!
TTGC has done nothing on several instances I have complained of nuisance cats residing at XX Arcowie Road, Dernancourt, useless at its best, typical TTGC wiping their hands of responsibilities. Other councils have had cat bi-laws in place for many years
Yes, details about councils proposed compliance program. What does this by law actually mean? Given the wording of this question, this consultation appears to be a formality rather than a meaningful attempt to engage the community
There is no need to dedicate financial resources to develop education programs as the proposal is not supported
The word 'feral' should be changed to homeless. We don't refer to all homeless people as 'feral' and the homeless cats are simply frightened. Information on feeding cats and keeping them healthy would also be an idea
No educational materials are required. Council needs to remove their action in this area and realise that rate payers are not interested in having council involved in this issue, therefore no education materials or information is required

Rates, Rubbish, Roads and footway, and saving our reserves is all you need to do correctly FIRST
Very pleased to see the use of trapping cages discontinued. Info from Council on a regular basis relating to issues re cat by-law enforcement and cat management e.g. reporting of costs relating to cat by-law
No, lack of information is not a problem
There are not enough shelters. AWOL closed down/shelters always full. Council didn't help. Vets didn't help. Police didn't help. Where do you go when there's no help
Supporting cats to be safe
Planting middle-story bush for wildlife hiding and fledglings' tree climbing, not using poison against the mice the cats no longer catch to protect wildlife that eats potentially-poisoned mice
I'm unsure
If you own the animal, then you are obliged to keep it on your property. See above comments. What if I was to own a cow or camel am I able to let them roam the district?

Appendix 5: Verbatim comments – Workshop topics (other)

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Cat containment services
Maybe online videos instead of in person workshops for most of them. But for keeping cats at home, maybe a free workshop to make a cat toy you can take home? Could be as easy as a feather-on-a-stick toy
Communication skills to approach neighbours with problem wandering cats who spray & fight
How to create outdoor cat enclosures and exercise spaces
Solely indoor cats
How to deal with nuisance cats
All of the above and what the future costs are going to be
Management of irresponsible pet owners - How will this be managed
Benefits of owning a cat, the differences between cats and dogs
I'm a really educated cat owner with a long time history of cat ownership rescue and fostering . I really want to see education getting out there on safe cats are contained cats
helping residents contain their cats - info about fencing cat runs etc.
Outdoor cat runs
Helping cat rescues
Cat management for NON cat owners (neighbours of nuisance cats) - cat proofing, dealing with neighbouring cat owners
Property owner's rights when cats enter their property. Who is responsible for investigating instances of cats entering property unauthorised? Who pays to have a biochip read?
Any ideas on how to control the cats that don't have owners to care for them. And any ideas on how to reduce the hostile attitude of people towards cats that has been largely drummed up by a vocal minority
As mentioned previously, how to build cat enclosures. Suggest involving Men's Shed
Council working with and assisting rescues with cat management
Building trialled cat proofing not from companies that have a vested interest but only from cat owners.
Topic of TTG Council attempting to introduce cruelty against cats and about overreaching it's supposed legislative powers
Fence rollers and cat enclosures
Greater Assistance for Cat Rescue Local Operations funding.
I have many years experience caring for cats but would be interested to hear what your experts have to offer
All topics
How to keep mammals from going stir-crazy in 80 square metres after they've gotten used to ranging for miles around. It's not quite "keeping cats at home". It's more of "keeping huskies without long walks" - changing a whole life's spread. "Using mulch to keep cats from vegetable gardens" and "poison-less pest control" would also come in handy I guess

Appendix 6: Verbatim comments – 24/7 containment of cats, to commence in five (5) years time

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Strongly support

I believe that cats should be regulated to the same as dogs
Why 5 years waiting?
Wish it wasn't 5 years away
Why 5 years, make it 1 year
The Cat by-law should commence within 3 years not 5 years. We have waited too long for this as it is
If dogs are required to be inside then I fully support the idea of cats being inside as well. Every owner is responsible for their pet, regardless of cat or dog, so how can owners be responsible if they don't know where their cat is or what they are getting up to outside of their property
My cats are already indoors 24/7
It should be less than 5 years though
I would give them 12 months to prepare and as previously stated wave all registration fees for excising cats but have heavier fines for cats off property
Why are we waiting 5 years to implement partial confinement? It is preferable that this is implemented with 2 years. It is already long overdue
Strongly agree
I think it should happen earlier than that, but I understand the politics of such a decision
Fantastic idea, the sooner cats are kept off the streets and our reserves the better. Cats will be kept safe and wildlife will be saved not to mention what cats do to other people's properties and vehicles
Indoor cats are safe and happy if enrichment is provided. I support this 100%
Why not commence earlier?
The sooner the better
Why in 5 years time??? Act and implement now
No sure WHY this would commence in 5 years' time. Should be a lot earlier than that
This is the ideal position the govt and council should take
Bring it in sooner
Should be done sooner
should commence immediately... too many birds will be killed over a five year period
My dog is not allowed to roam freely, defecate wherever it likes, be unregistered and kill wildlife - why should cats be treated differently?
If I had my way the times in the house would be longer. I understand the cats need the exercise. My concerns are for the wildlife and accidental pregnancies
Cats are a destructive force on the native wild life, owning a cat should mean keeping your cat indoors for its own safety & the safety of local wild life. We do not allow dogs to roam freely in the community, cats should be no different. If a person owns a cat & wants to allow it outdoor time, that cat should still need to be confined to the owner's property
I'm sick of unrestrained cats using my garden as a toilet!!!
Wish to see stray cats not roaming my area and fighting amongst themselves at nights.
We don't dislike cats but don't believe we should tolerate strays or other people's pets.
I think you could make it earlier- depending in daylight savings. I wouldn't have it so late at night, it's dark, animals get hit. 9pm if possible at latest
Why wait for 5 years, start now! Don't pussy foot around

Pets of any description should be contained in the owner's property. For their own safety as well as those of others
It is common sense
I think laws should reflect the same as dogs. Cats are known for the destruction of wildlife and are often in other people's property
I feel that cats should have the same laws as dogs and be contained within people's homes
This is the time that problem cats in my area impact on my lifestyle
As per our previous comments, we very strongly support the 24/7 containment of cats. There are many options available for cat owners in this respect. Again, we support equity between cat and dog owners. We are required to contain our dogs 24/7 and this should be the same for cats
I believe they should be confined to the owners property just like dogs
This should come into play in 2 years not 5 years
Perfect
I support 24/7 containment but not in 5 years. It needs to happen far quicker. Come on do your jobs councillors!
Cats are a threat to wildlife. They defecate in other people's gardens. Scratch cars. Spray. Why should people have to put up with that
Dogs aren't allowed to roam so cats shouldn't be allowed to as well
It should start straight away, not in 5 years time
Very necessary for immediate commencement
I agree with all the proposed laws. I do not have a cat but I mind one regularly when family are away. The cat lives inside. If it is allowed out in my garden it is on a leash. Other cats enter my garden and stalk the birds in my garden it is so wrong
I would like to see this introduced in the next 12 months, not 5 years. This has to happen ASAP if we want to slow down the rate of extinction occurring in Australia. We are the leaders in species going extinct, in large part due to the introduction and poor management of cats
How will this be policed & enforced
Just like dogs, cats should not be allowed to roam free and be on other people's properties
There are a lot of native birds and animals in Tea Tree Gully area which need protection. (from last question)
Please read my previous comments within this document
Five years in ridiculous. Cats need to be on owners property beginning early next year. Other councils already have this law
I agree
Strongly support this, cats should not be allowed to roam the street. As a dog owner I am expected to keep my dogs contained for the safety of others, so cats should be under the same controls
Cats should be contained on premises either inside or in a cat proof yard. There are terrible for native wildlife.
I am a cat owner. Indoor cats are healthier. They live longer. But, most importantly, they don't annoy anyone else or kill native wildlife
The damage that cats do to native wildlife has been demonstrated. Owners should be forced to contain them to their property similarly to dog owners.
Responsibility it a premium
Again CAT RUNS are the only solution or you are wasting your time
It needs to be sooner than 5 years
I have neighbours whose cats keep having kittens, they would have 4-7 cats roaming around at any given time which is ridiculous. I'm not allowed to have that many dogs roaming around, why are cats any different, these neighbours also have run over 3 of their own cats because they roam and are not contained. It's absolutely ridiculous that there is one rule for dogs and 1 rule for cats
Based on our experience with our neighbour's cat, I would appreciate it

Cats should always be kept within the bounds of their own home. Dogs don't roam free, so why should cats. What's the difference? They are both household pets
I would absolutely support a 24 hour containment policy
Should be sooner
Why would it take 5 years?
Needs to be earlier than 5 years - I've been writing about this for almost 4 years in 5 years we'll be overrun
Needs to be 24/7
Should be sooner
Environmentally important
If a resident owns a pet of any description it is entirely their responsibility to know exactly where the pet is, what it is up to, and what impact it is having on others 24/7; otherwise they should not own the pet
I think containment is a good idea
Dogs have to be contained, so should cats
I think cats should be inside only. It's safer for them, the wildlife and for homes
I think 5 years is too long to wait
For far too long cats have become pests in the neighbourhood. Too much leeway and freedom to roam the streets resulting in slack irresponsible owners and feral cats procreating putting strain on welfare
I'm unsure how cat owners can be accountable
Five years is too long!
Wandering cats are a risk to wildlife during all hours so should be controlled at all times
Should be brought forward to 3 years time max. Roaming cats has been going on for way too long. We need to save our wildlife
I think it should be 2 years. This laws / rules has been a long time coming and need to be addressed, 5 years is way too far away
This is the way that society is going and I think we will get there eventually. There is no reason for cats to be allowed to wander at large. Dogs aren't allowed to. There isn't a difference!
Should commence asap
My preference would be to make it much sooner
A lot of native birds and wildlife can become endangered in this 5 year period. 2 years is ample time to buy/construct a cat cage/run. there are cats roaming my surrounding area, dig in my garden, toilet themselves, and then leave my beautiful garden smelly. I have also lost 2 new roses due to cat faeces
Beginning with 10pm-6am is a great starting base and giving 5 years to show results as to whether this is enough is an adequate time frame
No one enjoys having some else's cat on their property. Cat owners currently don't care about their roaming cat because there are no consequences
I think this is the only fair call for all residents
However, I do not want to see cats that are 'caught' being euthanised. It's not their fault
This is best practice when caring for cats and other pets in our community, as well as supporting native animals in our future environment.
It works in ACT. We should catch up! See Prof. Legge's comments https://biodiversitycouncil.org.au/news/two-thirds-of-australians-think-pet-owners-should-be-required-to-keep-cats-contained
I 1000% support this. I don't know why it's not national law. They have become so problematic. Owners can be so irresponsible when it comes to cat ownership and what their cats are doing at night / during the day when they are not inside
The sooner cats are kept caged or home the better
Why wait 5 years - Just bring it in with this bylaw in 2025. Please do the right thing by home owners who choose not to have cats and by the wildlife they regularly kill.

This will protect our native wildlife, which I consider is a priority for the future existence of our native wildlife
I believe that Council should be able to bring a cat bylaw, requiring 24/7 containment of cats, into play in less than 5 years - Council should move more urgently on this matter! This is particularly relevant for a Council that covers so much natural bush land environment
I would like to see if commence within one year or at maximum two
However, I think 5 years is too long - 3 @ most!
Responsible pet/cat owners for make a huge difference to the cleanliness of the community and also the communications with neighbours
Why 5 years' time? The damage to native wildlife and the nuisance of wandering cats needs to be curtailed NOW, not in 5 years :-(
Dogs /dog owners already comply with this (containment) and responsible cat owners should also comply
If it allows for a cage as well for fresh air. Then yes. No problem. Pets need to remain on private property
Should be sooner
I would strongly support the introduction of a Cat By-Law requiring 24/7 containment of cats, to commence in TWO years time not 5 years
5 years is generous, 2 would be sufficient time. Our native birds and wildlife will be much safer, thank you
Why 5 years - that's too long, should be immediate. I make sure my dog is secure and it's just because it's the rules - and also I care about my pet
The laws should be introduced much sooner. Why 5 years?
The sooner the better!!
It should be brought in sooner! 5 years is so far away
I would like to see it implemented sooner than 5 years
Why 5 years time - 1 year would be sufficient.
Ticked strangely support but maybe 5 years is too long
Cats do as much damage during the day (too far into the future needs to be more immediate). Containment should begin by 1/1/25, not 5 years time, how many more species will be wiped out by then??
Bring the containment of cats in 24/7 in the next 12 months
Cats should be contained during night-time hours - 0600 - 1800 hrs - ASAP
This would give owners enough time to prepare and secure their gardens. The sooner the better as we often find bodies of birds and the occasional young possum. Other smaller creatures i.e. skinks and blue tongues need protection too.
Being a resident who constantly has multiple cats coming into my back yard, digging up the garden, defecating and urinating everywhere I feel five years for 24/7 containment of cats, is way too long away for introduction. A commencement of two years r sooner would be much more appropriate. As for dog owners cat owners need to be responsible for their cats and keep them for being a nuisance to their neighbours & surrounding residents
This is a must happen and should be happening now
This is what I thought the law would have changed to from now
why wait another five years to commence this??
Already have an indoor only cat, with supervised walks out in the backyard. It works fine, but it's also all she's known!
Dogs have to be, so should cats. Dogs can be a risk to people, but cats are guaranteed to be an ongoing massive environmental risk
Cats should be inside 24/7 in a suburban area. There's no reason for an owned cat to be roaming around. If we know that cats aren't meant to be outdoors, there's no doubt that any cat you do see

outside is either feral or missing from its home (and hence, should be captured and scanned for a microchip)
Much sooner would be better
I would have an earlier introduction of this to get all cats off the streets and away from birds as soon as possible. Or perhaps a staged introduction along the lines of any cat born in or after 2025 must be contained at all times but existing cats have a two year transition period (or some such similar approach, but you also don't want people just to lie and say their cat is younger to get away with not having to contain them 24/7)
I don't believe any pet should be allowed to just roam freely into other people's properties and stalk/prey on wildlife
Essential, better late than never.
Why would this commence in 5 years time? Other councils (e.g. Campbelltown) do this now. At some point it has to change anyway so what does waiting 5 years achieve except problematic cats still roaming during the day for another 5 years
I believe 3 months is enough time for cat owners to restrain their animals to their own property
5 years time??? bring it in now, think about the rest of the community
We adopted a captured stray street cat back in June 2023. She was desexed, wormed and microchipped through Cat Adoption Foundation and has been living inside permanently since then. There was a long period of adjustment for both the cat and our not so cat-friendly dog- but they're both best buddies now. Cats can successfully transition from being outdoor roaming cats to indoor cats
I feel that cats should not be free to roam at all other than their own yards. My view on this comes as someone who has had much damage to my property and cars by neighbours' cats who are allowed to roam free during the day as well as night time
WHAT IS THE POINT OF DOING IT IN 5 YEARS????? DO IT NOW. People have let their cats wander for way too long!!!
Cats are pets, they should be kept in your own property, not left to wander neighbourhoods, into neighbours' yards etc
I have had cats all my life and totally agree with sensible management and control of them
Long overdue, appreciate that you were wanting the State Government to act
I strongly support this item. If cats were in containment or on a leash like dogs when outdoors we would not be having this conversation. 99% of the issues (defecating/urinating/fighting/killing wild life etc.) would be resolved. Until this is in place, I do not think the current wording of the proposal reads well. Extract and explanation below: 9.2 says "wandering at large within the designated span of hours" 9.3 says "span of hours means between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day." This reads to me that they cannot wander from within 0600 to 1000 - so the day not the night? I am confused? If the 24/7 option is not on the table now. Suggest 9.2 be reworded to say that "cats are not permitted outdoors between 8pm and 8am (easy to remember and understand). 1000 is too late and 0600 is too early. Letting the cat out at 0600 for a morning pooh in the neighbour's yard - Is Not good and who really is going to be out at 1000 trying to get the cat inside. Its late dark cold and not going to happen. 9. Cats Not to Wander at Large 9.1 A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a cat must not allow the cat to wander at large 9.2 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that a cat is wandering at large if the cat is wandering at large within the designated span of hours 9.3 In this paragraph designated span of hours means between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day
Even earlier would be good
Why wait 5 years - let's start immediately
All pets should be kept on their own premises to ensure their own safety
If the law comes in for 24/7 confinement which I agree with the registration is no longer necessary. The by law becomes a waste of time and money

This would be fantastic and would keep cats safe but I think residents would definitely need support and financial assistance to ensure cat enclosures are more accessible. It is cruel to deny a cat fresh air and an outside space but cat enclosures are ridiculously expensive. I just paid $2,000 for a basic one
If you own a pet it is your responsibility to contain it. 24/7 Cat Containment is not only beneficial to the cat, but also those who have to be subjected to unwanted cats in their yards, sheds, gardens, cars and in general
These changes should be allowed sooner rather than later
I do now. My yard is fully netted and I take my cat fir walks on a lead
As my cats are fully contained I strongly support this. It is safer for my cats which is why they are indoors only
I think this should be a condition of owning a domestic cat
Bring it in earlier, maybe 2 to 3 years
Additionally, cats are to be confined on their owner's property at all times
5 years is too long
Why wait 5 years. That will result in a lot of wildlife being destroyed through inaction. Either be green or stop pretending
Safer for cats to be confined to owners property
No need to wait 5 years - could be implemented sooner
Highly necessary. Cats have an excellent quality of life if kept in clean, safe containment with plenty of enrichment
All 3 of our cats are inside 24/7. It is much safer for the cats
Five years is a long time!
I would rather see this implemented earlier, but on reflection, a period of grace/education is probably good
Why 5 years? Cannot understand why such a simple by-law takes you so long to enforce
Cats are pets, like dogs, and should be treated the same. Cats fight at night, walk on other people's roofs at night, and leave faeces in other people's property. They should be confined on the owner's property 24/7.
Please bring in quicker
There will be many who will not follow this by-law. Has consideration been given to compliance and resourcing? What's proposed to deal with this issue?
This needs to be sooner
24/7 detainment would be the fairest thing for non-cat-owners' peace of mind and for cat-owners to keep their pets
I think it should be brought forward to three years. A year after the compulsory registration start
I strongly support the introduction of 24/7 containment of cats to start now
A contained cat is a safe cat, I'd like to see the council partner with cat enclosure builders to make cat enclosure's more affordable and appealing to the general public
Needs to be education and financial assistance for low income earners. Needs resources to enforce.
Bring it on!! People should be more responsible owners; we don't let our dogs roam the streets at night.
There is no logic to allowing cats to roam the neighbourhoods. They are household pets and should be treated as such. Dogs are not allowed to roam and I believe the same should be said of cats
Anyone who thinks cat should roam does not love cats
I strongly support this. As previously noted I do not give permission for other people's cats to be on my premises at any time, and in lieu I would support the idea of public cat parks similar to dog parks
Why wait 5 years? It should've implemented almost immediately
Why 5 years' time. this issue has been kicked down the road for years already it's time to make the tough decisions
I think this should be brought in ASAP

My only comment is that five years away is too long. I understand it is a gradual introduction process, but for our biodiversity we need to be on top of it right now. Why not 3 or 4 years time?
Should not wait 5 years - there are many native animals cats can kill in 5 years and an additional 5 years of cat nuisances will not be tolerated by TTG rate payers
I would say in 1-2 years time. Other council have already implemented this rule and provided an adjustment period. Our wildlife shouldn't have to wait another 5 years. Nor should neighbouring residents of cat owners
If 24/7 containment of cats cannot be brought in with the new bylaw, it should be brought in as soon as possible, preferably sooner than 5 years. A cat can be transitioned to being indoors only or outside only with suitable containment within a few months at most. If it cannot be brought in earlier, I would also suggest reducing the allowed wander at large time in stages during the transition period. Reminders for this can be provided to cat owners when they re-register
My cats are able to go outside but cannot leave the property. This is for their safety, wildlife safety and so they are not a nuisance to the neighbourhood
Can't we do it any sooner?
If you want a pet you should solely be responsible for its wellbeing and also making sure it's not being a nuisance to your neighbours unfortunately it's been heavily proven people with cats are not always responsible and allow their cats to roam freely causing damage to others property, attacking other pets, and ruining wildlife. 100% containment whether it be an outdoor enclosure or inside only should be more than reasonable and maybe make people take responsibility and have a lot of the feral cats and breeding prevented
Keeping cats indoor would be brilliant for our suburb. Apart from personal issues with other people's cats damaging plants in my garden, it would be great for our native animals. We used to have families of antechinus living in our yard when we moved in but over the last year or so they have all disappeared, most likely due to predation from the many neighbours cats who wander onto our property
We have always contained our cats so there would be no change for us
I believe that 5 years is too long, it should all come in within 12 months
This needs to be sooner as cats are a continual nuisance to our property
I don't think cats should ever be left to roam outdoors. That is irresponsible ownership as they aren't contained and are a danger/ in danger of native animals
Believe it should be sooner
5 years is far too long for commencement of 24/7 containment. We urge one year's notice or if absolutely necessary two years' maximum. Every extra year will add further to the loss of local wildlife. As noted above, other councils have already implemented 24/7 containment
Immediately would be better. Why wait 5 years. This by-law seems like the Council is just interested in a money grab for fees whilst allowing cats to continue destroying wildlife
Containment could be all hours immediately on introduction, or night containment could be increased to say 6.00pm to 8.00am
Cats can be a menace during the day as much as at night. i.e. spraying on doors, killing wildlife and leaving bits on lawn, defaecating in garden. I would like to see this start as soon as people are required to pay for registration i.e. in 2 years
I don't support the 5 year timeline, I believe it's too long., I would support a shorter, perhaps 2 year period
Cats kill wildlife at all hours. They should be confined 24/7 as soon as possible
Bring in the by-law sooner. I think one year provides owners with ample notice
I'd prefer this to occur immediately, however I do understand there needs to be a grace period for owners to prepare their properties. Maybe a 2 year period to match the free registration period
They should already be contained 24/7
Any pet that strays beyond the property boundaries should be treated equally. In such cases, the council is authorized to capture the animal and impose a fee or fine for the owner to reclaim their pet

It is for the safety of the cats
As long as the cat has suitable “containment” for health and wellbeing. Cat can sleep 85% of their day so do not need to roam
Each cat owner must ensure that the animal is contained to their property and must never wander at anytime
Not sure why we would wait 5 years. A smaller time period i.e. 2 years would be enough for cat owners to get their selves organised for this. 5 years equates to a large number of dead birds (in my garden alone)
Should be NOW
Why would you need to wait 5 years. If people choose to own an animal it should be kept on their premises at all times unless it’s with the owner and controlled
I think that is should be introduced much earlier but if it has to be 5 years then that is better than not at all. I do not know why cat owners get all this free registration and 5 years before full containment. Dog owners didn’t get all this free registration or time. I paid my Dog registration as soon as I had a Dog. I made my property secure at my expense so my dog could not get out to wander the streets and annoying residents
WHY wait 5 years???? AND HOW will you police this? I’ve seen no practical measures. Will you have lots of patrols? Will you invade people’s homes? Overreach. You KNOW you can’t police this curfew. You just want more power, control and money. It’s clear due to the lack of practical proposals. We have survived many decades without this. All you will do is get more money out of people. No cat parks or crap bags provided as you claim with dog registration $$$. I mean, what do you spend that on? What is dog registration revenue worth to this Council annually??? According to my elderly parents, the registration for theirs just keeps increasing. You will do the same with cats. And subsequent controls you will propose over people’s pets. All that rate money and ZERO autonomy on one’s own property

Support

I think cats deserve nature & fresh air but contained to their own property- cat runs are a great option but cat owners need to have the means to set it up
Many responsible owners still at times may get an escapee from a window or door
As much as I 100% agree with cats needing to be contained, they tend to cause little nuisance and stay around their own property during the day
Why in 5 years time? Why not sooner?
I have friends who have cats and dogs I know keeping cats inside 24/7 will be a struggle for them
Should be introduced much sooner - 5 years is an excessive wait time
Change is hard. I don’t really want to do it but I also think it is the right thing to do!
True saying; “cats belong at home” I want all cats to stay off my property. BUT I do worry about the mental health of cats whose owners don’t take the time to enrich their lives. At least by roaming they get to do what it is in their nature to do. But then again, I worry about all the wildlife that dies from cats. So mostly support
Should be 2 to 3 years not 5
24/7 maybe a bit strong, perhaps dusk to dawn confinement would prevent most problems
However, I think there should not be a 5 year delay
Cats should be kept indoors after dark not from 10pm
It’s the next logical step in management
This would be a harsh adjustment for cats who are already used to roaming outside
My dog has to be, so why not cats
Rebates, discount towards cat outdoor enclosures would be helpful
Bring it forward. Complete containment and compliance in 3 years. Look at how much difference can be made by not delaying

I live in the TTG area to enjoy wildlife around me. This is an area that should be free of domestic cats unless totally secured at home on their property
Why 5 years this seems a very long time. How hard is it to contain a cat at night?
Should be no time frame uncontained or not in control. Feral cats and nuisance cats wander before times proposed
5 years is too long to wait. Cats are a pest and owners need to be more responsible. Containment laws should come into being within 18 months at the longest
Cats can be very good companions for families with young children, those who live alone, and for aged people. I would not like to see a cat by law such as this which discouraged these types of families/people from the positive benefits of owning a cat. I have owned cats for all of my adult life, and all have been contained to home and have had access to large cat enclosures
My cats solely contained, not a problem to community
As previously suggested, there needs to be a transition period. Five years is not enough though. My cats typically live 15 to 20 years. If I had 3 cats now aged 2, 3 and 5, the 5 year transition period would mean I would have to re-home one of them OR rehome one now. That would not be fair. Maybe you just have to allow for nature to take its course for the cats that owners have when the by-law commences. Which, of course, would provide evidence that your 2 cat limit is silly
May need to consider how people renting a home would manage this. Has Council canvassed the Home Renting peak body (?) about this?
Sometimes it can be difficult if you have indoor outdoor cats, as I find mine get frisky around dusk so they can bolt outside, even when I'm policing the door. (I've trained my cats to stay in my back yard, so them wandering the neighbourhood isn't an issue I personally face). I worry about what might happen if a cat escapes during the curfew despite its owners safeguards and best intentions?
Commence in 1 year - 5 years is far too long
It is my view that 5 years is too long, 12 months is more than enough time to secure your property for a cat. Cats are known to be damaging to the environment, this would only exacerbate their impact. Owning a pet isn't a right it is a privilege
"to commence in five (5) years time" seems an unnecessarily long time. The problem of cats killing our wildlife has been with us for far too long already. It is recommended that containment at all times be implemented as soon as is practical (while complying with reasonable/legislated consultation processes)
I would wonder how many cats come back home by 10pm. Would owners be expected to look for their cat. What about what cats get up to between 6am and 10pm?
The time frame is too lenient and should be immediate, not in 5 years
Agree, although is five year's notice sufficient? Some people would be forced to rehome their cats with others a Council should provide support for this to occur
I have concerns if my cat won't come in for dinner. Only about twice a year he struggles to come in till later in the evening
I believe there are some residents that allow their cats to roam free especially at night. These owners need to be targeted not responsible cat owners.
I agree that free roaming cats are a concern. They're a concern to the environment, the cats themselves, even cat owners who have their cats inside are impacted. It's the journey to get to the proposed time constraints that concern me
As long as there is the flexibility of being able to walk a cat on a lead outside the property, similarly to how dogs are managed. Not only is this good for the cat's mental health but also the owner's mental health
5 years time is a bit ridiculous? The action should take place a lot sooner than this. Or provide some financial relief to dog owners over the 5 years while we wait for others to start paying for their cat registration
Whilst it will be hard for some people, especially financially, it's best for the cats and the wildlife and environment

While I agree that cats should be indoor animals in Australia, I am conscious of the fact that an outdoor cat will not adapt well to enforced containment. If all new pets are required to be indoor or in enclosures then I would fully support this, but I would not support enforcing all cats to be indoor from a designated date. it is too hard on both the animals and the owners
I support the TTG council cat by-law, but hope that a couple of aspects of the proposed by-law should be tweaked
Sometimes cats are jerks and escape despite precautions. No penalties for an escapee vs a blatant rule breaking household
My cats have access to my contained backyard under supervision only. They are unable to jump fences or leave the back yard. They are otherwise inside cats and therefore are not a nuisance to any of our Neighbours, nor pose threats to wildlife. I agree that cats should be contained - if this means modifications are required, council should subsidise those costs
As long as there is a widespread information campaign to ensure everyone is aware of expected standards
I think neighbouring Councils would need to have similar by-laws for the system to work
Have done this for years already. Cats get used to it very easily. Sadly I don't have a cat or 5 at present. First time in 50+ years. Would like some in the future but you are REALLY spoiling that idea
The limit on cats should be greater than two. More like five

Neither support nor oppose (neutral)

Cats need a bit of freedom during the day. They love to explore. However, as long as no wildlife is threatened
I feel that cats should be allowed outside but if they can be confined to a yard like we do with dogs that would be best
All animals need to be able to go outside, containment could be costly and prohibitive for many and therefore ignored how do you police this when cats can travel quickly and some distance
At the moment I am neutral on this subject as from a cat owner perspective, with cats that are outside during daylight hours, it would be a challenge to suddenly come up with a suitable containment space which also allows our dog to relieve himself without letting the cats out. One would want plenty of notice if this were to occur. I feel that some people would dump their animals due to the cost of having to build something to contain them, especially if they still wish for the animal to have outside access. Also, for those animals who have been allowed access to outside for many years it may stress the animals not have that external access and stress the owners for those animals who like to play escapee. I can see both positives and negatives at this time
I think this needs some work as I'm not sure that people would be able to do this while maintaining a healthy environment for the cat
There's pros and cons. (By then my cat would be 17 and likely either an invalid or deceased)
There needs to be more of phase in period, increasing the containment to say 8pm to 7am, then 7pm to 8am etc
The reason I'm neutral, is my cats are kept indoors and do not pose a nuisance to anyone
Cats like to have time out in the fresh air. People in our community that cannot afford the cost of an outdoor area for their cat can risk a cat can become unruly or difficult. Also cats are wonderful escape artists. I am not sure if this would be entirely possible
I personally believe cats should be contained (and mine are indoor only cats 100% of the time) however some cats do not wish to be confined and I think in those instances there should be a night time only confinement requirement
I don't know. I believe in these fence roll things to keep in the yard. I have a cat cage and am using it now due to Charlie being scared off by night work on sewerage project. But I am finding it hard watching my adult cats yowling to go out in the yard. They never go far and neighbours all okay if they park in their yard occasionally. They are in at night but not day then they just sleep all day on the back yard chairs. On their hand I had one get run over and one attacked by a fox in the past.so 50-50. The

cost of a decent cat enclosure is between $3000-$8000 depending what you get. Mine was $2500 4 years ago. So that is going to be a major issue. Also research shows that outside desexed cats have their territory no more than 3 houses from home but they control that territory and actually keep feral/ homeless us desexed cats away from the area. This was from an Australian research paper. It is undesexed unhomed cats that prey on most wild life and cause the problems of kittens, dirty cats, scratching digging etc. as they are trying to survive. No cat should be not desexed so they need to be rehomed desexed or put down. Sad but true
24/7 containment is a bit draconian. While we keep our cat(s) indoors, they are allowed short (30 mins) excursions outside maybe once a week - with supervision so they do not attack wildlife or cause a nuisance
I tentatively support this in principle, as I recognise the widespread harm domestic cats do to wildlife. I have seen a neighbour's cat (elsewhere in the world) take a bird from a feeder in our yard during daylight, so I think containment is a responsible approach to harm minimisation. However, I also know several cats who do stay home all day, but will come out to say hello to passers-by, and that can be quite delightful; it's the kind of neighbourhood I want to live in. So I would much rather see the proposal reframed as being something that will be *reviewed* in five years' time. At that time, it should be put out to similar community consultation as this by-law. Within the 5 years of the curfew system, Council should try to gather as much data as possible on how effective the measures have been at reducing harm to wildlife and nuisance to neighbours (it will probably already reduce vet bills)
It's not always possible to get cats in before a particular time particularly if you are out and don't come home by the stipulated time
It will only contain the cats that have owners. It doesn't address the problem of stray, lost or feral cats
I agree with the idea however I do not know how realistic that time period is. People would need time to prepare. It's possible that within this timeframe people would panic and abandon their cats which only adds to the problem. People would need education and support to make this work
Obviously, the anti-cat brigade has the ear of various levels of government so those of us who have a cat and represent a silent element will have no say in legislation for trivial things
Should only be enforced once a cat has been deemed a nuisance

Oppose

It should be 5 years time, NOW, dogs have to be
Some cats are hard to contain all the time
This additional constraint in the appropriate management of cats is not necessary. Most issues relating to cats will be better controlled with the proposed containment between 10pm and 6am. No need to go over the top
they do control pest rodent infestations. What will happen to the feral cat colonies? Will they be captured, desexed and released back into the colony?
I think it is unfair and unreasonable to expect cats to be locked up 24/7
Should start sooner than 5 years
I don't think cats should be contained for 24/7 as they are harder to contain than dogs but I do think cats should be contained at night
It's almost impossible to contain most cats in a yard without extensive fence structures, which are very expensive. I do, however, agree strongly with night-time curfews
I think it is an unrealistic requirement to say all cats should be confined 24/7. I believe that cats are better off being confined, and that is what I do with my own cats. But I also know that for many people, the attraction to own cats is that they are an easy to care for pet, with lower levels of commitment than pets such as dogs, for example. Furthermore, there are entrenched cultural attitudes about the needs of cats to roam, which some people hold very strongly. A by-law requiring 24/7 containment will need enforcement and that will cost money, so that will also mean registration fees will need to be introduced and progressively raised. I think we'd then have problems with compliance, with owners opposed to containment choosing not to register

While I do not own a cat, I like seeing the neighbours' cats in my garden. It is very rare for them to be any genuine nuisance. I do not think cats are of a nature to be kept contained to one property at all times. I agree with keeping them contained overnight but not during daylight hours.
It is not an issue so why create a problem
I support this, but I would like this to be for new cats registered when the new by-laws come into effect, which I also consider the 10pm to 6am containment for newly obtained cats. Otherwise I support all other aspects 100%
I fully support the 10pm-6am but do not support 24hours a day containment
It is impossible to police and unreasonable to expect. Cats require grass and Vitamin D. Night time bans are great, and encouraging keeping them indoors primarily with education is great. The more cats are kept indoors the more timid they are to be let out for supervised short periods for grass and sun and they won't wander off, but will run back inside to safety. There has to be an allowance for them to have grass and sun and exercise
Only support the no more than 2 cats per household same as dogs
Most homes will not have the infer structure in place for this to happen and the cost of putting it in place will be too much for most people. Again I am concerned about the dumping of cats that will occur if this is enforced
You can contain dogs 24/7 because you can give them freedom by taking them for a walk or to dog park - you can't do the same with cats they need to have some freedom and I believe responsible cat owners do that now as they feed and have an environment that the cat will always return to after short time!
Introduction of a Cat By-Law requiring 24/7 containment of cats should commence immediately
Very costly for cat owners to construct cat runs. If the cat is registered, desexed, microchipped and is wearing an ID collar it can be returned to owner if & when required. ALL cats should be locked up/inside between 8pm & 6am
Not realistic!! Going to cause unnecessary stress upon both cat owners and cats, who's cats are used to going out during the day. Night curfew is good though
My personal preference is for cats to be indoors with constrained external access such as a catio however I recognise this is not practical or financially achievable for all owners nor are all cats suited to this lifestyle
Its super unfair to contain cats 24/7 - it's not a law for dogs so why for cats? They should have the freedom to be outside, just like dogs
I would need to understand how easy / hard it would be to retrain a cat to become an indoor cat or a cat confined to an enclosure
I have mixed feelings about this. Cat owners who have had experience with multiple pets will advise that, for some cats, confinement leads to extreme stress that simply cannot be alleviated. Furthermore, most cats who go out during the daytime are not always reliable concerning when they come home, even at the risk of being late for dinner. Therefore, the idea of enforcing cat confinement and penalising owners (or cats) who are unable to comply does not seem feasible. Most cats (although not all) would be happy with an adequate outdoor enclosure or confinement to the back yard with appropriate fencing. These measures are quite expensive, however, and I fear that, even if Council provided help in the short term, sooner or later the pet owner will be expected to foot all or most of the bill. This would mean that cat ownership would be out of reach for many people. On the other hand, I have grave concerns with cats' impact on wildlife. There are no easy answers here. The best way forward would be if Council were willing to meet the costs associated with enclosures and fencing for cat confinement
Unless you have a cat enclosure there is no way to make a cat stay in your yard
It is pointless introducing a law that is going to be impossible to uphold
I understand a night time containment, but I still like to let my cats out for an hour or so during the day when I am home, contained to my backyard

Given the wide type of properties throughout the TTG Council zone a blanket 24/7 containment would prove difficult on farms, larger properties or if little children live in the house
You once again make a statement with no consequences what happens to non-contained cats? Non-contained cats are not necessarily problem cats. My cats live in a cat run attached to my house, they are desexed, microchipped, monitored for illness, well fed etc.
Will support be in place for lost cats to be returned to owners. What benefit is there to cat and owner for registration?
I oppose only because the problem won't be dealt with. The problem is desexing all cats straight away. (P.S. I have a catio) but I can't keep all cats in there they fight)
Will support be in place for lost cats to be returned to owners. What is the benefit to cat owners for fees?
It's hard to keep cats within a boundary. I worry that policing it so strongly to be 24/7 is making it too hard and too harsh for owners too quickly. It's best with any new situation to introduce an introductory step. I think a curfew at night to start out with to see how it progresses the situation is definitely viable. Policing cats to be contained 24/7 is just going overboard for now

Strongly oppose

Current by-law will contain cats at night, thus reducing dangers to native wildlife. Cats are nocturnal and this is when they hunt. Current by-law will ensure Cats can be identified by collar, disc and microchip. There is already a law against cat nuisance (noise, faeces, spraying). If there is a problem this can be addressed on an individual basis. Cats should be allowed outside in their own garden, this is an animal health and wellbeing issue. If they create a problem by jumping over a fence, this can be addressed under existing law
Five years is too far away
Should be in the next year. Five years is way too long
I think the proposal to keep cats in at night is reasonable however not all cats could cope with being inside 24 hours a day depending on their breed. I have. British Blue who is primarily by self-determination an inside cat and even she likes to go outside first thing in the morning fur 5 mins before coming back inside for most of the day. My other cat is a Tabby and though he spends most of his day asleep he does enjoying pottering my garden
It should start now
That is much too far into the future
Why put your rate payers through 5 years, start your programs as soon as possible
Our cat would have gone crazy if he were contained. He was a natural hunter - and that's why we got him. We wanted some control on the mouse and rat population. Bringing in containment for cats that have been "free range" would be very difficult and unkind to the cats
It's not natural to keep cats confined, it will also stop people from providing cats a home as owners will need to spend lots of money on cat runs and other equipment to keep cats confined. The amount of kittens and cats needing homes will skyrocket as a result of this measure
Cats wander. Always have. If cats are "educated" and fed, they just wander and don't bother. Specially with hunting. They are lazy when it comes to food. Like our vet said "the cat thinks: why bother hunting then I have a bowl of food waiting for me'. Another issue that came to my mind issue is my back neighbour. There is a cat that comes to my backyard and attacks my oldest cats. When I asked him if it was their cat, he said "NO, he doesn't seem to have an owner. I just feed him and hasn't left since." People need to be educated about that. - Don't feed cats if you don't own them or they'll never leave - Take them to a vet, call AWL or the council - If you decide to feed it, take responsibility of it - A lot of street cats aren't desexed. Soon enough we'll have 10 more kittens in our area
Not everyone has the means/area to allow their cat to run outside in a confined space. In that instance, their cat would be confined to the house 24/7. Dogs can go for a walk on a leash--cats are

generally unable to do that and that level of confinement is cruel for animals who are used to being outdoors for at least part of the day. I would be strongly opposed to that idea
Going to be very hard and expensive. We couldn't afford a cat fence around our property. Our cat is predominately inside however has snuck out when the door is ajar
A cat is naturally an outdoor animal. This is a ridiculous idea. I would move from this council region if this was introduced
Cats are cats and descended from wild cats...they enjoy being outside
They should be contained 24/7, if any of my dogs were running free even for a minute, I would be charged, the council need to be taking a stronger stance on this issue, cats can do damage to property, wildlife, whether they are out for 5 minutes or 24 hours
Responsible cat owners already do the right thing. Focus needs to be on discounted desexing, microchipping and trapping of feral cats
Cats need opportunity to be outside and cost to build cat run not viable
We feel this may result in wholesale dumping of cats by less responsible owners add to the problems of control by council
This would be devastating for the elderly. They would not be able to afford the kitty litter for a start on top of proposed registration as well as desexing and microchipping as well as regular vet visits. It is taking away the opportunity for company for the elderly
Prefer to see from 10.00pm to 6.00am Containment
Similar to proposed law that will make it illegal to sell smoking products to people born after 2008. Cats born before July 2027, should not fall under this confinement law, it is inhumane and against animal rights laws
Absolutely no way, over my dead body! What a completely moronic idea. I have owned both and: 1) Cats are outdoor creatures, it is animal cruelty to confine them entirely indoors, ESPECIALLY if they already spend time outside. At the very least, such a rule could only be for new cats, not existing cats, and then I still do not support it 2) Ignore responses to this question from dog owners. They are biased and do not understand cats or their needs 3) If you're going to require cats being contained at all times, you must also require dogs to be contained at all times (no walks, even leashed). All pets in fact. While you're at it, confine pet owners, and Councillors 24/7 4) Cats are much less of a problem than dogs, there is dog shit everywhere I walk, never in my life have I trodden in cat poo. I've witnessed dog attacks, where the dog has initiated the attack (ran 100m to the small child). A cat would only self-defend. For every cat that makes noise at night, there are 100 dogs that do the same
No .... just no. Keeping cats indoors at all times is just plain cruel. Our cats only leave the house for short periods now (20-30 mins at most). Making them stay indoors forever is not an option. Solutions to secure the yard would be a much better option
Cats are not the enemy. They should not have to be confined 24 hours if the owner does not wish to do so
I can usually locate my cats within 2min. However to confine them 24/7 when they have currently lived a life of freedom will be very challenging for owners and pets cared for, desexed cats do not seem to wonder like others which have not been desexed
Absolutely no way - will fight this all the way
Cats are wild animals and shouldn't be kept inside. What will control rats and mice if cats aren't allowed outside
I don't think it is fair to confine cats to the house 24/7 and it is difficult to keep them in a yard without a large and expensive cage set up
Dogs are not forced to be contained and don't seem to suffer penalties when they get loose why should cat owners. We have to put up with incessant barking from neighbours (must be above a decibel level to deal with) yet cat owners are required to have stricter laws

My issue with this is similar to my earlier comments. Keeping cats indoors is not mentally healthy for them. CTTG has many great properties for cats to be outside. We live on a quiet cul-de-sac and it seems downright cruel to not let a cat outdoors or only in a cage. The cats that are problematic are the ones who aren't desexed and don't have a home. They wander around, make noise and pick fights with other cats
I strongly oppose the length of time proposed!! Why does it need to take 5 years? Surely 6 months is time enough for owners to arrange containment within their own properties. I am far from being a greeny but In 5 years the number of small animals that a cat will kill or maim is astronomical. Time to get things moving, the cat containment discussions have been going on for far too long across all councils. It's great to see some councils actually making a difference quickly!!
A cat is not a dog. I don't believe locking them in is reasonable. When I had a cat she was desexed and she could go into or out of the house whenever she wanted via cat door but she didn't visit the neighbourhood. Not necessary to lock them in
I understand that there various containment cages on the market, I used to have one of these many years ago, but I stopped using it as a method of keeping my cat at home, as my cat was frequently able to escape. If the proposed policy was put in place, what would, happen to cats like this who manage to\escape? How would poorer families afford such a thing? If they could not afford one, would they have to try to keep their cat indoors and hope that it, doesn't get, out? How would the council get people to do this? Many cat owners still put their cats outside at night, and are not concerned about where they go during the day. I feel that permanent containment of cats is not a tenable proposition. The cat curfew however can be useful for preserving wildlife and the safety of the cats
Cruel to cats. Focus attention on stray, owned and feral cats
I just simply cannot achieve the containment to my cat 24/7. It is also cruel to a cat that is used to being able to go outside to entrap it. A lot of people have both cats and dogs they would have a doggy door for the dog which a cat can go in and out of too. There are also kids that you need to consider that leave doors open or open doors without thinking and a cat that is used to being outside would just run and it is not easy to get a cat back inside like it is a dog. Then there is the impact of people getting rid of their cats as they can't afford the cost of encolours or home modifications. I cannot mentally deal with the stress of having 3 kids on the spectrum and having to make sure they don't let the cat out or that the dog can go in and out. I would have to surrender my cat and then deal with the outcome when it comes to my children losing their support animal. I know when our cat does pass away, I will not be getting another one with all these new laws that never used to be in place when I purchased my cat are now in place. It is a lot easier to keep a cat contained overnight then 24/7 and if you fix the issues with the curfew then why add in extra restrictions. The cost alone will be huge, and people simply cannot afford them these poor animals will be killed simply because people cannot do what you are asking
My cats come inside before sunset and put after dawn. The do not leave the yard
Cats need fresh air and natural surroundings. Additionally, keeping them in 24/7 is difficult for lots of families with dogs who go in and out, and who have small children who don't remember to close doors. I feel like cats would escape quite easily all the time
REDICULOUS, Full confinement of cats should be made mandatory at the next registration period 2025/26. Unconfined cats will cause the same issues that already exist and the flora, fauna and wildlife cannot afford 5years till action is taken. Who controls the issue of cats wandering at large / effective control and will penalties be the same as those for dogs???????
This should be introduced now not in five years. Fully support 24/7 containment. Cats are doing damage to the environment and Fauna now not in five years' time
It would be a very sad day indeed. That is a draconian measure that will eat away at the fabric and freedom of Australian life as we've know it. We enjoy time on our property with our cat doing zero harm to anyone or anything apart from some occasional catching of introduced rodent species i.e. rats and mice. Although increasingly deep in suburbia we have grassed areas around us and rodent control of this nature is not only something we are very grateful for but a community service. Please do not

increase the use poison baits as this can kill owls etc. Introducing something like this will result in ratepayers paying a lot of extra money for unreasonable restrictions to daily life
There is no objective evidence based reasoning to justify this measure. It is abundantly clear that the principal cause of the loss of native birds and wildlife in the area is as a result of the destruction of their native habitat. There is no credible independently generated evidence from scientifically designed studies that the ongoing impact of domesticated cats is something other than zero. If council is seeking to protect remnant or restored pockets of native vegetation and backslash or provide sanctuary for native fauna, then a set of targeted policies and practices should be designed for those zones. This set of policies and practices should be based on a risk assessment from all threats and hazards that can be identified, rather than targeting cats. Otherwise, the existing provisions on nuisance, together with the introduction of the two cat limit per property (which I support) provide sufficient and effective response to protect the interests of neighbours
Same what I stated in my first comment. This is cruel for cats
This law leads to the permanent imprisonment of cats who survive the purge, an animal welfare issue of highest order, cats are not inside animals. Further it amounts to genocide of an entire species of animals
There is no value to the community of any of the proposed cat by-laws and requiring complete containment of cats will merely exacerbate the negative aspects of the issues previously raised. Requiring 24/7 containment of cats will obviate the proposed requirement to register cats
Why? to what benefit? It is not a goldfish
I strongly disagree and I have owned cats for over 60 years. Our cat usually stays inside but is allowed outside if she wants to go out. I would hate to keep her confined to inside or a cat run outside
Impossible to get outdoor cats to suddenly be trapped indoors. We don't have room inside like many others. So the number of surrendered cats will be huge. Our cats easily escape as we have young children opening doors
Unhygienic and not in a cats nature to be indoors
It's ridiculous that council wants to be able to dictate what my pet can do at all times
If it all it needs to be longer than 5 years so someone can consider this when getting a cat, cats can live for 20 years so you are forcing people to have their cats indoors for 15 years potentially, unfair for the cats and people. There is a relatively large rat and mouse problem in the tea tree Gully area, I believe this is kept under control by cats and this will become a huge problem in the future of not taken into consideration correctly.
ChatGPT You said: I AM NOT SUPPORTING GOVEN INITIATIVE AT ALL BECAUSE I AM SURE THAT IN CLOSEST TIME COUNCIL WILL MAKE CAT REGISTRATION PAYABLE AND QUITE SURE THAT THEY WILL CONNECT THE FEE AGAIN WITH THE PRICE OF THE HOUSE THAT gin will be substantial amount and burden for the household. At the same time council doesn't provide any services to the cat owners. Not all the cats wearing collars and easily get rid of them, so that the price of buying new collar with engraving will put more burden on the household. It is intervention in the private life by mandating the number of animals household can have. The rule 2 cats for household will make lots of cats to be put to be killed because shelters are full. Overall the cats Law will just increase council benefits but put more costs to the animal owners. Just one more tax hidden by the pretended care intention. Check and make it more official ChatGPT said: ChatGPT Here's a more formal version of your statement: Subject: Opposition to Proposed Cat Registration and Ownership Limitations I strongly oppose the proposed government initiative concerning mandatory cat registration and ownership limitations. My concerns are as follows: Anticipated Financial Burden: I am convinced that, in the near future, councils will introduce a registration fee for cats. This fee will likely be linked to property values, as has been seen with other local charges, resulting in a substantial and undue financial burden on households. This move would disproportionately affect homeowners, creating a hidden tax under the guise of animal welfare.

Lack of Services for Cat Owners: Despite imposing such fees, councils currently do not offer any meaningful services to cat owners. Additionally, many cats do not wear collars or can easily remove them, necessitating frequent replacements. The cost of continually buying new collars and engraving them adds yet another financial strain on households. Infringement on Privacy and Autonomy: The mandate restricting the number of cats a household can own (e.g., a maximum of two cats) is an unwarranted intervention in private life. Such a restriction will likely lead to an increase in euthanasia rates as shelters become overwhelmed with cats that owners are forced to give up. Increased Council Revenue at the Expense of Residents: This law appears to be more about generating revenue for the council than genuinely caring for animal welfare. It will increase costs for cat owners without providing any tangible benefits or support, functioning effectively as another tax masked by a pretence of concern for animal welfare. In summary, the proposed cat laws would unfairly penalize cat owners, reduce animal welfare, and serve primarily as a revenue-generating measure for councils. I urge a reconsideration of this initiative, focusing instead on more supportive and less financially punitive measures for responsible pet ownership. Let me know if you need any further adjustments. You said: I am strongly opposed potential cat containment in the next 5 year because it is harsh and unnecessary measure that violate animal rights and will deteriorate cats life and health conditions. Cats are animals and they need fresh air. Check and make more official ChatGPT said: ChatGPT Here's a more formal version of your statement: Subject: Opposition to Proposed Cat Containment Measures I strongly oppose the potential implementation of cat containment measures within the next five years. Such measures are both harsh and unnecessary, with the following concerns: Violation of Animal Rights: Mandatory cat containment represents a severe infringement on the rights of animals. Cats, as living beings, have a natural need for fresh air and outdoor exploration. Confining them indoors would significantly restrict their freedom and negatively impact their well-being. Detrimental Effects on Health and Well-being: The health and quality of life of cats will likely deteriorate under such containment policies. Outdoor activity is crucial for their physical and mental health. Restricting their access to outdoor spaces could lead to increased stress, behavioural issues, and other health problems. In conclusion, the proposed cat containment measures are unjust and could have serious negative consequences for the well-being of cats. I urge a reconsideration of this approach in favour of more balanced and humane solutions that respect the rights and needs of animals
No. God no please no. No. Noooooooooooooooooooooooooo
I feel that it is unethical and inhumane to confine a cat to an indoor home 24/7. None of their natural instincts or needs can be met completely
It is Enforcement of Cruelty
Reverse any laws to pets immediately you have no authority. I don't agree with the council spending any of OUR money on anything all 100% of residents in the area we do not agree with
If you want to make all cats indoor cats (with the use of catios), I don't see a problem with it. But the second you try and say how many cats a person can own when they've done nothing but provide the best quality of life for those cats, that's a problem. That I will never agree with. A council has no right to determine the amount of animals a person can own when that person is fulfilling all their responsibilities as an owner
There would have to be special rules for fosters that have many cats at a time
When my neighbour who has 100s of homing pigeons with smell, fly so low over homes and attract brown snakes and rats has to contain his animals I will support containing mine
What a cancel culture leftist world where I can't see, talk to, and pat the many cats I come across during daylight walks around my neighbourhood

Should begin immediately as per dogs!!!!!
That's is ludicrous and totally unfair!!!! Very upsetting for a cat lover and cats. Imagine instilling these laws for dogs!
Very difficult to enforce and would place a lot of stress on owners.
Simply won't abide by this 'Cat bylaw'
You will create bigger issues of obesity, depression etc it is not good for the cats wellbeing it will be cruel and inhumane
This is getting more ridiculous with each question
Dogs aren't contained 24/7 so why should cats be??????? Cats need to be kept inside at night to be safe but they do not need to be imprisoned 24/7. Cats should have access to their own backyard with cat run/rollers on fences etc rather than containment
How ridiculous! I strongly oppose such a by-law!
This should never occur
If the Council is considering in 5 years, to have full containment for CATS then should this also pertain to Dogs? Cats present no danger to people. They do not attack. There are numerous dogs attack on people around Australia every year. As a person that frequently walks in the Linear Park Reserve it is always littered with Dog faeces which will remain live in the ground for up to 7 months and could contain Parvo virus if they are unvaccinated. Parvovirus can persist long after faeces have disintegrated. Cats are more hygienic by nature
Why don't you leave the residences alone and stop trying to control everything?
Cat bylaws do not work ever - an expensive failure wherever they have been tried - see Mitcham, Campbelltown etc. Relying on residents to inform on other residents' breaking the law is divisive and creates community disharmony and will enable [like the former hiring out of cat trapping cages] cat haters to kill and dispose of neighbours cats which have caused no harm. If Council truly want good cat management and control then they must focus on the totally necessary mass cat desexing to achieve cat population control and management. Without this all other measures are a waste of time and resources; with cat desexing most of the other controls become largely redundant
First, I would like to know the reason why cats should be confined to home. This has not been clearly stated. Second, it lacks practicability. People have windows that they open for airing during the day or in summer all night. Third, cats that are used to being outside will suffer from poor mental health when they are suddenly confined indoors
I am strongly opposed to a night curfew so would even more staunchly oppose this
Totally ridiculous. Use your brains and stop wasting our rates
Cats keep the rodent population down!
If you want to imprison all cats then they will each need a huge enclosure - then the council must help with the financial cost - as how would you like to imprisoned for your entire life! Dogs can go for a walk on the leash at least/and they have dog parks... how can we have cat parks then! and how is this going to work?
Yes, I strongly oppose this. It's being pushed through by a vocal minority of people (many of which have their own agenda) and they're relying on the ignorance of the residents to try and push it through. Just because there's about 800 people who want it, that doesn't mean that they're speaking for the 100k people in the TTG area
Sure, but let's also introduce containment of dogs so we can: stop the fowling of pathways, sports fields and other recreational parks; stop the disturbance caused by constant dog barking; and we let the wild animals in the area return to their habitats in our community. As a community we should also make the traffic burden caused by dog owners less invasive and certainly safer... it's a joke at the moment and it's just getting worse as people travel from further afield!
Do not want a blanket containment cat by-law
As stated before, unless Council is going to significantly assist residents in cat-proofing properties and constructing cat enclosures, expecting them to contain animals who naturally want to roam is not reasonable

There is a cost of living crisis. If this plan was approved it would mean that people (e.g. pensioners) who are already struggling might be forced to give up their beloved cat
It is desirable for cats to stay in their yard and to be inside at night for their own safety. They are then less likely to be hit by a car. However, to make confinement in the yard compulsory is absurd. Unlike dogs, cats can climb trees and trellises, and can jump over fences. Therefore there is a substantial cost involved in erecting a cat-proof fence. Will the government pay a “fence subsidy rebate” to people like pensioners, who depend on their feline companions, but don’t have the money for high fences? Also cats are naturally free-ranging animals that do not adjust well to permanent confinement in small areas. Compulsory night curfews create unnecessary difficulties for people whose working hours don’t allow them to get their cat inside by dark. There is also a problem of policing. How can it be verified whether or not cats are inside?
Cats are not quite lions. Their territory is smaller. But it’s still far bigger that two rooms of a house. Sedentary lifestyle and lockdown-style confinement had been bad for dogs and humans - how can we expect it to be good for cats? Also, considering the vacuum effect, wildlife will not be any better off. If people switch to poison for mouse control, wildlife would be far worse off. The difficulties (and costs) of doing litter cleaning for a confined cat, as mentioned by a pensioner on a previous Council meeting needs to also be considered... Animal shelters are never empty as it is. Don’t force more people to give up their cats due to being unable to care for them at such closely confined quarters
Some cats will not remain inside. It is physically not possible

Unsure

Think this may be difficult to enforce
A little concerned that houses in the neighbourhood will be surrounded by mesh/structures/fencing to keep their cats contained
I would prefer to see how the new bylaw plays out to see if it minimises bird and wildlife destruction
Support for pets. Regarding unowned/ stray cats would like council to commit to a capture & release program ‘no kill’ is TNR. Trap neuter release. that could be assisted by local volunteer groups. The local rescue volunteers groups would appreciate council grants /funding to assist them
I believe this could be very upsetting and an issue for cats that are currently outside during the day.
I am worried about the effect this could have on the number of people who abandon their cats, or refuse to keep their cats indoors at all as reactance. I would also want to be sure of what would happen to cats that escape, and provision for cats to be allowed out on leashes
Care to a confined outdoor area which also has access to my home. This has been a great expense for me however I chose to do this for my cats’ safety, wildlife safety and for my own peace of mind knowing that my beloved cats were safe. If this becomes mandatory, I’m not sure how many cat owners could manage the financial demand of doing this. It might be worthwhile for council to consider providing financial assistance.... possibly by putting together a list of trades that can work at a reasonable rate to create enclosed areas for cats should any TTG resident what to go down that path
Cats should be contained 24 hours a day this can be done using cat flaps with mesh tunnels and domes attached or attached outside runways so they can enjoy being in the sun
Cats need sunshine and fresh air, some cats if locked inside 24/7 wreck furnishings and furniture depending on the age and breed. Some homes are very smelly, cats like a clean environment

Appendix 7: Verbatim comments – Other comments

*In the interests of transparency, responses have been transcribed verbatim with minimal editing. Therefore some spelling and/or grammatical errors **may exist**.*

Totally in agreement
Responsibility for cat owners in line with dog ownership
Not before time, they are breeding in our water catchments. Feral cats need to be caught and destroyed'
What I don't want to see is a Cat by-law put in place and it is not acted upon or where the Council becomes a toothless tiger either not willing or not capable of acting upon complaints about cats causing problems within the council area. The residents are fed up - let's see some action
It is so great to see council taking on this emotive issue
It's a disservice to allow pets to destroy our natural wildlife and there is no apparent reason to allow cats specifically to be treated differently than other pets, dogs require rego and native wildlife requires a license
Thank you for addressing this issue
I can't emphasise enough my full support for this. Make it happen
This a well overdue by-law
Good that the council is taking action on the matter
Bring in sooner and impose penalties on owners, same as dog owners
Included cat photo for reference **(see Appendix 8, Attachment C)**
I had a cat until recently, and will again, my strong support isn't from any dislike of cats
Great to see the council being pro-active in this area, cats do untold damage to wildlife and as we are have the pleasure of having wildlife in our area, it should be protected best possible
It is sensible legislation, I don't believe further cat containment is needed. If Council is looking at this, there needs to be solid data and evidence after the implementation of the new by-law, to consider any further change
It should be mandatory for all cat owners. Breeders should be registered and under the same regulations as dog owners. Get rid of the back yard cat breeders. This will ease the strain on the council and private pounds that look after stray and unwanted cats and reduce and hopefully eradicate the feral cat issues
Roaming cats MAY assist in the control of mice but also as hunters, they are constantly seeking out other wildlife of birds and small reptiles
Same rules as dog owners. I feel lucky that I don't have either
Should have already been put in place
Well done!!!
I strongly believe that cats should not be at large at any time of the day. They should be confined to the property of their owner. Dogs are not allowed to wander the streets through the day so why should cats be able to
We are very pleased that there is finally some movement in this space. It is long overdue, and we are hopeful that cats will soon be cared for in the best way possible for all council residents
Well done for the proposal. Not all cats cause problems for neighbours and wildlife but it's time to think of those issues. Thank you
In my opinion Cats and Dogs should be treated equally in law, I fail to see why dogs have to be contained and cats can roam free. I realise that dogs are more dangerous but cats are dangerous as well (they can and do injure people, this is from personal experience)
It needs to be much stronger. Cats are a nuisance. I can't believe how any cat owner can think it's okay to let their cat leave their property. The council has been really weak on this issue for a very long time. These new by-laws are a start but are still not good enough!

Cat defecation on neighbouring properties is an ongoing issue and should not have to be tolerated by residents.
Cats annoy non-cat owners plus the fact that they attack wildlife
Please have the cat legislation approved and implemented this year
I would like people to be responsible cat owners. I love cats and I also love the incredible variety of birds in my garden and in my local area. When I mind my son's cat on occasion we are responsible and it does not wander outside. Yesterday I found a dead bird killed by a local cat that enters my garden and even climbs up the tree to get to the birds. I have wrens, fantails, honey eaters and more visiting my garden. I cannot understand why this can be allowed to continue. It is actually very easy to keep cats indoors or in an enclosed area to prevent them leaving their home and entering other people's property's. Cats allowed to wander are also at risk of being hit by a car or being bitten by a snake especially where I live in Greenwith. I know a lot of cat owners and they are all responsible. It seems TTG has a lot of irresponsible cat owners. I hope the council can change this and we can all be respectful of peoples pets being loved and cared for properly and the cat owners being responsible and protecting our beautiful wildlife and their neighbour's homes and gardens. I will add there are a number of stray cats living in Greenwith on Reuben Richardson road. I would hate to think of the wildlife being killed for them to survive
I am very happy to see TTG Council introducing this and strongly advocate for a high level of management of cats, at the same level or higher than dog management due to their higher natural advantages and impact over native fauna
Thank you for spending time and resources on this
Strongly support Cat By-Law. Would like cats to be desexed, microchipped, registered and contained 24/7
Yes feral cats that people feed but say not theirs... Do something about feral cats… that's a problem... killing wildlife on linear park
There are a lot of native birds and animals in Tea Tree Gully area which need protection. Responsible ownership needs to be encouraged for the cats sake and community
Good Job TTG council
I personally believe that the current regulations for stray dogs are not affectively enforced. It Is - More about raising more revenue. So, how can the Council expect to efficiently - effectively deal with problematic cats with the same un-enforced approach?
The proposed suite of rules relating to cat management is sound. It will bring the appropriate management of cats in line with other domestic animals. It should have been done a long time ago and I've never understood why it wasn't
I think ALL cats need to be desexed unless they are purebred
As a dog owner we have responsibilities to control the movements of our pet, cat owners should be responsible to know where their pet is
If you take away the ability to capture strays how are you going to manage this. As a home owner who regularly has "visits" from cats how am I going to manage these visits they are unwanted and trigger my cameras
More needs to be done. And it needs to be policed
I am getting sick of repeating myself CAT RUNS CAT RUNS CAT RUNS CAT RUNS or you have no solution
Just pass the law. Too many native species have been lost in the last hundred years to care what people with too many pets think. Science says cats need to be removed the ecosystem **(see Appendix 8, Attachment B)**
It was only yesterday that I was walking to my bus stop and there was a deceased cat on the side of the road out the front of a house where there is always cats roaming around. If they were contained, this would not happen as often
I feel it's about time. Thank you
I feel strongly that all dog and cat owners be responsible for their pets - keep their pets safe in their own properties, do not allow them to wander at will and annoy other residents. There should be no

difference between owning a cat or dog when it comes to council registration and owners responsibilities
Please do it soon. I have previously sent in a letter about my concerns. My psychologist has asked to write a letter about my mental state concerning the hardship of living daily with homeless cats and feral cats. You will receive it early October. I hope this is not too late for consideration, That covers it especially feral cats that will hopefully be rounded up
Something needs to be actioned now with the strays. Get the community to help trap them and have a pickup from the council to take and desex. The community will help
Cat owners that are negligent and are found to be fouling cars and homes should compensate the victims e.g. pay for the car wash to remove the urine smell. Which goes inside the cabin
Please action the Quicker the better
Seems fair to me
This is a great initiative and I hope the community can see the future benefits. We have a real chance here to make a difference in our community
These By-Law consultations have been going on far too long - it's time to bite the bullet and act. Thanks for the opportunity to participate
I fully support the proposal and think it is about time this is addressed and enforced
Overall I think it is a good start and hopefully will cats safe
No. You seems to have the issues well covered and the terms reasonable
Let's get the cats staying in their own yards ASAP. It been a long time coming to contain them
A heavy discounted fee is at least 3 requirements have been done, 1 / containment during the day as well as night in an approved confinement cage. 2/ Microchipped 3/ desexed. The more a person takes responsibility for their cat, just like a dog the more discount could be offered to them. It makes them a more responsible pet owner
You are probably going to get a lot of responses from people who don't support by by-law because they are cat owners, and will have the most motivation to register and fill out this survey. But lots of people definitely support the by-law, even if they don't fill out this survey
I hope that adequate measures will be in place to uphold and support these new by-laws which will certainly improve every neighbourhood if enforced
If these proposed support measures are put in place, then the costs involved will affect the Council's budget, and in turn will have an impact on how much i pay in rates and taxes.")
It's time for a change, looking after wildlife and respecting all residents' properties
Please do more to save the wild born cats, provide help to rescue groups, provide free de-sexing so their funds can be better spent helping to rehabilitate and rego e these cats, rather than the extra cost of paying for every cat to be desexed that comes through their rescue. This could also extend to covering vet work for the rescue groups as well
Great to see Tea Tree Gully joining other metropolitan councils in taking a pro-active approach to cat management
Completely agree with the cat law. As someone who is allergic to both cats and dogs, it's important that cat owners take responsibility and keep their pets indoors rather than letting them roam freely in the streets. This not only helps to prevent nuisances for neighbours but also ensures the safety and well-being of the cats themselves
Well done on making this difficult move.
Thank you for enabling this bylaw to be introduced
I feel like most of my previous comments have covered everything I have had to say. I think this is wonderful involving community with this issue. I just hope people are more in favour of the law than against it. Eventually, it should be enforced with or without community say. The native animals that cats kill don't have a voice, so we must give them one and look after them above non-native animals
24/7 cat containment is the optimum answer. Anything less is a half measure

Please do the right thing by home owners who choose not to have cats and by the wildlife they regularly kill. Cats are indoor pets - ensure owners are responsible and keep their cats in their own home! Thank you
It is crucial that Council progress on this matter as quickly as possible
It's good. Long overdue! Having experienced many cats hanging around until 4 weeks ago it was a real problem for neighbours, until they moved and took them except the one rehomed with me. I had him for 2 weeks when I got him desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and lock him in the garage overnight. His fighting and spraying has stopped now!
Council has been too slow in acting on this issue. Cat owners are often irresponsible regarding effects that their free roaming animals have on the rest of the community - having any type of pet comes with responsibilities!
Thank you for looking at this and making alterations to the law that will ensure responsible cat owners
I think these reforms are long overdue
Long overdue, but glad it's happening
You would not let dogs roam around so why ok for cats?
Councils need to make a stand and settle this issue. Cats do not need to roam and owners need to be responsible for their animal
Our native birds and wildlife will be much safer, thank you. :)
I am very pleased the council is looking to address the large amount of strays in our area and more importantly taking measures to protect out native wildlife
Don't be so soft, cat owners don't care and need to be held accountable. And what are the actual penalties for not having them indoors in those times and how can we prevent? Not sure it can even be managed effectively
Again… why 5 years?
Unfortunately there are very few residents that don't do the right thing. Sadly the few that have little concern for their animals and neighbours cause situations like this it's always a minority that cause issues for those doing the right thing
Every bird who is saved with this new law benefits. Every garden/public sandpit that droppings are left in are cleaner (public health). Surely these much loved pets are safer. (provided earlier via email) I'm having trouble logging on so am providing this in email form. I 100 percent support the new proposals. I thank you for taking on board this "hard" issue. Most of us love a "kitty", n lots of owners are very responsible, but some aren't. This proposal is for everyone. Well done
Please actually do something about this huge problem i.e. 24 hour containment please.
My dog Buddy is registered, he lives on my property and is not free to roam. The only time he leaves our property he is under my supervision. What more can I say. Thank you for allowing my personal feedback
Council should provide help to homeowners to remove problem cats free of charge.
The sooner the better as we often find bodies of birds and the occasional young possum. Other smaller creatures i.e. skinks and blue tongues need protection too.
What are you going to do about the mice / rat / snake population when cats are contained?
I emphasise that the by-law needs to recognise a phased-in approach to enforcing a 10pm to 6am containment for legacy older cats that are used to the outdoors. Compliance with such cats as these is very difficult to attain, given the very abnormal behaviours they exhibit when confined.
Think this bylaw is a waste of resources and will be difficult to managed. Does Council have any ideas how many cars are in the area? How will Council ensure they are all registered? Is this being proposed to address something that only impacts a small percentage of council residents?
Where is the documented evidence that cat bylaws will reduce the impact of unmanaged feral cats in TTG? Apart from cats, other animals impact native wildlife, such as rats, possums and foxes. There are also imbalances of native birds such as Noisy Miners driving out White-backed Magpies as evidenced in our local Park. There is no cat problem in our street and any bylaw is not required, draconian, and is managing a situation for us that does not exist

Can't come soon enough, to many cats not cared for properly causing death and damage. I like cats and have owned many previously
I think this is a great policy, good for the environment. I imagine for outdoor cats it would be good to have support provided to ensure cats well-being in the transition
Full fees. Full containment. The council cages should also be offered to capture wandering cats and return them to vet. Fees should support this at no cost to residents with nuisance cat issues (e.g. fighting in yard at night, frequent garden defecation)
Cats definitely should be kept inside. Cats should be required to be desexed and microchipped in case they do escape (and they will). However, a small limit on how many cats I decide to keep is unnecessary and charging me a fee for registration is money gouging. All people in the council area are equally affected by feral/outdoor cats and I see no reason why I, an indoor cat owner, should have to pay extra for the cat management scheme. Even a non-cat owner is affected by roaming cats and it's fairer to simply pay for the scheme out of normal council rates
Councils need to take more responsibility for feral cats and have strategies in place to take the load off private rescue organisations and vets. The management plan needs to address this significant issue. I believe most cat owners will do the right thing so long as there is no significant extra cost to them
My only issue is the limit of x2 cats
I am very disappointed in the decision to confine cats only between 10pm and 6am. I really believe cats must be controlled to protect our wildlife. We have the most envied array of birds and flora in the world and the very worst record for allowing so many to become extinct
As stated, I am very much against mandated collar use. I believe it's harmful to cats, and the by-law should be designed to support people to act in the best interest of their pets
My views on cat management changed entirely after reading the reports from Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc. Unfortunately, my main issue with our local cats is them pooing in my garden, which won't be solved by sterilisation. But most other issues will, and so I support the simple recommendations from Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc., and suggest not going down other costly paths like registration and enforcing indoor containment etc.
Apologies that this is not really within scope of this feedback and I am not anti-dog, but I get REALLY annoyed at dog owners who let their dogs shit everywhere and make no effort to clean it up. My front footpath and lawn, public footpaths, ovals where my kids play sport, (Memorial Oval is TERRIBLE for this), etc. I would much prefer that Council is seen to be more proactive and effective in policing this selfish and lazy behaviour before turning its attention to embarking on a campaign to restrict the movements of cats
It should be emphasized that inside cats are healthier and live longer lives than those that are allowed/encouraged to roam. It is in everyone's and everything's best interests that cats be confined to their home
I'm glad you've taken this up as there are many heated positions on cat management. I reiterate that you need to be able to defend your decisions on whether they meet your policy objectives and whether the evidence supports your solution. And, on that basis, please do not introduce the 2 cat limit, which has no policy or evidentiary justification
Strongly oppose 24/7 due to complexities of monitoring it and then vigilantes who may take it upon themselves to police it
What is intended regarding cats that are found wandering at large in TTG but originate with owners in an adjacent Local Govt area? Will reciprocal arrangements be put in place?
I wonder what the rules will be for owners near the TTG boundaries with other councils?
Cats should not be able to be purchased so cheaply. They are often bought as a band aid fix for family issues and when the cat isn't a fun kitten anymore it gets turfed outside. I would rather a cat cost $1000 so only serious owners would buy one
If you are a responsible cat owner, you should be allowed more than 2 cats
Looks good
Good start to a complex issue

I would suggest the simplest and best solution would be to bite the bullet and go straight for the 24/7 restraint option. This will save the council so much in managing enforcement of curfew hours, complaints and identification of strays etc. If cat owners know that their cats are to be inside or on a leash 24/7 then most of the nuisance and wildlife deaths will go away. I do not hate cats, I hate other people's cats constantly defecating/urinating in my yard and killing the wildlife. If people want to own a cat same as they do a dog they need to accept the responsibility that goes with it. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback
Only good can come from the proposed by-laws. Responsible cat owners would not have an issue with what is proposed. It would eliminate, Nuisance cats, cats urinating and defecating outside their house, reduce wildlife being killed, reduce cats being hit by cars, feral cats, etc.
Council need to be tougher, council need to treat cats as a threat 24/7, the same as dogs, they are pets, just the same as dogs
Having spent a few years in cat rescue, I've seen firsthand that even with laws in place regarding desexing and microchipping people still continue to ignore them. Focus need to be on providing these services at reduced rates and making them readily available and advertising it. The other problem is the number of unwanted/ stray cats in the area that nobody provides a service to control. Council, AWL and RSPCA all wash their hands of these cats and leave it up to unfunded volunteers to do the job.
A change from 2 to 4 cats, given we have 3 would be nice. Un-microchipped and non-desexed cats other than breeder cats should be destroyed. They are a hazard to wildlife
We feel that dogs & cats provide valuable companionship to many people of all ages. Although we support some level of cat control it should be weighed against the cost to administer, potential distress to the pet owners who are trying to be responsible while enjoying life with a pet. Councils already have powers to manage dogs & feral animals including dumped cats so we're not confident that there will be any benefit to By-law control of pet cats
It's disappointing that so many community consultations need to take place. This has become a financial burden on every council state wide. It would be nice to see our State Gov take the lead in providing a standard 24/7 containment law that is enforceable by councils. By-laws are just revenue raisers at best. I fully support 24/7 cat containment and can't wait till it is enforceable!
Happy with restricting cats between certain hours and understand why others would be annoyed by cats on their property. I don't believe in restricting the number of cats that are kept indoors to 2. I am a responsible pet owner and keep my cats indoors all the time and take them for walks in our garden on a leash. Rights of indoor owners should also be respected and no limit on numbers should be enforced
By laws should apply any type of household torrents community or strata. Strata shouldn't be allowed to have separate by-laws
Pet cats are not the main issue. The feral and abandoned cats are a huge problem that needs to be addressed more than pet cats. You will always have the people who do the right thing and others who don't. But it is always the ones who do the right thing that gets penalised. If cats already have to be microchipped and desexed before six months, there should not have to be any other cost to cat owners who have done the right thing
Owners to have support and education on owning, and keeping cats and having cat runs that are affordable to all, that assists cats to live a long and happy, stress free life in the confines of an appropriate enclosure
Stop pussy footing around. Make cat owners responsible like dog owners. You would fine me if my dog left a deposit, and I didn't pick it up. Why the double standards?
Please don't make this too hard and expensive for pet owners. Pets are wonderful companions especially for young children and our aged community. Pets should not be only for the wealthy. Introducing fees to register animals is out of line when they don't leave your property. Council are already seen as money grabbers. What's next, I have to pay to register my goldfish?
More information for owners who currently have more than 2 cats
I appreciate you taking the time and the effort to include the community in this decision making process and making it accessible. Thank you very much

I would like to see what the total end cost of these laws are going to cost residents not just the pretty free period that we are being told about
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Regards,
I would like to see some attention given to managing any possible negative outcomes like people who might dump their cats in response. There is likely to be an impact on cat shelters which are already over-stretched
Whatever applies to a dog must also apply to cats. What 'power' does Council have if an owner has more than 2 cats/dogs? The Council must have the 'teeth' to deal with this or people will just ignore the rules. It is great that the Council is doing something about cats but ideally the SA Government should put through legislation to deal with them
Cats can be great companions for the Elderly and lonely and help reduce the chance of depression. I wonder if these by-law changes would result in lower cat ownership. Could we be solving a cat problem and be creating mental health problems in our community
Cat containment and other requirements should be no different to the current requirements of dog owners
Council needs to do more to manage nuisance cats, council needs to employ a dedicated ranger to help manage. Considering the high rates of TTG, council need to do more. As already stated cats scare my children and affect my dog, more needs to be done to reduce the feral cat population
Cats are a nuisance and irresponsible cat owners will not do anything to change their pet being a nuisance. We have 2 dogs and the cat next door walks along the fence, upsetting them. Them barking then becomes our problem. Cat traps not allowed without notifying people who then keep the cat inside for the fortnight and then let them out again and there is nothing changed
The Proposed Cat By-Law is a good start, however, it does virtually nothing to solving the problems caused by unmanaged cats
The sooner the better
I think it is probably required for residents in the foothills to help manage the feral population but to make it mandatory for all is a bit extreme
Dogs are allowed outside. Cats should be too. Cats provide love and companionship to people and should be treated with respect and allowed freedom to roam a little
The Council has dragged their feet on this issue for over 2 years despite the vast majority of constitutes being overwhelmingly in favour of tougher restrictions on cat management. I would hope that the Tea Tre Gully council can look to other Local Government Areas in South Australia such as Adelaide Hills Council who have already enacted by laws to effectively manage cat ownership
Education is key, please get our local vets involved in educational programs
This by law is useless unless it is enforced by the council so adequate resources need to be allocated.
Stop persecuting responsible Cat owners. Next will you be dictating how many children we can have? Why don't you worry about fixing our septic tank problems, our paths and roads. Isn't that what councils are meant to do with our excessive council rates. We do not like being dictated to.
Cats purchased, born after a certain date should have different restrictions to those that are already living in neighbourhood. Concern is my one cat often loses his collar, then I find it in my hedge or tree. What would the consequences of this be? Collars are made quick release to prevent cat from getting hurt. What happens if my cat does slip past me and manages to go outside? We have a pet door for our cats and dogs it would be very difficult to keep cats inside and dogs with freedom of going outside for their business I would have no idea how to deal with this and when we at work etc. Confined indoor pets can have other consequences due to smells it creates in homes and effects on our health what will council do to assist with these consequences?
Please reconsider numbers for ownership. This feels quite controlling. Staged concessions for training animals to be inside during certain hours and concessions for escapees would also be welcome
I have concerns about the bias of the mayor on this issue

I strongly support increased control of cats and also suggest council provide assistance to residents where problem cats exist regardless to whether the bylaws are introduced or not as it is a difficult issue to manage
There will be a lot of push back by cat owners, but as a dog parent, I have to register them, contain them in my property, and not let them be a nuisance to my neighbours, so I don't see why dog owners have to do these things but cat owners don't
I think let's wait and see what the state government come up with and or not have total cat containment
I find the whole idea of a cat policy Disappointing - there are so many more important things that the council should be focusing on other than fluffy cats wandering around. Waste of my council rates.
Thanks
It's high time for cat owners to be treated the same way as dog owners. My dog is not allowed to roam or be out on the street without a leash so why should cat owners not be subjected to the same?
Worried about cat rescues and how they will cope with it all. Are they being consulted??
My only concern is council deciding on the numbers of cats people can have. This should not be councils decision. Responsible owners should be allowed to decide on the number of cats they can have
I'm just glad it's finally happening. I love cats and I don't agree with them roaming at all, it's not good for them or the native wildlife. I would be interested to know how the council intends to support the transition to 24/7 containment with cat runs etc. I think there would definitely need to be subsidies for that, and I also wonder how that will affect renters, will they have the right to install a cat run at a rental property, will a landlord refuse a tenant who has a cat if there isn't a cat run already at the property
Thanks for the opportunity to comment
I am happy that the council is taking action to reduce the problems that wandering cats cause, but would prefer a transition to complete containment ASAP. It would also help if council had dedicated officers for cat management, including trapping and collecting nuisance cats, and a facility for keeping trapped cats. Vets and Animal Welfare generally have very limited to no space for these cats
I don't want to see Council increasing rates to cover their costs to bring in this initiative or police it
I'm certainly glad to see that something is being done about cat ownership. I think that this is heading in the right direction and hopefully within a few years there will be less domestic and feral cats roaming free to do as they please
I am for cat safety rather than a vendetta towards them. A missing cat turning up at the vet dead is very sad and hard to take. I want to put rollers on my fences so they can go out. A grant to help to further equip my cat cage would help me accept keeping them locked up **(see Appendix 8, Attachment D)**
All aspects we agree with. Only disagree re cat number limitations to 2. If they are fully contained as our cats are, then we wish to continue having up to 4 cats
Have you considered some cats may be abandoned by owners?
It might be good to provide some support as to why these by-laws are necessary, as to me this seems like a solution without a problem - perhaps problem cases can be dealt with via existing laws?
I do support other than the limits
I'd like more info about 1) the handling of feral cats 2) the handling of the increase in abandoned cats arising from the new laws
The kind of owners that will register their cats and follow the law at not likely the same ones largely responsible for our feral cat problem. I would like to see a permanently free system that encourages and enables all pet owners to opt in, for better management and education. I do not support pet owners paying registration fees. Administration must be streamlined if it is such a burden

I would advocate primarily for 100% compliance and harm minimisation as priorities, but also recognise the vital role of companion animals in many people's lives (including the lives of non-owners). Make it easier for people to do what's right than what isn't
I think Council should wait until the Cat and Dog Management Board introduce any changes as what may be implemented may then change the Council by law. The law should be a state or national approach rather than an individual council one. People will just move to another council if it doesn't work for them
All that we ask is that cat (and dog) owners are responsible for the animals they apparently care for. I am not sure why this has to be such an issue with the cat owners, if they did the right thing instead of being selfish this argument would not be happening time and time again. Get a move on!!!
Do not ever bait cats or other animals. Not referenced but I am sure in some of your heads. They do not need to be locked in
Cat by-laws are important but consideration needs to be given to: - how the council will police cats being confined to their homes between 10pm and 6am. If not what are the consequences to deter this behaviour? Can cats be trapped during this time and will fines be issued? - cat owners pay registration as soon as the by-laws are passed. This may deter people from buying more than one cat in the interim or take their cat ownership more seriously - alternatively for the first two years cat owners pay a reduced fee $10-$30, there needs to be some accountability
The draft by-law lacks understanding of cat behaviour, or even physique (noting the bizarre cat collar requirements). There is also too much of an emphasis on the 'nuisance' factor. From the perspective of someone who has been bitten (twice) by dogs, unprovoked, has been lunged at and threatened by dogs, unprovoked, has been repeatedly kept awake all night by relentless barking (not in the TTG area), and let's not get started on the excrement on the footpath issue -- this comes across as absurd. In all my decades on this planet someone else's cat has been a 'nuisance' precisely once (spraying). As for noise, cats are rarely heard. I get more grief from possums; should we also regulate them? The 'cat nuisance' factor is patently absurd. Council should focus on the real issue: wildlife. I think Council also needs to keep in mind the special kind of love many people have for their cats. I have friends who couldn't imagine life without their pets, whether they be cats or dogs. Any regulation needs to take that reality into account. Allowing for an imperfect solution, cat confinement is possible if the funds are available. That, however, requires political will
Question 5 is very misleading as it states free fee for the first 2 years...some people misreading that as free fee not realising that they will be charged on the 3rd year of ownership. Questions 7 & 8 are written on the assumption that cat will be registered and only those will be supported. If council are really committed to managing the cat situation in TTG then registration fees and limiting 2 cats per household is not the answer. I do believe there are cat owners in our community who need help to manage their pet's environment and care, however I don't believe the cat by-law is the answer as it alienates responsible cat owners and makes owning a cat a financial burden for some. Council should offer information and educate pet owners
Please be mindful that a lot of people have cats for company who might not be able to afford a lot, especially older people. Loneliness is a massive health issue in today's world and pets are a real help for that. So we need to balance the pet/animal issue with the people side of it.
Please refer to Appendix 1-2 pages attached APPENDIX 1 - CAT MANAGEMENT SUBMISSION - ADDITIONAL STATEMENT AND CROSS REFERENCING OPENING STATEMENT There are four types of people within our community - those that love cats - those that hate cats - those that love dogs - and those that love both cats and dogs I declare that I love cats and own I cat and no dogs. I often feel that as a cat owner we are maligned

and bullied with the constant perception that our beloved felines are all a nuisance, menace, wanderers and native wildlife killers. All of the above is not true of course and responsible cat owners who love cats, look after them very well and feed them very well, which radically reduces harm to native wildlife. Having been a cat owner for all of my life, I have noticed that as cats get older they get 'lazy' and their hunting instincts greatly diminish, as they come to rely on their commercial pet food and having a charmed life that us cat lovers give them. They are not rampant killers. In fact dogs regularly kill wildlife such as koalas, lizards, and other native species. Ever heard of a cat killing a koala? No. Neither have I. I am upset that it is never mentioned how many native animals dogs kill. The other misconception about cats is that they toilet in other people's gardens. Cats that are looked after and desexed are very clean animals and bury their waste. This is well known and why cats comply with using lifter trays. It is my view that when people complain about a cat continually soiling their garden or causing nuisance they are in fact talking about a feral, undesexed cat which have dirty habits. Council is misguided in its attempts to manage well looked after pet cats which are not problematic at all. The real culprits of nuisance are feral cats and foxes and Council must focus on eliminating these pests and not focus attention on domestic pets which go for a walk up the street and then return home for their commercial pet food and a sleep.
I will now provide additional comments and cross reference:
(5) Strongly opposed to cat registration fees
I am not in support of any registration fee at all for cats. In fact, I believe that this will have the undesired effect of actually increasing unwanted (feral) and undomesticated cats, and also lead to cruelty whereby owners simply do not want to pay fees and will abandon domesticated cats which will not be able to fend for themselves and is very cruel. I also consider it to be a financial grab from Council.
(8) Strongly opposed to financial assistance for cat enclosures
This is a ridiculous idea that would ultimately cost rate payers.
It must be the responsibility of each cat owner. I am a cat owner, as said, and do not expect financial assistance for a cat enclosure. Will lead to requests for financial assistance for dog fences, rabbit hutches, bird cages... etc.
(13) Strongly opposed to a 24/7 curfew
This idea demonstrates a complete lack of understanding for the cat species. Cats do not thrive in an indoor only environment, the same as we would not like to live indoors 24/7. My cat sits in my backyard and is not causing any nuisance. Curfew times will not work. Cats do not operate by looking at a watch or clock. This is frankly silly. I will let you know that our cat is inside all night which Council will approve. And in and out of the house when we are home in the day. If we go out in the day our cat remains inside for safety.
CLOSING STATEMENT
As a cat owner I feel that domestic cats that are desexed and microchipped are being wrongly blamed for problems that occur with feral cats (such as soiling in people's gardens, spraying etc), when the real culprits are feral cats which have not been desexed. It is well known and scientifically proven that desexed cats are better behaved cats. Also feral cats and foxes are largely responsible for the killings of native wildlife. Rats and possums also raid nests and eat eggs. Council is focusing a lot of time and attention on something that it will be unable to manage (i.e. a domestic cat visiting a neighbours' yard for instance). Domestic cats do visit nearby houses if they are outside, but they rarely go further than a few houses, and return home because they are territorial. We had a visiting cat who visited us every day and he was a very welcome visitor from a house across the road. Cats are a very different animal than dogs and are able to be let outside without running away. If a dog if let out of your yard, you would have a hard time trying to get it back again. It is often said that dogs are man's best friend, but a best friend to me is a cat. I encourage Council to prioritise the management of feral cats and foxes which will largely reduce the problems of wildlife kills and other problems such as soiling of yards. A more concerning risk for the Council is the potential for a dog to attack a human or other animal and this must be addressed. I have had two large dogs run up to me in a public reserve and I screamed as I did not know if they were going to attack me. Fortunately on this occasion, the owner was nearby and

yelled for them to come back which they did, but I did not appreciate this interaction and was very scared. Like dogs, cat ownership contributes to the economy by providing employment for vets and production of pet products and foods. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I hope you find my comments useful. They are sent in honesty and from being a cat owner for my lifetime.
The current draft comes across in part as a token By-Law, being softer than other councils in proposing longer permissible cat roaming hours and avoiding firm language such as enforcement & offence with causing nuisance. We look forward to our comments and those of similarly concerned residents being taken into account in strengthening the By-Law, noting any future State legislation will likely be based in significant part on By-Laws adopted by proactive councils. Note: Our accompanying email includes CCTV images of stray cats roaming through our garden. We also have graphic & disturbing daytime video of a stray cat stalking & mauling a native bronzewing pigeon in our garden. This message is a supplement to the feedback we provided on 26 Aug re the draft Cat By-Law (see text below) (**see Appendix 8, Attachment A**) for images provided Yesterday (6 Sep) we were distressed to find a blackbird mauled by a cat in our front garden with feathers strewn around per attached photo. We love the melodious singing of blackbirds and imagine a mate has lost its partner. Additionally yesterday our CCTV security system was triggered at 5:14am by a cat on our roof - see attached photo (**see Appendix 8, Attachment A**). The evening before (5Sep), our CCTV system was triggered at 6:51pm by a stray cat roaming near our front door - a collar is discernible on the attached photo. These incidents serve to further emphasise that a strict Cat By-Law is essential especially in respect to containment of cats on owners' properties. The recent announcement (7Aug) by the Federal government concerning nationwide measures to control feral & domestic cats to reduce the decimation of wildlife should add further impetus to Council for the introduction and enforcement of a stringent Cat By-Law. The announcement issued by Minister Plibersek states based on research that "a domesticated cat would kill about 75 animals per year"
Pathetic. Needs to be a complete containment 24/7 immediately
Please when making this by law especially the containment of cats 24/7 think about these animals that have had the freedom and then taken away from them. Think about people with disabilities that it will affect. The people who can't afford enclosures the mental health and stress it will be for a lot of cat owners who do try and do the right thing and are happy to comply with the other laws you want to put in place
You are doing a great job. this has been needed for a long time. Wandering and feral cats are a big issue. This By-Law is for their protection as a valued pet as much as for the community and the wildlife. Thank you
Recognition that cats are an apex predator must be mentioned. Cat faeces pose a health hazard to children. Cats pose a physical danger to small children through biting and scratching. If a current cat owner has more than two cats, what happens to the extra cats? Are my rates going to increase through cat management?
The sooner this is implemented the better. Thank you for the efforts in implementing the By-law
I think this is a loud minority who want tougher laws on cats. Pets are children to some people, is it limits on kids next? I'd probably support that....
I agree with all aspects other than the confinement
A rethink regarding all aspects of the proposed Cat By-law. Propose - The introduction of cat registration at next registration period 2025/26. Total confinement of cats commencing at next registration period. Penalties for noncompliance of owners. Number of pets i.e. dogs or cats set at 2 per residence
Acts, Regulations, By-Laws and control for Cats should be no different than they are for dogs
Registration fees for all animals should be waived. However, if an animal strays beyond the property boundaries, the owner should incur a fine in accordance with the type of animal and the difficulty of recapturing it
If you have to contain your dog, then you should have to contain your cat

Having had two cats not return home, I now keep my cats indoors. It's not ideal. And I believe that my missing cats were trapped and disposed of by a neighbour. What you are proposing will cause more situations like this. I spent a year trapping two litters of kittens born in my neighbour's yard. I ended up trapping and desexing (at my own expense!) a female and her two litters of kittens totalling 9 cats! Since then, I managed to socialise 3 of the kittens and kept them and cared for them. Every other one "disappeared". At least, I thought, they're desexed and not contributing to more strays. I'm now almost certain that a neighbour has been trapping and disposing of cats in my area. It's heartbreaking. And nothing in your proposed by laws will address this problem. And that's the real cat problem
It would be good if you provided a short synopsis on what benefits you think this will deliver. Has a cost benefit analysis been done? Although I am assuming I know the motivation it would be good to have it stated. Some aspects may be more in focus in high density living and others in rural settings where native animals may come more into frame. The LGA may need to focus on the issues differently in different areas of the LGA seeing it is quite diverse
Cats need to be desexed by six months. Unless for breeding and they should be registered with a State Governing Body and have rego no's etc. I have 6 cats at present. Youngest 5. Two over 10. 3 around 7-9. They will all stay with us until their life span is over. Confined and house pets
I generally support any action taken to ensure that cats are kept on the owner's property at all times and think that a cat by-law should be introduced
There is no SA law concerning cat management. There is a proposal for change to federal laws pending but has been delayed and mainly concerns cat-breeding. As there is no recognised SA state law where and what precedents are being used for a legal base here at TTG Council
The cat by-law doesn't go far enough
Cost will be a big motivator for a lot of people. Please try and keep the cost down. Cats and dogs do lead to a happier household with less stress - I think that is a good thing in today's day and age
A Cat By-law is a good idea if implemented properly. The current draft should not go ahead. After revision and community feedback there may be a By-law that will help
This is not strong enough. It needs 24/7 containment ASAP to protect our native wildlife
I am fully in support of all the aspects of the report except for the designated hours part. It needs to be 24hr containment on their premises much earlier than 5 years, I could well be dead by then!!!
I would like to know your research base for the proposals. There is no such thing as a bad cat. They are only bad owners. Bad owners are the reason for annoyed neighbours due to fights, toileting issues. They are what endangers our wildlife. There are people working hard to prevent issues - cat rescue group are they classed as breeders? What about people who foster animals for place like Safe Pets Safe Families. Restricting numbers per household may mean people can't foster. Do you propose fosters take a breeder's registration?
Way overdue. There should be a system of fines (or other avenues) for owners of cats that injure other people's animals or native wildlife
I think this the best news I have got that the Council is doing something about Cats. Long overdue
Supports or assistance Council could consider providing = coercive measures... I have grave concerns about the continual grab for money and power by this Council. My rates keep going up and up...yet here you are wanting even more money out of residents. What is next? Budgies? Goldfish? Pet lizards? THIS is my issue. ANY registration should remain FREE as cats will cost Council nothing!) I completely DISAGREE with yet more proposed rules and money-grabbing. I have seen the Council salary tables, you have increased rate revenue due to subdivisions, yet here you are wanting yet more
Providing low cost veterinary services for aged and infirm Ed as pets provide mental health services
Our cat, Ron, is a stray that my daughter adopted, and he decided to stay with us because he like our Cocker Spaniel. They were both the same colour and the dog enjoyed the company of the cat. The dog has died now, and the cat has stayed. Now he is a good friend with our Springer Spaniel. Ron is a very independent soul, he doesn't like to be picked up nor cuddled, he will not sit on anybody's lap, we cannot keep a collar on him, and he comes and goes at will. He is well known up and down both sides of our street and some neighbours have water dishes and bedding for him when he visits. He is much

appreciated for his ability to the control rats and mice which can be a problem due to our properties backing on to Distinct Commercial Area. I really can't see us being able to control him. If we had to lock him inside the house, then the dog will also be trapped inside. If we locked him in a cage overnight regularly, he will just not make an appearance here and find somewhere else to sleep the night. Fortunately for him, by the time this legislation becomes law, he might be dead **(see Appendix 8, Attachment F)**
I don't know why you asked in question 10; "Do you think Council should provide some level of support to cat owners, for example discounted fees, rebates or other assistance?" Why propose charging people for owning cats and then ask how you might support the same people?
Ridiculous, unnecessary and a waste of rate payers' money
At present it appears unenforceable!
I disagree with being told what my cat can do & when. my dog who passed at Xmas was aloud outside our property but you're trying to tell my cat she can't do anything but stay inside at all times
Strongly oppose the draft Cat By-law due to several concerns. First, the potential introduction of cat registration fees, particularly if linked to property values, would impose a significant financial burden on households, effectively functioning as a hidden tax under the guise of animal welfare. The council currently provides no meaningful services to cat owners, and the by-law's requirement for collars, which are often lost by cats, would add unnecessary financial strain. Additionally, limiting households to a maximum of two cats is an unjustified intrusion into private life that could lead to increased euthanasia rates as overcrowded shelters struggle to accommodate surrendered pets. The proposed cat containment measures, which may be introduced within the next five years, are harsh and unnecessary, violating animal rights and likely leading to a decline in the physical and mental health of cats. Overall, this by-law seems more focused on increasing council revenue than genuinely improving animal welfare, placing undue financial and emotional strain on cat owners without providing tangible benefits. I urge the council to reconsider these measures and instead focus on more balanced and humane solutions that support responsible pet ownership without imposing unnecessary burdens on residents
Don't do it. It will be a waste of time, and a waste of money, and mark my words you will not see any benefits from this. Accidents involving cats will not decrease. Complaints regarding cats will not decrease
TTG Council is assuming and overreaching their supposed legislative powers And attempting to introduce CRUELTY AGAINST Animals. TTG Council needs to educate itself in regards of limitations of its assumed legislative powers and atop acting as REVENUE MAKING BUSINESS and FINE ISSUING AGENCY MAKING PROFITS out of residential population
How about raise awareness and spend money on suicide awareness or mental health support for those suffering, there are so many more areas to throw money other than this ridiculous campaign
Please do not let this pass without some serious amendments to the way indoor cats are treated and viewed by your council. I understand this is to protect our Australian ecosystem, but they're a part of it too now and I see no reason indoor cat owners need to be vilified
One of my neighbours blames the possum wee and poo on cats
I am not normally a radical. BUT....As a responsible cat owner for nearly my whole life I am angry and insulted that governments feel the need to restrict more of the joys of my life. Another step to Big Brother State.
Scrap it before wasting any more money on it
Get a grip and stop shirking your responsibilities
Don't bother with it. It will only lead to consuming members time in lieu of them doing something constructive
Don't do it. Feral cats are a result of people feeding them, and are not indicative of well looked after domestic cats. This is a separate issue to the ownership of cats
Its rubbish please do not let this pass

I disagree with the entire proposal. All the proposed requirements lack proper consideration and are unnecessary
I am relatively sure that you now understand that the community does not support the proposal
We need to assist the rescuers/rescue organisations to rescue, feed, rehabilitate, treat and rehome the cats/kittens more. At the moment we seem intent on murdering the homeless and calling it 'euthanization' to convince ourselves we are being humane when we are not.
There is no need to proceed with this by-law as there is no community support and there are no benefits for the measures proposed as there are existing measures in place that already meet these requirements
If you want to make a lasting change desexing is the best way forward and should be given far more resources and focus. I strongly oppose your proposed new Cat By-law. Desexing is the only way forward **(see Appendix 8, Attachment G)**
This is a pointless waste of ratepayer's money - especially at a time when practically everyone is struggling to pay their way. This survey, council staff time and all other aspects of this investigation will result in increased rates when most residents cannot afford their mortgages, rents, school uniforms, food for their children. It shows total insensitivity to people's difficulties and the questions show almost total ignorance of what is good cat management. And all this in the context of proposed changes to cat management legislation by the state government and the previous TTG Council survey regarding cats was self-select and online with a response from 3% of the population - not even a valid sample. As a ratepayer I am not impressed. * Cats which are well cared for and desexed do not stray far from home. They are not searching for mates and are far more family focussed
When cat owners are restricted to 2 cats per home, what happen with the 3rd, 4th, etc. cats? Potentially these cats will be abandoned, contributing to the stray cat issue. There should be at least a transition period of 10+ years. Collars in themselves are dangerous as cats can strangle themselves. Tags revealing address or phone number of owners leaves owners open to threat and ransom. I am also questioning if this would be in line with current data safety policies
Scrap the draft and focus on supporting residents in what matters in these hard-expensive times, and not more LAWS.!!!!!!!!!
Cats should be desexed and microchipped yes. But how people want to house their cats should be up to them. . Rip it up and throw it away
I know this is written with the best of intensions but you need to be more realistic about providing a meaningful life for cats
I am more than happy to have a curfew at night, but the problem is that those who are pushing this through aren't interested in compromise or sensible debate over the topic, they just want to push on and force residents to have their cats locked up 24/7. Cats provide company and emotional support to many people and unfortunately unlike with a dog it's not just a case of keeping them behind a fence, it's extremely problematic trying to contain a cat and also very costly and could create a lot of emotional and financial stress on cat owners. There can be a happy medium, but there's some councillors that appear to have no interest in looking for a happy medium
Another factor that could be an issue is households that already have more than two cats. What would the implications be? With these proposed new laws, I feel that there are likely to be more cats on the streets, not less, as people will be more reluctant to take rescue cats in, or will not be allowed to with the 2 cat per household rule
This is probably one of the worst proposals to come from Tea Tree Council that I can recall. It's persecutes cat owners and their cats whilst the council actively encourages the misuse of local facilities for dogs, which create a constant nuisance and burdens local rate payers to pick up the bill for people to travel kilometres for their dogs' mess. Yes, cat owners should be responsible, yes registration is important and yes desexing is critical. But as resident of this community we need to fair and objective and draconian... as I write this I am listening to constant dog barking from Memorial Drive which has been ongoing since 6 a.m. this Sunday morning - thank you Tea Tree Gully Council for

helping to improve the quality of my life!! It is wrong to focus on just cats. We should be addressing the broader subject of pets, including in particular dogs
Do not believe there are serious cat issues in Tea Tree Gully Council area. There are other methods of cat management rather than a cat by-law. Policing a cat by-law will create extra costs for Council.
Thank you for inviting SA Cat Rescue Inc to provide our feedback on the proposed new by-laws, we appreciate the opportunity to be heard. As you may know, SA Cat Rescue Inc (SACR) is a small charity headquartered in Modbury North, with the sole purpose of getting cats off the streets and into good homes. We operate by way of a network of volunteers who foster homeless cats while they are being socialised, getting desexed, healing and looking for permanent homes. Many of our volunteers are residents within the City of Tea Tree Gully and have resident cats in addition to their fosters. As such our perspective is that of both charitable organisation and resident
This would be a waste of taxpayer's money, and an increase in people's rates, when most residents are struggling to pay mortgages/rent, school fees and uniforms, power prices and food and other groceries. It would be better to wait for the State Government legislative changes, which would supersede Council bylaws
I would suggest to spend my and others' ratepayer's money wisely. Not for training cats to march eight abreast. You cannot keep cats at home or enclosure. They are free animals
I think it's unfair for those already stuck and doing their fair share - it's unfair for those cats to die it's not their fault. I have told Council which house is the problem. Re workshop & seminars: Why? Already been doing it alone?
As per https://catassist.org.au/legislative-control/ , legislative management of cats is likely to backfire. All of the wildlife-related proposed benefits of cat management are questionable and better addressed by building wildlife-friendlier parks and gardens. All of the inter-cat and inter-human proposed benefits are better reached by people's application of common courtesy (which would also help in non-cat-related areas of interaction). Educate, not legislate. "Too many cats in a house", if a problem, is an animal cruelty problem, for which we already have laws. There is no need for this by-law
I do not support the idea of cats being kept inside for 24/7 periods. Not all cats will remain inside
See aforementioned comments. Nobody has the right to own a predator and then let them road the district and other people's property

Appendix 8: Attachments to feedback form response/additional feedback, images etc

Attachment A

As stated in our response, we experience ongoing issues with stray cats entering our property and triggering our security system. As examples we attach recent B&W images of two different cats on our garden path, one at 2:56am on 20Aug and another at 3:41am on 22Aug.

We look forward to Council finalising and implementing a strict and effective Cat By-Law.

Kind regards

[redacted]








06-09-2024 Fri 05:14:28


09-05-2024 Thu 18:51:12
Front Door

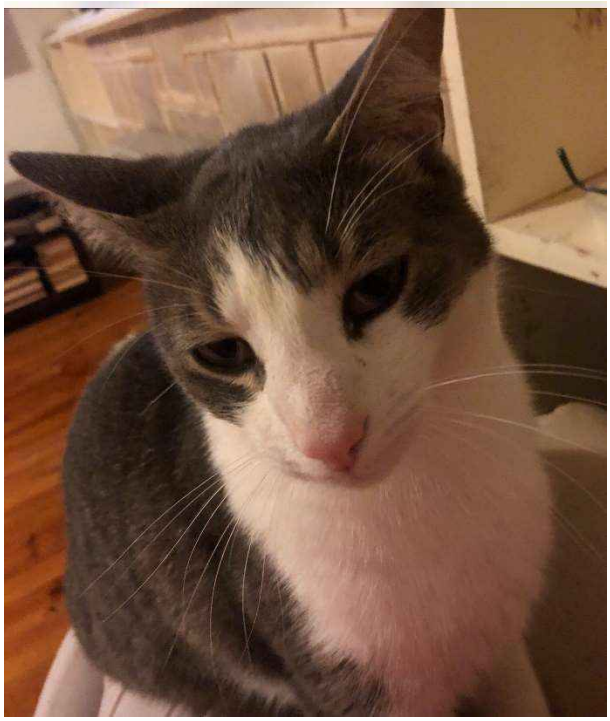
Attachment B



Attachment C



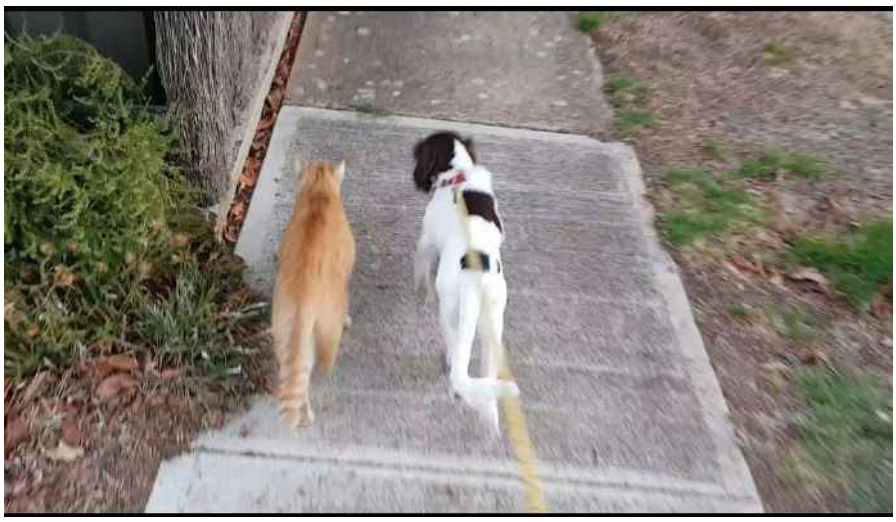
Attachment D



Attachment E



Attachment F



Attachment G

See following 2 pages

JUST THE FACTS:

The Vacuum Effect

Removing cats from an area creates a vacuum.

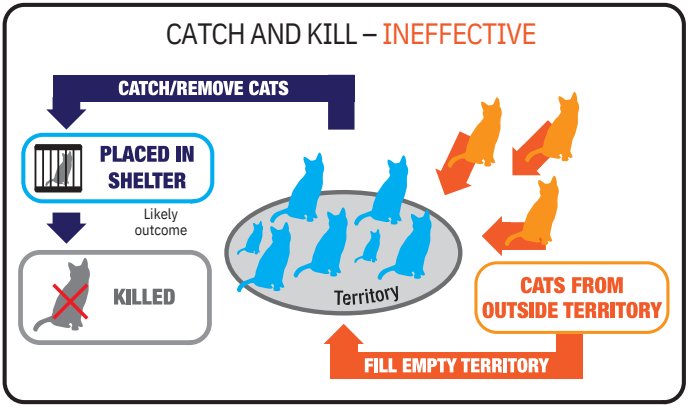
The Vacuum Effect has been documented worldwide in many species. Animal control's traditional approach has been to catch and kill community cats. While this may temporarily reduce the number of community cats in a given area, it is ultimately counterproductive, as the population of cats rebounds. Due to the Vacuum Effect, untrapped cats continue to breed, and other cats move into the newly available territory.

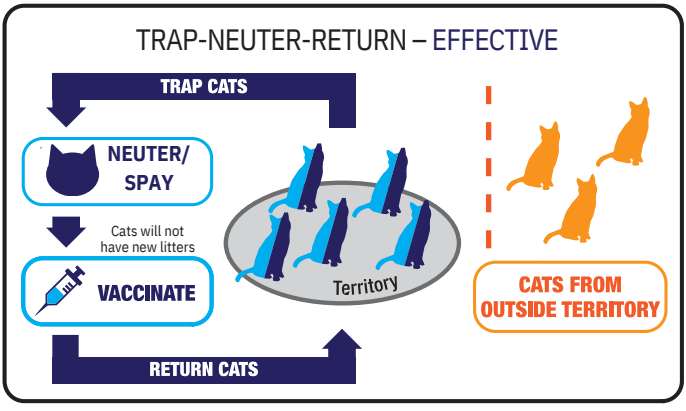
THE VACUUM EFFECT

Intact cat living inside the territory

Intact cat from outside the territory

Neutered cat living in the territory





Community cats are unowned cats who live outdoors.

Community cats, also called feral or outdoor cats, are not a new phenomenon. They choose to reside in an outdoor location where they have access to food and shelter. Even though community cats are the same species as house cats (Felis catus), they have not been socialized to people and are therefore unadoptable. Community cats can lead full, healthy lives in their outdoor homes.

Time and again, communities find catch and kill doesn't work—it needs to stop.

Municipal animal control agencies have been catching and killing cats for decades in a misguided attempt to reduce the number of community cats in a given area. Catch and kill is counterproductive, as it has no permanent impact on the population of outdoor cats. This endless, cruel cycle is not supported by the public, wastes tax dollars, and fails to meet the needs of the cats and the community. The Vacuum Effect is just one reason catch and kill is so ineffective.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) does work.

Communities are desperate for humane solutions. TNR is the only effective and humane approach to address community cat populations. It involves humanely trapping, spaying or neutering, vaccinating, and returning community cats to their outdoor homes. Afterward, there are no more litters of kittens—the population is stabilized. TNR stops the stress associated with pregnancy and mating behaviors, such as yowling or fighting. Not only is TNR the effective, humane approach for outdoor cats, but it improves their lives.

You can make a difference and save lives.

Together, we can fight the ineffective catch and kill approach, support TNR, and ensure local policies address the needs of outdoor cats and our communities.

Attachment H

(provided separately to online feedback form response)

SUBMISSION TO TTGC COUNCIL DRAFT CAT BYLAW

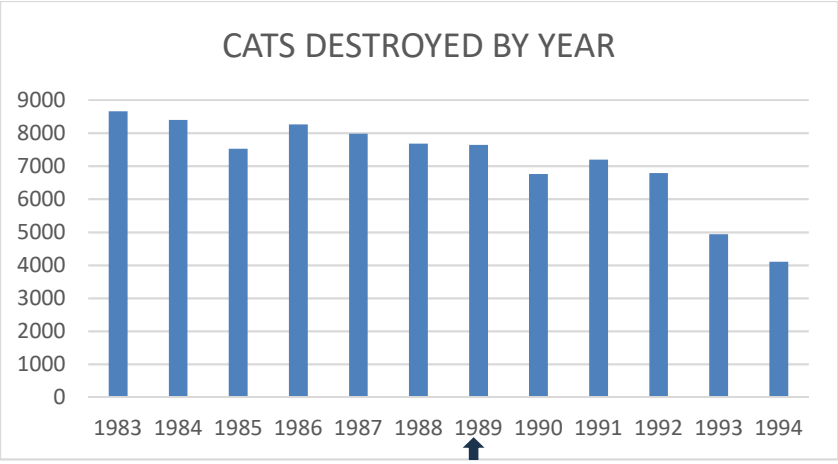
15.9.2024

I SUPPORT C.A.T.S. (Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc) program as a template to assist in successful cat management in TTGC and throughout South Australia.

C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc was incorporated on the first of November 1989: It's aim, and goal was to Desex and Return to Home (DRH) as many cats, owned and unowned, as possible to surmount the overall breeding rate and reduce the numbers of cats being destroyed and suffering. C.A.T.S. program also saves female cats from the burden of having numerous kittens which were taken away from them for re-homing, and this is not sustainable.

The goal was reached within 5 years as the number of cats received and destroyed at the shelters significantly fell, with the main shelter at the time, the SA Animal Welfare League (AWL) figures showing that the mass desexing had virtually halved the felines received and destroyed, from an average of 8,000 per annum prior to the mass desexing, to 4,107 by 1994.

TWELVE YEAR REVIEW OF CATS HANDLED BY THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Within five years C.A.T.S. Inc
virtually halved the number of AWL cats received and destroyed.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
CATTERY												
Received	10587	10445	9491	10196	10462	10301	9799	9007	9151	9146	7397	6707
Placed	1838	1758	1974	1824	1921	1867	1818	1951	1886	1883	2130	2029
Returned to owners	19	20	22	16	27	19	28	26	12	29	37	26
Destroyed	8660	8402	7524	8265	7985	7685	7680	6763	7193	6790	4938	4107

There was no cat management legislation during the 5 years when this significant drop occurred, and in 1992 REARK Research concluded that SA had the highest percentage (94%) of desexed cats for any state surveyed in Australia.

This was achieved without any cat management laws whatsoever.

It was achieved through the efforts of C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance to Sterilise founder Christine Pierson and her colleagues, which saw them spending thousands of nights over many years, camped out in places where cats gathered in both urban and rural locations (with permission and involvement of land and property owners) These nights were spent observing, recording, feeding and researching the backgrounds of these cats whilst the days were spent working with the cat supporters and gaining knowledge about how they wanted to be assisted and what we could do to help them. The undesexed cats were collected and delivered to cooperating vets, each with a referral form stating the details of the person responsible for the cat, and after the sterilisation, returned to their homes where they were fed, cared for and managed. Each individual cat, regardless as to whether it was officially owned or unowned, tame or timid, was a life that was valued, not just as a statistic recorded on a chart or data base. Each of the cats, which were able to be free to live as nature intended, became an asset to the community by keeping out new undesexed cats and controlling the rats and mice and deterring snakes. In this environment, behaviour was noticed, numbers were recorded, and citizen science was born.

This extensive groundwork and data gathering is the real science and far superior and of far greater value in creating a cat management program than any paper evidence compiled by people who have access to scientific studies but have no real expertise or experience in working with the cats and the people who care for the cats in their home area.

As C.A.T.S. grew and tens of thousands of residents requested help and support in both getting the cats desexed and how to best to manage the cats, we had the knowledge and proven methods to provide these people with what they needed to further this significantly successful method of DRH.

C.A.T.S. President was successful in being elected to her own Council of Norwood Payneham and St Peters, and worked to strengthen C.A.T.S. partnership with this Council, resulting in the template we believe all SA councils should follow. The success of our Program humanely reduced cat numbers to a level where it was possible to provide free cat desexing for all resident moggies across this Council District, and it is now in its second year.

This provides undeniable proof that DRH achieves the desirable goals of reduction of cat numbers, cat related problems, impact on wildlife and positive welfare outcomes for both owned and unowned cats.

When C.A.T.S. began, it had the support of the Labor Government at this time, with Ministers for Environment promoting our program: Minister Kym Mayes opened our display at Old Parliament House, which was widely viewed by the public, as well as children being invited from numerous schools to see it. Mr Mayes MP also wrote letters to Council supporting C.A.T.S. program and 12 SA Councils contributed towards our success. Minister for Environment Susan Leneham provided C.A.T.S. with a grant, pro rata to the number of cats which has been desexed, to further our successful work.

Minister Greg Crafter, the Minister for Education at this time, worked with C.A.T.S. on planning a program for school children on the management of cats as per the DRH program.

C.A.T.S. also had worked with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Health Department to control feral cats in the Eastern Suburbs and a letter was written stating that this problem was solved after C.A.T.S. DRH program was applied.

C.A.T.S. received a State Government Award for our "Service to Councils".

Had the significant success of the C.A.T.S. mass Desex and Return to Home program continued as it was, we would not now have a cat catastrophe.

It was obvious with reports from animal organizations in Victoria and NSW that cat management in those states was being severely undermined and handicapped by their government cat legislation, and C.A.T.S. maintained that SA must not follow this failed disaster.

The Queensland Government repealed its cat management legislation, citing it as ineffective and costly for local government.

Instead of taking the evidenced-based path to continue this success, the SA state government set about legislating for cat management resulting in the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 which saw cat numbers gradually increase, with those taken to shelters and destroyed, also rise in number.

The vital point missed by the government is that managing cats is also managing people, and people respond best under incentives, not threats of fines and cat seizures. Also cats are not dogs and cannot be managed like dogs. Felines and canines are two different species and what works for managing dogs, does not work for cats.

C.A.T.S. led a massive opposition to this proposed cat legislation for SA and had an enormous following which stated that the cat legislation would fail, as cats could not be successfully managed by force but by working with the people who

care for the cats through cooperation education and assistance with desexing, as had been conclusively proved to work. This massive fight against the legislation was recoded in all the main papers, on radio and TV and in Hansard during the Parliamentary debates.

As though this DCM Act was not bad enough, state-wide cat legislation was passed, under the Amendments to the Act 2017, mandating desexing microchipping, plus data base registration. This legislation was imposed on the first of July 2018 and, contrary to the government's expectation of increased desexing, the rate plummeted to half of previous years, with a skyrocketing of undesexed cats, causing the shelters to overflow to such an extent that the RSPCA and AWL refused to take anymore.

In addition, also against the government's expectations, only a very small percentage of residents recorded their owned cats on the government Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) proving yet again that successful cat management will not be achieved through legislative force. Furthermore, in the case of cats, legislation cannot be enforced, as without a microchip, proof of ownership cannot be proved, and without proof of ownership the courts will not convict: As shown, most residents will not have the microchip and record on DACO.

The main reason why residents are not desexing cats at the previous rate is due to the cat legislation, as most cat supporters do not want the microchip and are fearful of being fined if they have cats desexed and not microchipped, and may also be considered owners and penalised for cats deemed a nuisance, or charged registration fees for cats in councils where these fees are imposed: They also fear that through the microchip and their details recoded on DACO they can be tracked down and their cat seized, particularly where there is a limit on household numbers via a cat bylaw.

Some councils have behaved extremely unwisely and tracked residents down from DACO records and threatened owners of both owned, semi- owned and unowned cats which they are feeding and caring for, threatening cats in gardens where they are minding their own business and not being a problem to anyone.

Furthermore the government plans to charge registration fees for cats and therefore fewer residents will desex cats, microchip and record on DACO and certainly even fewer will desex unowned cats and be forced to "own" them. People do not want to be bullied. Owning all the cats they assist may also put them over the "household limit" number which is generally "2" where such bylaws take place, so it is easy to see why cat bylaws as well as state laws prevent good outcomes.

Cats cannot be managed through registration, legislation and accompanying fees and fines which alienate the co-operation from the resident supporters. The only way to successfully manage cats and reduce the cat population, the cat-related problems and the impact on wildlife is to work with the people who care for the cats, through cooperation, correct education, and assistance with desexing. This assistance must be from animal rights organisations such as C.A.T.S. Inc and not from the state government, as any push to force government to provide low cost or free desexing will result in cat registration fees to cover this cost. Cat registration fees will be the last straw for any significant number of cats being desexed.

If cat registration fees were to be imposed, then desexing of cats would halve, yet again, as it did in 2018.

C.A.T.S. has had the knowledge, experience, and expertise to be able to steer cat management through a well proven test case for 35 years with DRH and no one else has achieved what this organisation has in SA.

While other states have failed to even get their proposed methods of Trap Neuter Return (TNR) to be accepted, because it is illegal under the Natural Resources Amendment Act, C.A.T.S. has formulated the much superior Desex and Return to Home (DRH) program to comply with this Act, so it has been successfully accepted and operating for 35 years and we consider ALL cats, wherever possible, should be desexed and returned to home, and cats should only be rehomed where all alternatives for DRH have been exhausted.

This would solve the problem of the overflowing shelters, the poor cats that lose their homes and friends and families and the timid and terrified cats which will never be pets which are destroyed, and the grieving cats which are left without their mates when their loved ones are taken away from them, not to mention the grief of the rescuers who thought they were “saving” a cat by taking it to a shelter and shortly afterwards finding out that it had been destroyed.

Nothing constructive, through legislative force, has been accomplished by removal of cats from an area, as remaining cats (and there are always remaining cats) still breed, plus new, undesexed cats fill the vacated spaces and breed to restore, or even increase, numbers. Removal, confinement and killing of cats will never result in a reduction in the cat population, as the phenomenon of nature known as the Vacuum Effect will ensure that surviving cats will fill the vacated spaces and breed. The only way to keep infiltrating cats out of an open system is to have the area held by another means, and the best way to do this is to have the area controlled by resident, free-living desexed cats that are fed and managed.

It is estimated that there are up to 200,000 unowned cats in urban areas and these cats simply infiltrate and restock the vacated spaces. Even if all these unowned cats were owned there would still be many undesexed cats to continue the breeding rate to ensure the Vacuum Effect, as legislation for mandatory cat desexing cannot be enforced: One main reason being that it cannot be proved that a female cat has not been desexed. The only way to ensure that new cats do not infiltrate and breed, is to have the area being protected, by being stocked with resident desexed cats which hold their territory and prevent the intruder cats from entering. This is why government needs the cooperation of the cat supporters to identify these undesexed cats and get them desexed to build a bigger barrier for increasingly larger areas of only desexed cats. If there were no desexed resident cats protecting their territory there would never be a decrease in cat numbers or success with any cat management program.

In summary, C.A.T.S. has organised the desex and return of over 135,000 cats and prevented the birth of literally millions of kittens, thanks to the wonderful support of cooperating vets who donate their time to desex cats at our affordable rates, and the hundreds of thousands of residents who have worked with the program to achieve this success.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Parliament House

Adelaide SA 5000

29.01.2019

To Whom It May Concern

Regarding the new cat legislation which was introduced on 1 July 2018 and requesting its review

I have been the Vice President of C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance To Sterilise Inc since its incorporation in 1989 which is almost thirty years. This has given me considerable expertise in understanding both people and cats and how best to work with them in the community, to achieve the highest rate of desexing of

cats to control breeding. I have also been working to encourage people to be responsible regarding their management of cats.

In addition, I have been writing the desexing referrals and sending them to our 60 plus cooperating Veterinary Surgeons for over 20 years.

The methods that C.A.T.S. uses have been tried and tested for 30 years, and this has been built on the research from around the world and interstate, regarding best practice in Cat Management. Indeed South Australia has become a leader in good cat management and was, before 1 July 2018, the state with the highest rate of desexed cats and the best record for cat management. (See Reark Research Survey which found that Adelaide had the highest rate of desexed cats in the county)

Even in our early days, C.A.T.S. received a State Government Award for our services to councils and we were supported by the politicians and ministers of those times.

We have been very disappointed by the way that, more recently, the former Labor Minister for Environment, Ian Hunter, excluded us from input into the changes to the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and we have noted the huge decrease in responsible cat management and particularly desexing, since the new legislation was imposed on 1 July 2018.

I can directly attest to the fact that calls requesting desexing referrals during my shifts have dropped to well below half than was the case before the new cat laws started. I am now only getting 3 or 4 calls per 3 hour shift, instead of being flat out trying to get the referrals written before the next caller is on the line.

I find this both disappointing and unacceptable and I am therefore asking you to take this seriously important issue onboard and review it. The exclusion of C.A.T.S. and many other organisations and individuals that opposed making desexing and microchipping mandatory is in my view unacceptable.

Given the disaster that has resulted with already triple the number of kittens being born, apart from the massive drop in requests for desexing, should be enough evidence to consider changing the Regulations and repeal making desexing and microchipping mandatory.

There is no need to force people to microchip cats unless they are selling their cats, this should be a matter of choice.

In addition, most cat owners were already desexing their cats. I substantiate this claim by quoting from the statements made by the Australian Veterinary Association which also opposes mandatory desexing.

The following is a quote from the Australian Veterinary Association

"Our policy on desexing points out that mandatory desexing of animals has not proven an effective strategy for reducing the number of unwanted companion animals. Mandatory desexing of owned animals also doesn't account for the impact of semi-owned, stray and feral animals in pet overpopulation".

There is a high level of voluntary compliance with desexing in owned animals – 93% for owned cats and 78% for owned dogs. Voluntary desexing has effectively managed population growth for owned animals in Australia. Existing research has shown that euthanasia in pounds and shelters is rarely because an owner has too many animals´.

"Unfortunately, many of the opinions and policy 'solutions' to the problem are poorly informed about both the problems, and the strategies that have been effective against them in the past. This means that taxpayers' money is invested by local and state governments in initiatives that will not have a significant impact on the problem they are intended to solve. Responsible pet owners are often required to spend more money on their pets due to increased regulation. And dogs and cats continue to be euthanised, eliciting the outrage of animal organisations who call for solutions that may not be based on scientific evidence or been proven to work".

Indeed, the REARK research survey found that Adelaide had an even higher rate for desexed cats.

Instead of the new cat legislation decreasing the numbers of cats and kittens, it has resulted in just the opposite, with now triple the number of kittens being born. Even the RSPCA, which only receives a small percentage of the kittens and cats, has stated that they have nearly double the number that they had at this time last year, which I read in "The Advertiser". I have also read letters in "The Advertiser" and been informed of more letters in the local papers, from

other organisations and individuals, stating that the new cat legislation is a disaster.

I respectfully ask that you review this ineffective and counterproductive cat legislation. Thanking you for this opportunity to submit my request and please let me know if you would like further details.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Vice President C.A.T.S. Cats Assistance to Sterilise Incorporated

Appendix 9: Community engagement advertising

Public Notice published in 21 August 2024 edition of *The Advertiser*

CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better

HAVE YOUR SAY

Draft Cat By-law
Council is inviting community feedback on a proposed new By-law No. 7 – Cats: for the management and control of cats within the Council's area.

To view the draft By-law and provide feedback visit: haveyoursay.cttg.sa.gov.au
Printed copies of the draft Cat By-law are also available at Council's Civic Centre, 571 Montague Road, Modbury during business hours. Written feedback and submissions can be posted to the above address.

Consultation closes 17 September 2024.

Digital Screen



Corflute signage



A3 poster





SMS to City of Tea Tree Gully registered cat and dog owners



Social media (Facebook) – 22 August & 11 September 2024





Council's e-newsletter 'Gully Life' – sent 4 September 2024



Appendix 10: Example of email to stakeholders

From: City of Tea Tree Gully
Sent: Wednesday, 21 August 2024 10:06 AM
Subject: Have Your Say – Proposed new Cat By-law for the City of Tea Tree Gully

Good morning,

Council is seeking community feedback about a proposed new cat by-law for the control and management of cats within the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) council area.

In June 2023, Council consulted with the community to understand views on cat management and control in the CTTG. Over 3,400 people participated, with the majority of the respondents (80%) in support of rules or legislation to address cat management and control in the Council area.

At a Council meeting in August 2023, Council requested a report with a draft cat by-law if the state government did not progress with state-wide cat control legislation by 30 June 2024. While there has been some progress from the state government regarding proposed amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act, the proposed legislation is yet to be passed. In the meantime, Council has decided to proceed with community engagement on a draft cat by-law.

As your organisation/group etc (tailored as required) has an involvement and/or interest in cat management within or just outside the Tea Tree Gully Council area, we invite you to let us know your views on a proposed cat by-law.

Have your say
For more information, including a copy of the draft cat by-law, and to comment:

- visit our Have Your Say website
- review the draft by-law and FAQ's
- provide your feedback by completing the online feedback form
- reply to this email (community.engagement@cttg.sa.gov.au) with your feedback
- collect a paper (hard copy) feedback form by visiting the below locations:
    - Civic Centre reception
    - Tea Tree Gully Library
    - Golden grove or Turramurra Recreation Centres
    - A community centre (Holden Hill, Surrey Downs, Jubilee or Greenwith), or
    - Call us on 8397 7444 and we'll post a feedback form to you

We value your comments and would appreciate your feedback **by 5pm, 17 September 2024**.

All feedback received will be presented to Council for its consideration before making any further decisions about a cat by-law for the City of Tea Tree Gully. Those who provide feedback will be advised of the Council meeting date when the matter will be considered and following this, the Council's decision. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you can use our Question & Answer tool available at the website link above, call us on 8397 7444 or reply via email.

Appendix 11: Draft Cat By-law

By-law made under the Local Government Act 1999
and the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

CATS BY-LAW 2024

By-law No. 7 of 2024

For the management and control of cats within the Council's area.

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. **Short Title**

This by-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2024*.

2. **Commencement**

This by-law will come into operation on 31 July 2025, but not earlier than four months after the day on which it is published in the *Gazette* in accordance with Section 249(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

3. **Definitions**

3.1 In this by-law:

3.1.1 **authorised person** has the same meaning as in the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*;

3.1.2 **cattery** means a building, structure, premises or area approved by the relevant authority pursuant to the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* for the keeping of cats on a temporary or permanent basis;

3.1.3 **cat** means an animal of the species *Felis catus* over three months of age;

3.1.4 **effective control by means of physical restraint**, with respect to a cat, means:

3.1.4.1 the person is exercising effective control of the cat by means of a chain, cord or leash that does not exceed two metres in length restraining the cat;

3.1.4.2 the person has effectively secured the cat by placing it in a cage, vehicle or other object or structure;

3.1.5 **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;

3.1.6 **premises** includes:

3.1.6.1 land;

3.1.6.2 a part of any premises or land;

3.1.7 **prescribed premises** means:

3.1.7.1 a cattery;

3.1.7.2 a veterinary practice;

3.1.7.3 a pet shop; or

3.1.7.4 any premises for which the Council has granted an exemption;

3.1.8 **public notice** has the same meaning as in Section 4(1aa) of the *Local Government Act 1999*;

3.1.9 **responsible for the control** means a person who has possession or control of the cat;

3.1.10 **wander at large** means, with respect to a cat, the cat is in a public place or a private place without the consent of the occupier, and no person is exercising effective control by means of physical restraint.

3.2 For the purposes of this by-law:

3.2.1 the **prescribed limit**, in respect of the number of cats to be kept on premises, is two cats;

3.2.2 the **prescribed manner** in which a cat is to be identified at all times while the cat is not effectively confined to premises of which the owner of the cat is the occupier is by means of a collar around its neck to which a tag is attached legibly setting out:

3.2.2.1 the name of the owner of the cat, or of a person entitled to possession of the cat; and

3.2.2.2 either:

(a) the address of the owner or other person; or

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(b) the telephone number of the owner or other person.

Part 2 – Registration and Identification of Cats

4. Cats Must be Registered

4.1 Every cat must be registered under this by-law.

4.2 If a cat is unregistered, any person who owns or is responsible for the control of the cat is guilty of an offence.

4.3 If a person is guilty of an offence by reason of a cat being unregistered, the person is guilty of a continuing offence for each day that the cat remains unregistered.

4.4 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that the cat is unregistered if:

4.4.1 less than 14 days has elapsed since the person first owned or became responsible for the control of the cat; or

4.4.2 the cat:

4.4.2.1 is travelling with the person; and

4.4.2.2 is not usually kept within the area of the Council; or

4.4.3 the person is responsible for the control of the cat only by reason of the cat being kept for business purposes at prescribed premises.

5. Registration Procedure for Cats

5.1 An application for registration of a cat must:

5.1.1 be made to the Council in the manner and form approved by the Council; and

5.1.2 nominate a person of or over 16 years of age who consents to the cat being registered in their own name; and

5.1.3 nominate, with reference to an address of premises, the place at which the cat will usually be kept; and

5.1.4 include the unique identification number assigned to the microchip implanted in the cat; and

5.1.5 be accompanied by the registration fee and, if applicable, any late payment fee set by resolution of the Council for the cat.

5.2 Subject to subparagraph 5.3, on application and payment of the registration fee and any fee for late payment of the registration fee, the Council must register the cat in the name of the person nominated and issue to that person a certificate of registration in the form approved by Council.

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5.3 The Council may refuse to register a cat under this by-law if:

5.3.1 the number of cats kept or proposed to be kept at premises exceeds the prescribed limit;

5.3.2 keeping a cat at the proposed premises would be contrary to any Act, Regulation or By-law.

5.4 A cat registered in the name of a particular person must, on application to the Council, be registered in the name of some other person who is of or over 16 years of age and consents to the cat being registered in their name.

6. Duration and Renewal of Registration

6.1 Registration under this by-law remains in force until 30 June next ensuing after registration was granted and may be renewed from time to time for further periods of 12 months.

6.2 If an application for renewal of registration is made before 31 August of the year in which the registration expired, the renewal operates retrospectively from the date of expiry.

7. Accuracy of Records

7.1 The person in whose name a cat is individually registered must inform the Council as soon as practicable after any of the following occurs:

7.1.1 the cat is removed from the place recorded in the register as the place at which the cat is usually kept with the intention that it will be usually kept at some other place (whether in the area of the Council, in a different Council area or outside the State);

7.1.2 the cat dies;

7.1.3 the cat has been missing for more than 72 hours;

7.1.4 the residential address or telephone number of the owner of the cat change;

7.1.5 the ownership of the cat is transferred to another person.

7.2 Information given to the Council under this paragraph must include such details as may be reasonably required for the purposes of ensuring the accuracy of records kept under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* and this by-law.

7.3 If ownership of a cat is transferred from the person in whose name the cat is individually registered, the person must give to the new owner the certificate of registration last issued in respect of the cat.

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8. **Identification of Cats**

8.1 Every cat must be identified in the prescribed manner at all times while the cat is not effectively confined to premises of which the owner of the cat is the occupier.

8.2 If a cat is not identified in the prescribed manner required by paragraph 8.1, any person who owns or is responsible for the control of the cat is guilty of an offence.

8.3 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that the cat is not identified in the prescribed manner if:

8.3.1 the cat:

8.3.1.1 is travelling with the person; and

8.3.1.2 is not usually kept within the area of the Council; or

8.3.2 the person is responsible for the control of the cat only by reason of the cat being kept, for business purposes, at prescribed premises; or

8.3.3 the Council has granted the owner of the cat an exemption from the requirements of this paragraph or an extension of time within which to comply with the requirements.

Part 3 – Cat Management and Control

9. **Cats Not to Wander at Large**

9.1 A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a cat must not allow the cat to wander at large.

9.2 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that a cat is wandering at large if the cat is wandering at large within the designated span of hours.

9.3 In this paragraph **designated span of hours** means between 6:00am to 10:00pm on any day.

10. **Cats Not to be a Nuisance**

10.1 A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a cat must not allow the cat to cause a nuisance.

10.2 In this paragraph, a cat causes a nuisance if the cat, alone or together with other cats:

10.2.1 creates or is responsible for noise;

10.2.2 creates or is responsible for odour, or

10.2.3 defecates or urinates on premises without consent of the owner or occupier of the premises,

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which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort and convenience of a person.

11. **Limit on Cat Numbers**

11.1 A person must not, without permission, keep any cat on any premises where the number of cats on the premises exceeds the prescribed limit.

11.2 Permission under this paragraph may be given if the Council is satisfied that:

11.2.1 no insanitary condition exists on the premises as a result of the keeping of cats;

11.2.2 a nuisance is not caused to any neighbour as a result of the keeping of cats on the premises; and

11.2.3 all cats kept on the premises are desexed in accordance with any requirements of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

11.3 The prescribed limit does not apply to prescribed premises.

The foregoing by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the Council of the City of Tea Tree Gully on the day of 2024 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.

.....
Mr Ryan McMahon
Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT

Appendix 12: Feedback form

Feedback Form

Proposed Cat By-law in the City of Tea Tree Gully

This feedback form can be also completed online at:
haveyoursay.cttg.sa.gov.au/catbylaw

Council is seeking community feedback about a proposed new cat by-law for the control and management of cats within the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) council area.

Before providing feedback, please review the Information Sheet and draft cat By-law No. 7.

Please note: For your feedback to be included, your name and contact details must be provided. Your personal details will not be made public or published in any Council reports.

By providing your email address you are agreeing to future communication from us by email in relation to this feedback (email is our preferred method of contact). Please ensure you check your 'junk mail' folder.

Your details (please print clearly):

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone:.....

About you

To start with, please let us know a bit about yourself so we can better understand the range of community members and groups, etc who have participated in this survey.

a) Please select the option from the list below that best describes you.
Think about what 'hat' you're wearing when completing this form

- Home/property owner in the Tea Tree Gully council area ☐
- Tenant/renter in the Tea Tree Gully council area ☐
- Other adult living with parents/a carer etc ☐

} All go to question b)

- Representative of a local sports club or community group ☐
- Representative of a local school ☐
- Business owner or manager in the Tea Tree Gully council area ☐
- Cat breeder ☐
- Representative of a cat related business, association or advocacy group ☐
- Representative of a community advocacy group or association ☐
- Employee of/vet at a veterinary surgery/practice in the Tea Tree Gully council area ☐
- Other (please write below) _____ ☐

If you ticked an option in the second set of options above, please let us know which school, club, group, business or association you are from or represent. Then go to Question 1.

_____

b) What age group do you belong to?

- 23 years or younger ☐
- 24-33 years ☐
- 34-43 years ☐
- 44-53 years ☐
- 54-63 years ☐
- 64-73 years ☐
- 74-83 years ☐
- 84 years or older ☐
- Prefer not to say ☐

c) What is your gender?

- Male ☐
- Female ☐
- Non-binary ☐
- Prefer not to say ☐

d) Do you own or care for any cats on your property?

Yes - one ☐
Yes - two ☐
Yes – three or more ☐
No ☐
Prefer not to say ☐

e) Do you own or care for any dogs on your property?

Yes ☐
No ☐
Prefer not to say ☐

f) Do you or any members of your household have a disability? *(select all that apply)*

Yes, I have a disability ☐
Yes, another member of my household has a disability ☐
No ☐
Prefer not to say ☐

1. Which best describes your level of support or otherwise for the City of Tea Tree Gully draft Cat By-law?

Fully support	☐	Go to Q4
Partly support (have concerns/issues with one or more aspects)	☐	Go to Q2
Neither/nor (neutral)	☐	Go to Q4
Do not support/do not want a Cat By-law	☐	Go to Q4
Unsure	☐	Go to Q4

2. Which aspect(s) of the draft Cat By-law do you have issues or concerns with? *(select all that apply)*

- 3. Definitions ☐
- 4. Cats must be registered ☐
- 5. Registration procedure for cats ☐
- 6. Duration and renewal of registration ☐
- 7. Accuracy of records ☐
- 8. Identification of cats ☐
- 9. Cats not to wander at large ☐
- 10. Cats not to be a nuisance ☐
- 11. Limit on cat numbers ☐
- Other (please write below) ☐

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3. Please provide details about your issues or concerns for the aspects you selected above (referencing numbers above where relevant).

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Go to Question 5

4. Please provide a comment outlining your reasons for this response.

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Education and support

Should Council proceed with a Cat By-law following community engagement, there are a number of aspects that Council may consider as part of an education and support program for the roll out of the by-law.

Council is keen to better understand the community's views and preferences on the following.

5. The draft by-law would require cats to be registered every 12 months. Council is proposing a $0 fee (fee free) period for the first two years of the by-law coming into effect.

   To what extent do you support or oppose this proposed approach for registration fees?

   Strongly support ..... ☐
   Support ..... ☐
   Neither support nor oppose (neutral) ..... ☐
   Oppose ..... ☐
   Strongly oppose ..... ☐
   Unsure ..... ☐

6. Do you have any comments about this?

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7. Do you think Council should provide some level of support to cat owners, for example discounted fees, rebates or other assistance?

Yes	☐	Go to Q8
No	☐	Go to Q10
Unsure	☐	Go to Q10

8. Which of the following supports or assistance that Council could consider providing are of interest to you? *(Please select up to three (3) options*)

Discounted registration fee for the life of the cat, for cats registered prior to the end of the free registration period ☐

Rebate or grant program to assist with cat-proofing for residents with registered cats (eg enclosures or fence top rollers, etc) ☐

Assistance with desexing for cats born before 1 July 2018 ☐

Microchipping days ☐

Other (please write below) ☐

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9. Please provide any comments you may have about these potential supports and assistance.

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10. Should Council decide to proceed with a Cat By-law, we would provide information or refer to sources of information about aspects of owning a cat or managing cats including (but not limited to):

- Registration
- Identification of cats and collars
- Desexing
- Microchipping
- Keeping cats at home
- Nuisance cats
- Feral, unowned & stray cats

Are there any other topics related to cats that you think information or educational materials should be available for?

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11. Would you be interested in attending a workshop or seminar related to cat ownership or management?

Yes	☐	Go to Q12
Maybe	☐	Go to Q12
No	☐	Go to Q13
Unsure	☐	Go to Q13

12. What topics would be of interest? *(please select all that apply)*

Registration	☐
Identification of cats and collars	☐
Desexing	☐
Microchipping	☐
Keeping cats at home	☐
Nuisance cats	☐
Feral, unowned & stray cats	☐
Other (please write below)	☐

_____

_____

Views on potential containment at all times in the future

The draft Cat By-law we are currently inviting community feedback on proposes containment of cats at night, from 10.00pm to 6.00am.

13. How strongly do you support or oppose the possible introduction of a Cat By-law requiring 24/7 containment of cats, to commence in five (5) **years' time**?

- Strongly support ☐
- Support ☐
- Neither support nor oppose (neutral) ☐
- Oppose ☐
- Strongly oppose ☐
- Unsure ☐

14. Do you have any comments about this?

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15. Finally, please provide any other comments you may have about the draft Cat by-law.

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You are welcome to attach any supporting images or documents.

Thank you for your feedback.

Feedback forms should be returned to Council by 5pm, Tuesday 17 September 2024 by using the reply-paid envelope provided or by posting to the following address (no stamp required):

City of Tea Tree Gully
Reply Paid 571
MODBURY SA 5092

Ref: CM no.24/722