



Cat Local Law 2022

Community Engagement Report

2022





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Executive Summary

Cat Local Law 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to advise our community on the introduced measures to ultimately reduce the number of stray cats in the community and to encourage responsible cat ownership.

Engaging with the Community

The City of Kalamunda undertook community engagement to allow for ample opportunity for the public to participate in consultation. This engagement ran from 14 January 2022, to 25 February 2022.

Community Consultation for the project was delivered via a comprehensive *Communications and Engagement Plan* prepared in line with IAP2 best practice principles.

The Plan delivered to IAP2 spectrum level 'Inform' to provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

City Priorities/Plans/Strategies relevant to the project:

Community Engagement projects work towards meeting the City Priorities, Plans and Strategies as defined in the Kalamunda Advancing Strategic Community Plan to 2031. This consultation fulfilled the following:

>> Priority 1: Kalamunda Cares and Interacts

Objective 1.2 - To provide safe and healthy environments for community to enjoy.

Strategy 1.2.1 – Facilitate a safe community environment.

Key Engagement findings:

We saw a notable uptake within the community for this consultation. The survey received 126 submissions, the Engage poll received 17 separate submissions and the paid social media adverts received over 500 comments with much community moderation.

The Engage platform achieved a 8% engagement success rate with 129 visitors actively participating in the survey, out of a total of 1,700 visitors

In delivering the overarching campaign the City hosted:

- » Community survey on the Engage HQ platform supported by direct links to information and supporting agencies.
- » A targeted social media campaign including 4 Stories across Facebook and Instagram, and paid

Meta advertising garnering 1,107 Link Clicks, 151,486 Impressions, and 44 Landing Page Views.

- » Printed media including fliers, survey and newspaper adverts.
- » Website news and media releases.

Public demographic gathered for the combined surveys showed:

- » 66% were female, 30% were male, and 2% each were either Other or preferred not to say.
- » 31% were from Kalamunda, 20% from Lesmurdie, 13% from High Wycombe, 10% from Gooseberry Hill and 9% from Forrestfield, with the remaining 17% from 15 different suburbs.
- » 25% were between the ages of 46-55, 24% between 56-65, 16% between 66-75, 15% were between both 26-35 and 36-45, 4% were 76+ and 1% were aged 19-25 years.

Interestingly the public sentiment gathered differed between social media feedback and that gathered via Engage. Social media feedback included many comments and discussions representing both sentiments; positive and negative towards the Law. Whereas the survey reflected a positive sentiment towards the Local Law with the majority of participants indicating they felt 'good' about the draft local law, it was a prerequisite of completing the survey that the participants had read the proposed law. Highlights from the survey saw:

- » 94% confirmed they had read the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022
- » 39% rated the Draft as Good, 24% were neutral, 20% rated it Great, with the remaining 37% rating it negatively or were Unsure.
- » 39% rated the PART 1: PRELIMINARY section as Very Important, 27% as Fairly Important, 5% FOR BOTH Somewhat Important and Not Important, with 3% having No Opinion.
- » 76% rated the PART 2: CAT CONTROL section as Very Important, 11% as Fairly Important, 18% had No Opinion, 13% Somewhat Important, with 2% feeling it was Not Important.
- » 60% rated the PART 3: PERMITS FOR KEEPING CATS section as Very Important, 22% as Fairly Important, 9% Somewhat Important, 6% feeling it was Not Important., and 4% had No Opinion.
- » 63% rated the PART 4: MISCELLANEOUS section as Very Important, 18% as Fairly Important, 8% Somewhat Important, 6% feeling it was Not Important., and 4% had No Opinion.
- » 45% rated the PART 5: OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS section as Very Important, 34% as Fairly Important, 9% Somewhat Important, with 6% each feeling it was Not Important., and had No Opinion.
- » 66% rated the PART 6: OFFENCES AND PENALTIES section as Very Important, 18% as Fairly Important, 7% Somewhat Important, with 6% feeling it was Not Important., and 4% had No Opinion.



Community Engagement

Communications and Engagement Objectives

- » Disseminate information to affected stakeholders to raise their awareness of the consultation and the feedback process.
- » Educate community on City roles and responsibilities with regards to identifying water quality, testing it and planning for improved water quality and drainage.
- » Promote a positive consultation experience among stakeholders with the City in obtaining equitable levels of feedback from community and residents.
- » Collect feedback from stakeholders to inform Draft Local Law and ensure that outcomes meet the needs of residents and landowners.
- » Gain understanding of community concerns and observations
- » Gain understanding of community practices relating to cat ownership
- » Inform and update community and stakeholders on consultation outcomes

Communications and Engagement Tools and Channels

The City engaged with key stakeholders and the broader community via:

Engagement Tools	Objectives
Media Release (MR)	Targeting media outlets for a broader community reach.
Website News	Accessible, translatable, transparent. Single point reference. Links to Engagement Portal and Social Media.
Engagement Portal	FAQs, Online survey, additional reading, useful links.
Printed Flier and Survey	Print is tangible, tactile, is viewed as trustworthy and reaches stakeholders who are not Online. The flier and survey were distributed across all the City's buildings. E.g. Libraries, Rec Centre.
Social Media Campaign	Targeted posts can reach stakeholders 24/7: Facebook posts, Twitter, Instagram.
Face-to-Face	Monthly shopping centre pop ups to address stakeholder enquiries directly.
Newspaper Adverts	Reach broader community who do not have Online access.
Posters and Brochures	Visual campaign.

Example of Communications

Communications included:

- » Community Survey
- » Social Media Awareness Campaign
- » Website: Linking to contributing nodes
- » Media Release
- » Newspaper advertisements
- » Posters/fliers and e Newsletters
- » FAQs
- » Face-to-Face

Content was posted across the City's buildings and shared with Stakeholders.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Draft Local Law Open For Comment - Draft City of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022

City of Kalamunda

The City of Kalamunda is seeking feedback on the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022.

The purpose of the proposed local law is for:

- i. cats not to be a nuisance;
- ii. cat prohibited areas; and
- iii. control of cats in places that are not public.

The effect of the proposed local law is to advise our community on the proposed measures to ultimately reduce the number of stray cats in our community and to encourage responsible cat ownership.

Consultation closes Friday, 5pm 25 February 2022.


A copy of the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022 can be viewed online at engage: www.engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/not-kitten-around

Or a hard copy can be obtained:

In Person: 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda
Phone 9257 9999
Email enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
Post: PO Box 42 Kalamunda WA 6926

CLOSES 5pm 25 February 2022

SCAN ME!



PUBLIC NOTICE

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COMMENTS
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 25 February
 2022
CLOSE

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City of Kalamunda



Social Media | Campaign post insights

Campaign Channels

Social Media Feedback



1 Organic Social Media Posts

👆 1,107 Link Clicks

💬 532 Post Comments

👁️ 151,486 Impressions

∞ 1 Meta Paid Ad Sets

Due to the incredibly large amount of feedback received through social media, not all comments have been included. The following comments are representative of the narrative. Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents. Comments have been included without any identifying indicators.

Maybe people can also slow down in their cars too so they don't hit animals, children or wildlife

Why not make it law, that cats need to be indoors at night. Other shires have. There are always irresponsible owners who let their cats roam at night.

Every council should do like wise

The laws should especially make sure that the cats' owners keep them inside and don't go around and kill quendas and other native animals.

Our neighbours cat attacked our free range chook in our front yard recently not for the first time either and we often see it stalking birds and quendas during daylight hours. They need to be confined safely in their own home or yard.

These are the NT dog and cat laws which clearly states that dogs/cats must be under effective control at all times ...there are associated fines ...maybe CoK could use these as a foundation . <https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/resi.../pets/dog-cat-management>

This won't reduce stray numbers.

Our adopted boy is chipped and desexed and we let him go outside for his daily exercise but he comes inside every evening. It's mean to keep cats inside entirely. They are beautiful animals and deserve less hate.

Imagine how many Blue Wrens we would all see if cats were contained....

If you care for your cat, you care for the environment. Keep them indoors and ensure your outdoor perimeter is catproof. Your cats will live longer, and so will the wildlife.

Should have same rules as dogs as in not allowed to roam free, etc

Social Media | Social media comments



Not sure I'd want to live in Kalamunda with all those laws. I have 3 cats all have the free run of house and their enclosure but never anywhere else. I would have to do lots of paperwork which I don't like or give up one of my cats which I'm not about to do so I will stay away from there if ever I decide to move.

When my council instituted very similar regulations I was in the same situation - 3 indoor cats and a cat enclosure. Although initially irritated by the thought of the paperwork, it really wasn't that bad. I also opted for a perpetual registration rather than a yearly one, so there was no ongoing impost.

Great idea, I have had cats in the past and have trained both them and my children to know that they should stay inside and leave wildlife outside. However, part of the plan should encourage owners to prove a means to let their pets outside in a safe manner in a restricted way.

I have a cat that goes out for the toilet (I think he thinks he is a dog haha) but we have cats coming into our backyard trying to attack my cat. Makes me so angry! Sometimes I hear them throwing themselves at my windows trying to get inside to my cat in the middle of the night. I always thought cats are to be inside at night?

Please before you adopt this rule, make one for dogs, so many people have dogs their constant barking .can drive neighbours mad ,barking may be music to the owners ears ,but it's unbearable to neighbours ,and nothing is done about it .My neighbours above and below me have well behaved dogs ,but other local ones no such luck ,priorities Kalamunda shire .

What about nuisance barking dogs.

If this happens there needs to be support for cat owners to build secure catios/cat runs on their property.

Quenda comes through my cat flap regularly to help themselves to cat biscuits, they are never under threat. A ridiculous blanket rule that targets all cats as killers

There needs to be a phased approach and help. Changing cats behaviour isn't easy.

Man does more damage to wildlife than cats by clearing the land, all the little animals loose there homes by machinery, plus stop cats being about we will get over by mice etc.!!!!!!!!!

Social Media | Social media comments



Get a roomy area made of cat net. They love to be able to get fresh air.

If you want less cats you need to offer cheaper costs for sterilization. Get studnt vets from uni doing it for practice

It's a good survey - well done on doing this and I hope commentators actually avail themselves to the information on your site.

Don't forget house cats still on the very few occasions escape. This isn't a normal thing but they shouldn't be hurt because of this act.

It's about time something was done about irresponsible cat owners letting their cats roam freely. Much larger fines for owning unsterilised cats or ones caught outside an enclosed cat run/home . We built our cat run for under \$300.

It needs to be done and immediately. The damage cats are doing to wildlife is appalling.

I see more wildlife killed on the roads around Kalamunda than what's done buy cats.

My cat is micro chipped, neutered and registered. She is kept in at night but I think it is cruel to keep cats indoor at all times. We often find a dead mouse or rat but there has never been any evidence of a bird kill. If you really want to limit damage by stray cats, then you need to start knocking on doors and checking the number of cats and if they have been registered etc. It's time to follow up on irresponsible cat owners instead of continually instigating tighter and tighter rules that the same people ignore over and over again.

My parents have quendas in their yard. They have footage of the same cat coming into the yard which is being let out night after night by some inconsiderate neighbour. This is posing a risk to the quendas. Keep your cats inside at night and keep the quendas and other native wildlife safe.

This is clearly an emotive subject with a lot of cat haters expressing their opinion. I have 3 chickens, 2 cats and a dog and I love all of them. My cats have never killed a chicken. One cat goes out during the day but both are in at night time. My dog goes in and out in our own yard as he pleases. My chickens are out during the day in our yard but locked up at night. If anyone in my neighbourhood said any of my pets were a nuisance I would be onto it in an instant. I do not want to make anyones life horrid because of my pets. I am a responsible pet owner and some of these comments disturb me. You don't like cats? Fair enough but don't make mine out to be the enemy. If we, as humans, can't find a peaceful solution what chance do our cats have?

Social Media | Social media comments



There are a load of people who already don't care what laws or measures are in place to control their cats. Even with the state laws, that have been in place for a few years now, there should be way less cats but rescues are over run all the time with stray cats & kittens. Those people that care do the right thing already and unfortunately that seems very few. Education is key but many people can't be educated and they are the problem.

I agree that cats should be under control at all times my cats have the whole yard and house I have put bird netting around the top of fence and wire around trees so they can't climb and there 13now when we go camping the cats are on very long leads outside so the don't annoy others

Not to say all cat owners are bad because there are a lot of responsible cat owners. But there's those who think it's ok to just be part time owners in letting their cats out in the mornings and hopefully see them at night for dinner (or in the reverse) which is totally unacceptable and quite often this action leads to wildlife being killed, unwanted kittens being born, cat fights disturbing the neighbourhood etc. Then when kitty gets hit by a cat or a dog attacks their kitty it's the driver or the dogs owners that are labeled as being at fault if their cat is injured or killed. All cats should be kept either indoor with perhaps a cat enclosure outside to ensure their cat is safe, the wildlife is safe also & their cats are no longer the communities problem.

After all if you love your pets, then protecting them should be at the top of the list.

Before any one thinks about this Kalamunda cat act, consider some old people that only have their cat for company, no one bothers to visit them and they may have no family, perhaps Kalamunda shire, shares the opinion of Morrison they are at the end of their life so it doesn't matter .well it certainly does .

Good to see Kalamunda is leading the way...Shire of Gosnells take note !

Restricting an owner to 2 cats is ridiculous. This will just create more strays and put pressure on shelters. An owner should be able to have 3. Cats should be indoors though.

I used to feed a family of magpies when I lived in West Swan along with butcher birds, a feral cat and quendas which would take the mince from under the cats nose! The object was to catch the cat, before you all start ranting, which I did after a year, he wasn't worried about the wildlife. The neighbours Jack Russell decimated everything that lived at ground level.

We had cats coming to our backyard at specific times at night caught in camera killing quendas and birds. We've seen feathers in the backyard

Same rule for dogs! Inside or in a run

Social Media | Social media comments



Keep them all inside. Let's see how the mice and rat population increases after a time The Ancient Egyptians knew all about that.

How about doing something about continual dog barking, roaming dogs and vicious dogs...never heard of a pack of cats attacking. Also, the biggest killer of small animals is habitat loss so plant trees, have less manicured parks and stop cutting down trees to build houses and malls.

Cut out the cute photo. They are killers

Think about all the rat's you will have in your car's sheds and home's!!!! If you cut down cat numbers, you would be over run with rat's and mice .

As a responsible cat owner and somebody who helped with the W.A. cat act. I personally believe all cats that are owned should be contained to the property in which they live. I do not believe Cats should be allowed to roam free like dogs they should be contained to the property. I also believe that all cats should be desexed earlier than six months of age and stop the prepaid vouchers as this does not work. I personally believe all cats should be microchip and desexed at no less than 14 weeks of age.

Cats are a menace to native animals.

What is the council doing about foxes and kookaburras?

Great initiative

All you people who think locking animals up in houses/cages are disgusting.

Everyone stopped the circuses because of this exact reason and now hypocritically you all think it's ok

Dogs kill wildlife, cats kill wildlife, humans kill wildlife..... everything must die eventually why mess with the natural order. Yes desexing, yes microchips.... but locking them up is taking it too far.

Humans are a disease to our planet

All three proposals are spot on

Treat them like dogs, chipped, on lead when out, no more than 2 per household, big licence fee if not desexed and straight to the pound if caught outside the property

Social Media | Meta advertising insights

Meta Advertising

Performance Overview

Link Clicks ⓘ

1,107

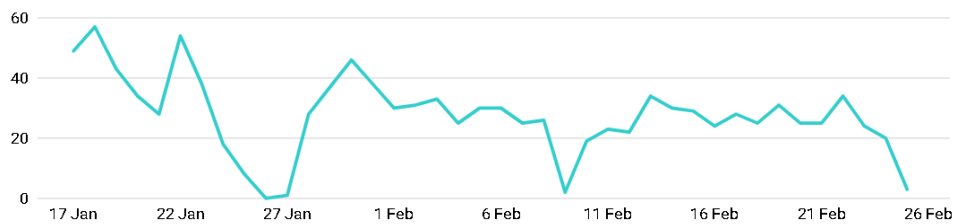
Per link click ⓘ

\$0.18

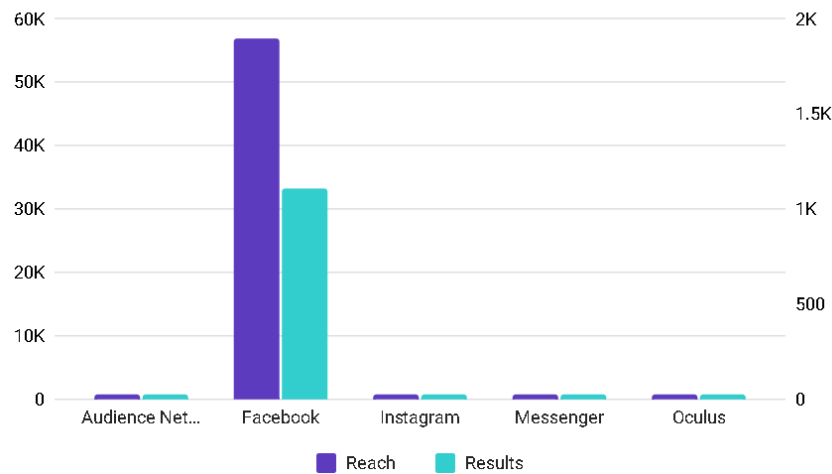
Amount spent ⓘ

\$200.00

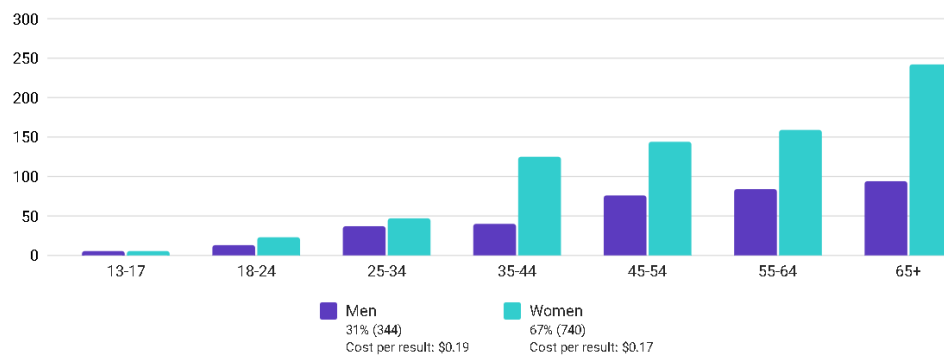
Link Clicks



Platform Overview



Demographic Overview



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MARKYT® Community Scorecard Report |

2020 Community Perceptions Survey

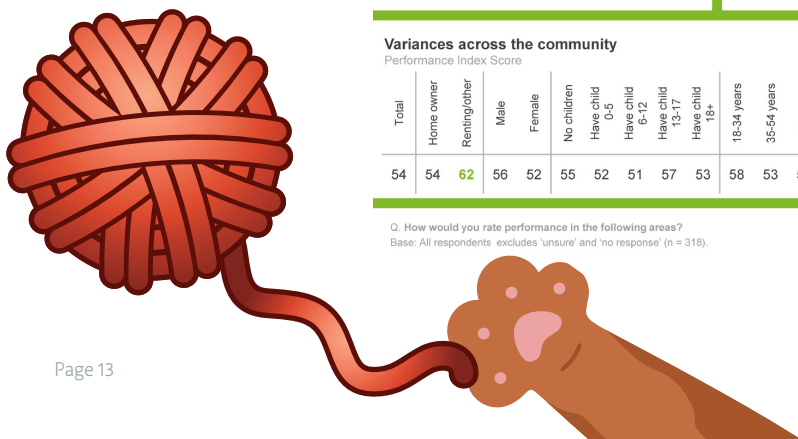


The City of Kalamunda commissioned CATALYSE® to conduct a MARKYT® Community Scorecard from 23 March to 14 April 2020. The purpose of the study was to evaluate community priorities and measure Council's performance against key indicators in the Strategic Community Plan.

Scorecard invitations were sent to 4,000 randomly selected households; 1,000 by mail and 3,000 by email.

483 randomly selected residents and ratepayers completed a scorecard.

One of the MARKYT Community Scorecard key recommendations is for the City of Kalamunda to take a more active leadership and advocacy role in relation to **climate change** and **community wellbeing**. 2 in 3 residents support further action by the City in these areas.

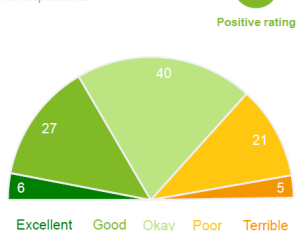


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Conservation and environmental management

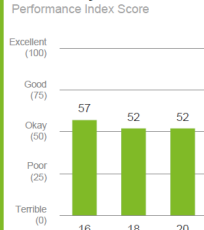
Performance ratings

% of respondents



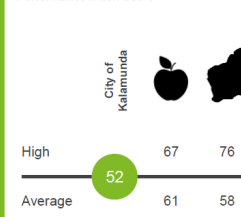
Trend Analysis

Performance Index Score



MARKYT Industry Standards

Performance Index Score



Variances across the community

Performance Index Score

Total	Home owner	Renting/other	Male	Female	No children	Have child 0-5	Have child 6-12	Have child 13-17	Have child 18+	18-34 years	35-54 years	55+ years	Disability	Born Overseas	LOTE	Forrestfield	Gooseberry Hill	High Wycombe	Kalamunda	Lesmurdie	Maida Vale	Wattle Grove	Other
52	52	49	54	51	53	52	51	50	53	54	49	54	51	52	49	61	50	47	52	54	47	42	48

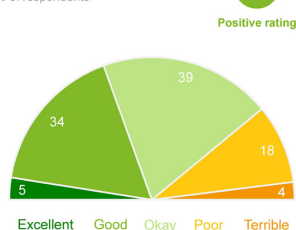
Q. How would you rate performance in the following areas?
Base: All respondents, excludes 'unsure' and 'no response' (n = 377).

MARKYT 71

Animal and pest control

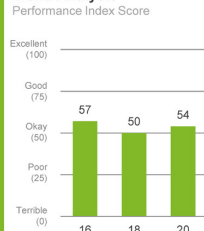
Performance ratings

% of respondents



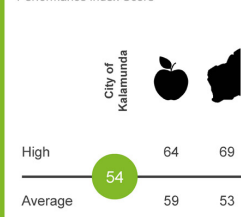
Trend Analysis

Performance Index Score



MARKYT Industry Standards

Performance Index Score



Variances across the community

Performance Index Score

Total	Home owner	Renting/other	Male	Female	No children	Have child 0-5	Have child 6-12	Have child 13-17	Have child 18+	18-34 years	35-54 years	55+ years	Disability	Born Overseas	LOTE	Forrestfield	Gooseberry Hill	High Wycombe	Kalamunda	Lesmurdie	Maida Vale	Wattle Grove	Other
54	54	62	56	52	55	52	51	57	53	58	53	54	55	52	42	54	58	53	57	59	48	45	50

Q. How would you rate performance in the following areas?
Base: All respondents, excludes 'unsure' and 'no response' (n = 318).

MARKYT 77



Strategic Planning Alignment

Kalamunda Advancing Strategic Community Plan 2021–2031

Priority 1: Kalamunda Cares and Interacts

Objective 1.2 – To provide safe and healthy environments for community to enjoy.

» Strategy 1.2.1 – Facilitate a safe community environment.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Community Consultation for the project will be delivered via this Communications and Engagement Plan prepared in line with IAP2 best practice principles. The plan is designed to meet IAP2 Spectrum 'inform' level.

Public Participation Goal: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Promise to the Public: We will keep you informed.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey) | Overview

Survey | Cat Local Laws

The Survey received 126 responses

Engage Traffic

- 1.7 k** Total visits
- 134** Maximum visits per day
- 449** Informed Visitors
- 1.4 k** Aware Visitors
- 120** Participants downloaded a copy of the FAQs

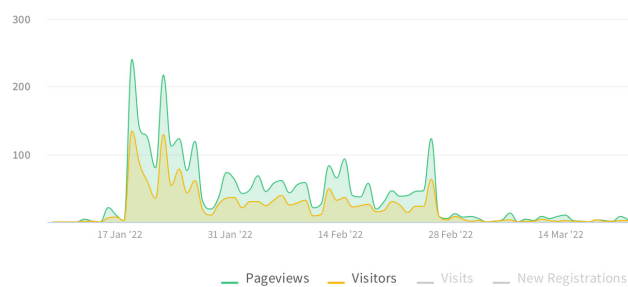
Profile

- 100%** Local residents
- 6%** Community groups

This survey was a mix of rating and open comment questions

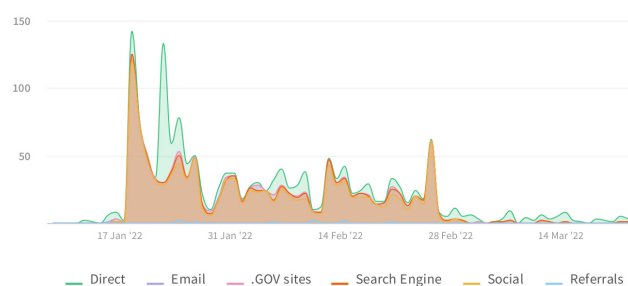
Visitors Summary

Engage Kalamunda from 11 Sep'17 to 21 Mar'22



Visits by Channel

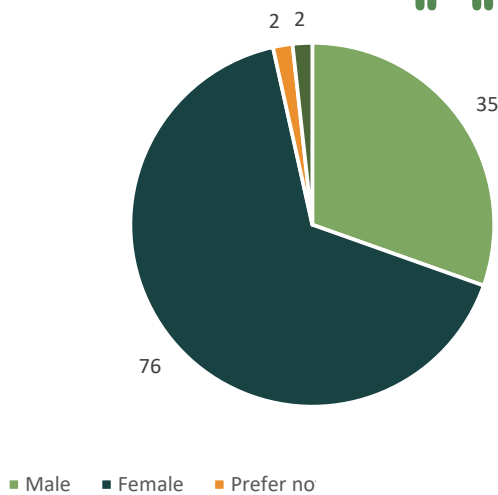
Engage Kalamunda from 11 Sep'17 to 21 Mar'22



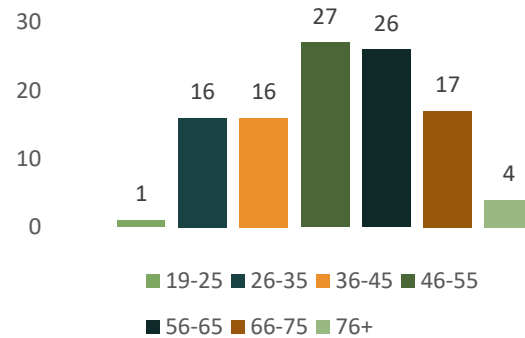
Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Demographics

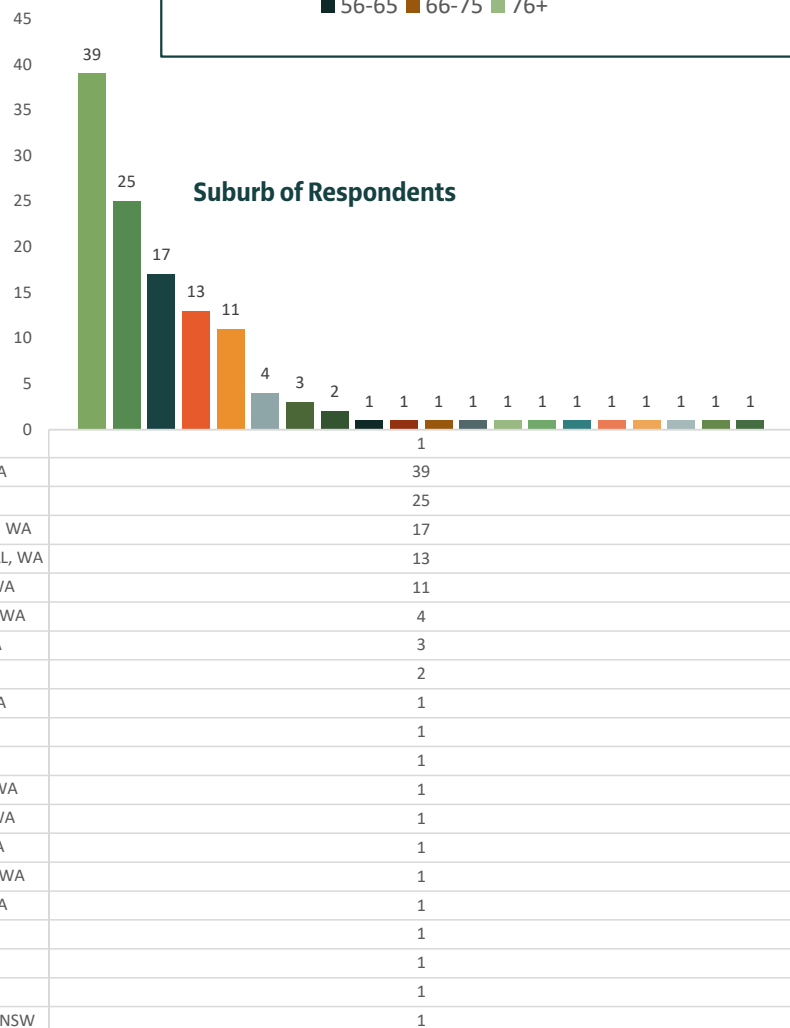
Gender of Respondents



Age of Respondents



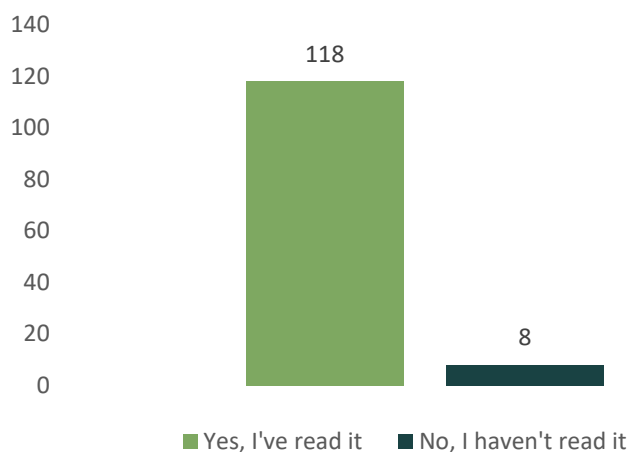
Suburb of Respondents



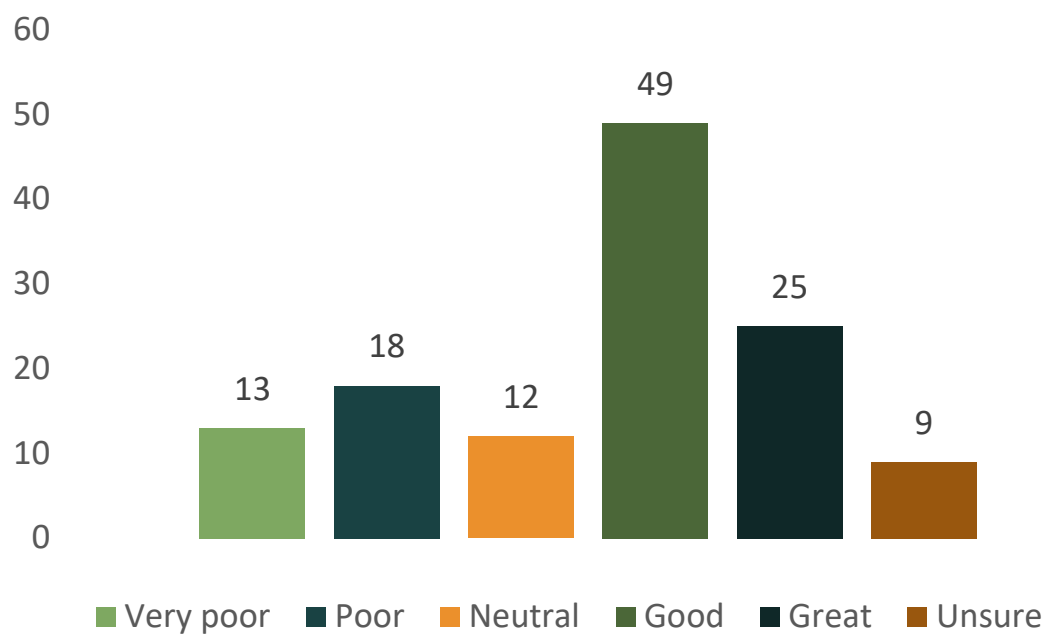
Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

1. Have you read the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022?



2. How do you rate the draft Local Law?



Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law?

Respondant	Comment
1	It's a good start in implementing ways to reduce the effect that cats have on the environment. They are a major contributor to the decline of native fauna and should be kept indoors at all times, or caged if outside.
2	Protects wildlife and public areas.
3	We have been troubled by cats in our garden since moving in to High Wycombe 9 years ago. On one occasion several cats were involved in a fight on our porch in which we did not intervene because at least one was a large feral cat. We believe all cats should be restricted to their owner's homes with a cat run and never allowed to wander the streets at any time of day or night.
4	It protects nature reserves and wildlife in turn, also supports residents having to deal with nuisance cats.
5	Addresses most issues for controlling cats and keeping reserves and parks free from this predator maybe "nuisance" should include damage to wildlife.
6	Cat breeding and cat ownership should be better controlled and mandated
7	Needs to be more specific
8	The way it's set out
9	Because it will hopefully improve the local cat situation. There's a wild one near us (not the first) who seems to live in the drain across the road. We find dead rats and birds in our back garden; it also fights at night. Anything to resolve this is helpful.
10	Is reasonably easy to read.
11	"It's too vague on what constitutes a public or private place and needs to more clearly articulate where a cat can be - eg. If a cat is on a public verge is this now an offense? Also, currently residents are allowed 3 cats and there is no clear articulation of transition to 2 cats. "
12	Haven't read it
13	Clearly explains what is expected of cat owners
14	it should not be " could face a fine, it should be a definite fine for owners of roaming cats.
15	We have backed onto Mundy Regional Park for 16 years, when we first arrived we had blue wrens and other species of honey eaters including quendas. Our neighbour moved in with 2 cats and over 6 months they had all but gone. He has moved approximately 5 years now and only now the wildlife has come back to what it was.
16	We need to update the cat laws sometime or another.
17	We need to control cats to help protect our wildlife and stop them being a nuisance to neighbours and others.
18	Cats are out of control
19	There has been no attempt to have cats microchipped, registered and kept inside
20	Control of cats is very important to the survival of all the native animals here in the shire area and the rest of Australia
21	It doesn't help cat owners to know what to do, it's all about what we are not allowed to do
22	Personally I'm a cat fan not a cat hater and think there are ways to manage their impact on the local environment without locking them up inside. They are independent animals, not dependents like dogs. Many issues can be dealt with by collar bells.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
23	We moved into our property 16 years ago and there were lots of small native birds including many blue wrens. Our neighbor acquired cats and the birds disappeared for years. These cats hid in bushes in our yard and killed many many birds. When the neighbor no longer lived next door, within about 3 months the birds returned. I believe native birds have a right to live in the natural environment without being killed by cats.
24	"Cat owners are required to take responsibility for their cats when they leave their property. This is a good measure to protect our wildlife. Kalamunda is an attractive place to live due to its natural environment and wildlife. We rehomed our cat when we moved to Gooseberry Hill and would like others to think twice about having a pet cat. It is also good to see that cat numbers per property are restricted to 2. Thank you."
25	Gives a monetary incentive for responsible Cat keeping.
26	"It does not address the issue of cats roaming freely to kill native wildlife. Cats should be sterilised and fitted with an approved bib to deter them from killing native wildlife."
27	I haven't read the 30 page long-winded document!
28	Its basic and in laymans terms (easy to understand)
29	Cats are killers of our wildlife. No information in the policy regarding policing of the law or money allocated to provide manpower and equipment. People who repeatedly offend should have the animal in question destroyed. People are flouting the current law allowing their cats to wander day and night, my neighbours cats are frequently on my property killing quenda and birds.
30	The proposal would help better control cats impacting native wildlife. I have seen a neighbors cat stalk native birds and bandicoots (quenda) on our property.
31	Instrument is quite clear regarding the matter of 'keeping a cat or cats'; no mention is made of a means of identifying a animal such as a requirement for a microchip.
32	Generally this reads as a positive - cat owners have to be expected to keep their cats indoors to protect our native wildlife, and the cats. I think community education around catios/cat runs should be delivered to coincide with this new proposal. Though, capping the cat limit at 2 cats is discouraging to responsible cat owners who have more than this. I think 3-4 is a reasonable number before additional permit is required. This also allows flexibility for cat owners who may have a couple of cats, to do temporary fostering for rescue groups.
33	I haven't read it
34	I am very concerned about the damage cats do to our native fauna and there needs to be better measures in place to control cats particularly at night and to reduce the risk of cats becoming feral.
35	I think it is comprehensive, and gives me some assurance that something can be done about cats that go into Jorgensen Park and into my property and that owners can be held accountable. Dog owners have to control their dogs and it's great to see something come in to ensure cat owners are responsible too.
36	It needs to be simple speak, too much lawyer speak. You are leaving it open to 'I didn't understand.'
37	I understand the reasons for the Law however I don't think it will work.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
38	<p>"The proposed new Cat Laws do not go far enough.</p> <p>What is the purpose of this new proposed Cat Law?</p> <p>The current draft of the Cat Law will not actually protect wildlife:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Our wildlife is not only contained in the many reserves listed as prohibited areas. * It would be almost impossible to monitor these areas and associated bushlands. Therefore, although having a prohibited areas policy sounds good, it is totally ineffective. * Wildlife is everywhere in the City of Kalamunda and we have a responsibility to protect them from cats. * Cats must prohibited from anywhere outside of the owners' houses or in secure cat runs outside. *Once outside, cats roam unrestrained. <p>Wildlife inhabits all accessible areas of the City, including our townsites, verges, gardens, commercial areas, industrial areas.</p> <p>Ever since European settlement, cats have created havoc amongst the wildlife. We have lost many species, birds, reptiles and small mammals due to our human settlement in the area and by clearing and destroying a great deal of habitat for wildlife, but cats were and are continuing to destroy wildlife at will on a daily basis.</p> <p>I see cats locally, during the day and night, roaming feely. This has to stop.</p> <p>Domestic and feral cats are basically effective killing machines, even if well cared for and not needing to kill wildlife to eat.</p> <p>All cats must be contained or destroyed.</p> <p>Helen Bronwyn Carter 24.01.2022"</p>
39	<p>"1. It places the onus on cat owners to restrain their cat from being a nuisance.</p> <p>2. It specifically prohibits cats from being in specified bush reserves, parks etc.</p> <p>3. It prohibits cats from being on non-public land (ie private homes) without consent."</p>
40	<p>It is attempting to control stray cats in nature areas and in the backyards of other residents.</p>

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
41	<p>"Whilst in favour of these news laws in principle, I believe it is extremely impractical to impose the restrictions on current adult cats. We have a cat who is used to coming and going through a cat door. If we were to lock her in she would wail incessantly - I know this as she does not desist if she is in a bedroom at night. As far as we know, she does not leave our property, but we have at times believed she may enjoy one of our neighbours' wood fires as she returns smelling of smoke. Should the current or future resident have cause to complain, or simply be vexatious, we would have no way to stop her.</p> <p>A cat does not know a human-defined boundary, does not know walking past a house, setting off resident dogs, is a nuisance (this is something we endure as we also have dogs).</p> <p>This statement: ""nuisance means- (a) An activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law,"" means little to a member of the public as they would have to the legal liability in the tort. For the purposes of genuine consultation, this should be better explained. It does not clearly outline what the cat owner's responsibilities are.</p> <p>I am not sure what the legal definition of 'nuisance' would actually mean when applied, but I am concerned it would be manipulated. There are a lot of people who just hate cats and are very vocal on social media about it.</p> <p>I have never seen our cat outside our boundaries but I cannot be sure she doesn't wander. I have never been made aware she has caused any issue. There is no way we could now train her to stay on our block. She enjoys our fenced garden immensely and there is no feasible way we can make a steeply sloping block, with varying fence heights completely cat escape-proof.</p> <p>"</p>
42	Like that property owners need to give permission for cats to be on their property.
43	I don't think it goes far enough. Cats are not native to Australia and have a devastating impact on our native animals. I would like all cats to stay on their owners property. We have witnessed a cat killing a bird and have had to bury a quenda and we have only been in this house for a year! We are fed up of trying to chase cats off our property and when we managed to catch one and gave it to the ranger, it was back the next day!
44	Very pleased to see action being taken to restrict cats from public and private areas, this will protect native wildlife and backyard pets.
45	Fairly clear as to where cats are allowed to be and not allowed to be
46	I think its important that cat owners are dis-incentivised from allowing their cats to wander.
47	Attainable and reasonable expectations of cat owners. I think overall, the laws are fair.
48	Not strict enough. All cats should be kept in fully enclosed areas on owners property at all times. Large fines for straying and non chipped cats.
49	I dont think it is needed.
50	Saves our native Fauna
51	I don't think this will in any way control stray cats, and feel that a limit of 2 cats per house hold without permit is probity and a money making and time wasting exercise. Very few owned cats are a nuisance, and energy and funds could be better spent trapping and controlling stray cats, rather than imposing more restrictions on rate payers.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
52	it's a start but doesn't go far enough. I recommend all councillors read summary of CSIRO publication "Cats in Australia, Companions and Killers"
53	It's fair, I think people should keep their cats on their property. I do think there should be a rebate for people who build cat runs to encourage them to do so. Also if you are a repeat offender the fine should get greater!
54	Cats are a significant threat to local wildlife
55	It's legalistic and obtuse.
56	Because it contains protected areas where cats are prohibited and i like that fines have been imposed ! To protect flora and fauna
57	Cats cause significant damage to our wildlife. Local laws on cat ownership are long over due. We are fortunate to be surrounded by amazing wildlife in the City of Kalamunda, we need to be doing everything possible to protect it. I am sick of my neighbour's cat continually coming onto my property and killing wildlife such as bandicoots and birds and using my garden to mark it's territory and toilet. My neighbour does not see that protecting wildlife is necessary, so without local cat laws my hands are tied. And this is just my example, imagine how much damage cats are doing across the whole City of Kalamunda. I am not against keeping cats as pets, I own one myself. But my cat has a secure enclosure so that it never strays onto neighbouring properties and can't attack wildlife. All cat owners need to be responsible for their pet and keep it contained to their property and if not, they need to have penalties enforced.
58	It addresses the basic issue of some cat owners who do not care about neighbours the cat invades and creates nuisances. However i would like to add fines to it 50 to 100 \$ as a deterrent. I am so looking forward to this law come into effect as the unruly neighbour's cat does what ever it pleases and rangers powerless.
59	Am opposed to cats wandering freely day or night and killing wildlife and creating disturbances and breeding when not desexed.
60	Pretty confusing. Does not really say where cats can go, mainly where they can't go.
61	I agree with cats not being allowed in bushland reserves. If I remember correctly the number of cats allowed without a permit was 3, so why make it 2 now? If an owner abided by the rule for 3, and is not in a restricted area, it is not reasonable to change that. I suggest the rule for 2, if that is judged necessary, should apply for new cat owners, and those owners who have had 3 cats according to the 'old' rule should not have to apply for a permit. It is like having to apply to keep a third child when that child already exists. (as an aside: dogs can be much more of a nuisance and a danger to wild life than a cat)
62	It is ridiculous.
63	I have seen many cats hunting wildlife and always felt it was wrong
64	It's harsh. I don't understand that dogs that I witnessed killing blue tongue lizards and barking incessantly don't get the same treatment as cats!
65	You should not have to have a permit to keep a cat. That's absolutely ridiculous.
66	Pathetic is one word that comes to mind. In regards to keeping a business such as grooming or a cattery, this makes sense. In regards to private homes that have cats, it is extremely punitive. There will be a minority of cat haters who are going to revel in these new laws and they will become a menace. Most cat owners are responsible and caring.
67	Definition of nuisance leaves it open to my neighbours who may or may not like cats to have a say over if I have a cat.
68	Cats are causing severe damage to wildlife across Australia.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
69	"The law prohibits cats from being in parks/reserves but is silent on other public locations eg roads. Cats should not be allowed outside their property boundaries unless under control of the owner (like dog laws). Definition of nuisance should include environmental damage. Fines appear light on. Where is the deterrent. How do they compare to fines for dog owners?"
70	Seems reasonable. Please don't let any cats get harmed tho!
71	I have not read the entire document, but I believe all cats should be prohibited from leaving their owners' premises unless restrained (on a lead). All cat owners should have their cat contained within their property by using a cat-run (caged area) or shock collars. Cats that are left to roam the streets are a massive threat to the already under-threat native wildlife, and can become feral.
72	Theres too many cats around without any laws on how many an owner can have.. Dogs have laws, cats should be the sane.
73	Cats unlike dogs not born to be controlled by a leed. Specified enclosed area is OK but given the smaller block sizes will make this difficult.
74	It will hopefully reduce the number of evil vigilante cat killings. Shame you can't create a local law to remove the evil humans in the shire.
75	I think ALL cat owners should register their cats, same as dogs.
76	The link doesn't appear to work!
77	Stray and wandering cats cause significant damage to local wildlife and a nuisance to neighbours.
78	Cats need to be kept inside. They keep attacking wild life in our yard
79	It makes a good start for complete cat containment within the City of Kalamunda to preserve the abundant native fauna we currently have.
80	<p>"- It does not go far enough. It still allows cats to wander and only specifies that they have to be contained if a permit has been issued for 3 or more cats. This is inadequate. ALL cats should be contained in an area as sensitive as Kalamunda.</p> <p>- There is nothing about containing cats at night, which is when they do the most harm to sensitive wildlife.</p> <p>- You specify areas where cats are not allowed, but how are you going to police this? Hopefully by setting out traps? It would have been much simpler and more practical to declare entire suburbs or partial suburbs as out of bounds to cats, as has been done elsewhere in Australia.</p> <p>- There are sensitive areas missing from the list of prohibited places. In our area, what about the bushland bordered by Burma Rd and Falls Rd? There are many quendas living there. Do you consider it OK for cats to go in there and take them out?</p> <p>- I'm assuming that you don't mention reserves such as the Mundy Regional Park, as they fall under Parks and Wildlife. But what about the bushland bordered by Ozone Terrace, Yorna Rd, Alpine Rd and Pipers Place in Kalamunda? I don't believe it is part of the Mundy Regional Park, although in my opinion it should be. I often ride my mountain bike there around sunrise and have on many occasion seen cats on the prowl there. I wonder how many small creatures are killed by them.</p> <p>- The penalties are not nearly high enough and the City of Kalamunda is being left behind when compared to other progressive municipalities. Cf. https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/domestic-animals/cats/cat-containment"</p>
81	Something needs to be done about cats

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
82	<p>"Cats love company and usually have 2 family's. Which means they need to cross the road/ go 2 or 3 doors down to the other family while the main family is at work.</p> <p>Also you cant make an out door cat pf 10 years suddenly indoors.</p> <p>Thirdly RSPCA condone having cats being permanently indoors and will put tge animal down instead of rehoming it"</p>
83	It's not strict enough! The cat should not be allowed off the owner's property
84	<p>"I have 3 indoor cats that are from the same litter, and I have had them legally on my property for more than 4 years, without any incident or any complaints.</p> <p>I refuse to pay the Kalamunda Council for a permit to continue to have 3 indoor cats because the Kalamunda Council has decided to change the rules and are looking at ways to get more money out of rate payers. I will never pay for any new permit produced. Ever. The Kalamunda council will never be permitted to remove any of my cats from my property. I will never pay the Kalamunda council for a permit to continue to keep my 3 indoor cats in my house. Ever.</p> <p>In fact, I will stop paying my council rates altogether if I am forced to pay for a permit to keep my 3 indoor cats.</p> <p>Nobody is required to have a permit for more than 3 children per property.</p> <p>All properties (rental or owner occupied) should have to have a permit to have any children under the age of 18 years of age.</p> <p>Children roam around public spaces making lots of noise, and do damage to wild life, and do damage to property more than cats do. The parents do not front the bill for the damage of the children. The home owners who pay council rates pay for the damage these children do.</p> <p>Also, the lack of effort to make sure the wider community is consulted about these types of generic matters is disgusting and is a common practice of deception used by the Kalamunda Council that I have been observing for more than 25 years now. If I was not sent an email of notice by a friend, I would never have known about this draft law proposal that directly affects my life.</p> <p>This current law proposal will generate a great deal of anxiety and animosity within me towards the Kalamunda Council. You will not get a single dollar out of me for a permit.</p> <p>"</p>
85	Cats kill wildlife
86	Provides clarity around cat requirements and boundaries. I like that it covers information on what is a nuisance, non public places (which I interpret to be personal property like a neighbour) and restricted areas.
87	The three dot points are vague, not measurable and not concrete in their wording. See Rules for Goal Setting.
88	More protection for the wildlife by naming all the areas where cats are prohibited. Hopefully making cat owners be more responsible for their cats by enforcing these rules and fining them where possible. Removal of nuisance cats from irresponsible owners.
89	<p>"Fines for outside cats and does not define what is a nuisance. Shire interpretation of the dog act is similarly very poor. At the top of my driveway cats and Quenda share water.</p> <p>No evidence exists lumping domestic cats with feral cats. DBCA have a program to prevent feral cats harming wildlife. Just sounds like cat hatred. And I used to be one of you cat haters.</p> <p>"</p>

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
90	I feel it is a good start but needs to be stronger/more specific regarding containment of cats on the owner's property, to prevent the inevitable killing of wildlife. I also don't think more than two cats should be permitted.
91	Hard to understand. Its written in "legalease" - the language of lawyers. I just want to know if this means that all cat owners are obliged, by law, to keep their cats inside their homes and in cat runs. That's what I would like to see. But i cant't determine that from this draft.
92	"I consider the control of cats is as necessary as the control of dogs. While wandering dogs are a threat to individuals and can be noisy. Cats are far more detrimental to wildlife. Wandering cats also cause innocent dogs to be noisy. If this local law can be enforced to its fullest, I look forward to the return of native species."
93	I think it's fair. It doesn't discriminate all cats, but holds irresponsible cat owners accountable for their cat's behaviour.
94	There should be more rules for cat owners to contain their cats on their properties
95	"Not strong enough to control stray cats. Laws should be the same as dog owbers"
96	Cats which roam are a danger to wildlife and property and there is no reason they should not be managed appropriately if people wish to keep as pets. I have a slight concern that requiring a permit for more than 2 cats may be excessively tight, considering the other restrictions on the Manet of keeping cats which the local law contains.
97	Relatively clear to understand. Fair expectations for cat owners.
98	Thanks believe that cats should not be permitted to roam freely.
99	It doesn't have any detail on how the Control laws will be policed and upheld. It just states an authorised person. We have unregistered cats all areround us at the moment and there has been no effort made on the Citys behalf to police the current restrictions.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
100	<p>"The Local Law, as written, seems very impractical, given the nature of cats, and appears to create a high level of bureaucracy to give the City the authority to remove people's cats whether or not the cat is deemed a nuisance, ie permits can be denied for a wide range of non nuisance issues, without really encouraging good practices to reduce nuisance.</p> <p>Currently, residents are allowed to keep 3 cats, but you have now made 3 cats subject to permit application which requires justification. Given you have allowed people to keep 3 cats to date, will you accept that as a justification? Will people who currently have 3 cats be required to have one put down should their homes be deemed unacceptable by inspectors and they are unable to rehome? and at who's expense?</p> <p>The criteria for assessing the homes of people who wish to have 3 or more cats seems very vague and subjective. It talks of ""physical suitability"" but provides no clarity as to what that actually means.</p> <p>In another clause it talks of ""structural suitability of any enclosure"" suggesting that owners of 3 or more cats may be required to construct enclosures, but is silent on the criteria for deeming such enclosures as suitable.</p> <p>The vague and catch all nature of the majority of factors for determining permit applications suggest that, regardless of an owner desire to do the right thing, there is an overreaching undertow in the clauses that suggests that a permit can be denied for whatever reason the Council chooses. This seems extremely unjust, especially as there is no right to appeal outlined anywhere.</p> <p>There is no mention of processes or time frames for owners to be given the opportunity to make their properties ""suitable"".</p> <p>Given the nature of cats, and that many cats are not trained to stay in doors, it is going to be very difficult for owners to retrain older cats to be indoor cats. There is no mention of a grace period at the introduction of this act to allow owners time to attempt to achieve retraining. Cats are escape artists and are not easily corralled inside by even those with the best intentions.</p> <p>As mentioned above, there is no outline of what physical measures the Council expects owners to take, and as such it is difficult for owners to understand the financial implications that would go with trying to meet permit requirements. The majority of physical measures/structures available to contain cats are expensive and cost prohibitive for low/no income families or impossible for those renting.</p> <p>Can renters apply and be granted permits?</p> <p>If a permit for 3 or more cats is declined there is no mention of giving the families time to rehouse their pets and this needs to be addressed. Would they be allowed to keep 2?</p> <p>Where a cat escapes, despite best efforts, and contravenes the Local Law, the owner is immediately considered to have committed an offense and the cat can be impounded. The Local Law is not really clear what happens after this. Is the cat then put down? Released upon payment of fine? The offenses section suggests that offenses will be take through the courts and offenders convicted with potential fines of up to \$5000, even for a first ""offense"". Have you ever tried to catch a cat that has just escaped the house?</p>
101	It puts more control on cat owners and keeps our bush flora and fauna safe

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

3. WHY - How do you rate the draft Local Law? (cont.)

Respondant	Comment
102	Doesn't address the problem of repeat offenders.
103	Very wishy-washy, although it addresses the problem the policy doesn't do anything to stop the cat problems by doing anything about it e.g.: lock them up, take control of them, register them, stop their mess, their destruction of the environment or stop them killing native animals, especially at night.
104	I have never felt cats have created any sort of nuisance. I have had cats and never felt the need to have them kept indoors because they were doing anything hurtful. I would be horrified if my cats were taken away and euthanized because a neighbor felt my cats was a "nuisance." The cats that are a part of a family are family animals!
105	It is a nonsense that people can keep their cat on their property at all times, people can't even do it with their dogs and are not treated so poorly. They can try but the rule is ridiculous to be absolute
106	Cats need to be contained in a cat run due to the diverse amount of wildlife they kill. Dogs need to be contained so the same laws should apply
107	The damage and nuisance caused by cats is no longer a matter of opinion. It is well documented. To provide a cat act which just selects certain public areas for cats to be prohibited in is unworkable. As is the onus on land owners to have to trap a maurauding cat and hand it to the ranger. We have tried to use a cat trap on numerous occasions without success. There is no justifiable reason not to require cat owners to keep cats on their own property alone as with dogs.
108	Laws need to be tightened re keeping cats inside at night when most of their hunting takes place..
109	It is not written with clarity .
110	Vague terminology with little clarity. Eg. 'not to be a nuisance'. Nuisance isn't defined in the document and remains ambiguous. This needs to be clear for it to be enforceable. Nuisance simply means annoyance - that's far too subjective. Dogs are a nuisance when they bark - will that be brought in also? Kids are a nuisance when they cry. Motors are a nuisance when revved.
111	Hard to understand and follow
112	It is good to clarify cat owner's responsibilities, but it does not go far enough. E.g, permits should be required to keep any cat (i.e. one), not only 2 or more; all cats should be microchipped (although it may be a requirement of a separate by-law, and if that's the case it should be referenced here), and penalties for second or third offences should be higher.

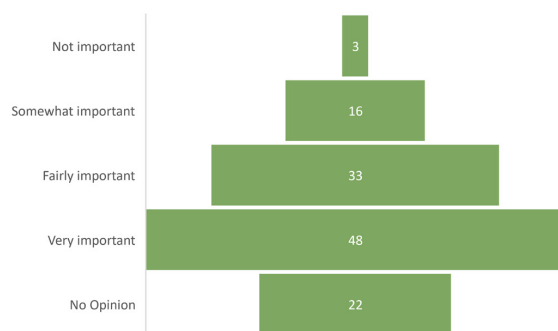
Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

4. Please rate the parts of the draft Local Law:

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

i. Citation, ii. Commencement, iii. Application, iv. Definition, v. Repeal



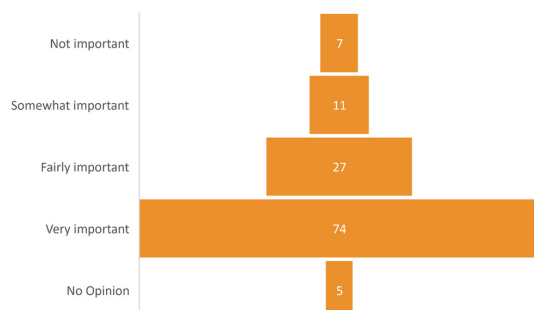
PART 2 - CAT CONTROL

i. Cats not to be a nuisance, ii. Cat prohibited areas,
iii. Control of cats in places that are not public



PART 3 - PERMITS FOR KEEPING CATS

i. Interpretation, ii. Prescribed premises, iii. Standard number of cats,
iv. Cats for which a permit is required, v. Application for permit,
vi. Refusal to determine application, vii. Factors relevant to the determination of application,
viii. Decision on application, ix. Conditions, x. Compliance with conditions of permit,
xi. Duration of a permit, xii. Revocation, xiii. Permit not transferable,
xiv. Permit to be kept at premises and available for view



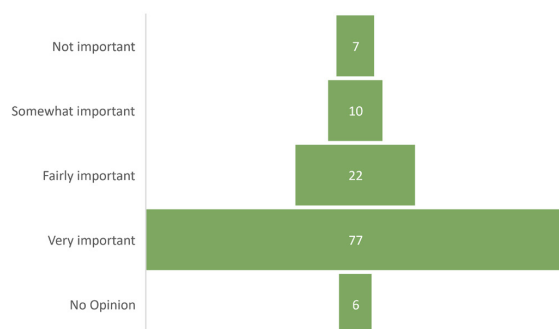
Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Survey Outcomes

4. Please rate the parts of the draft Local Law (cont.):

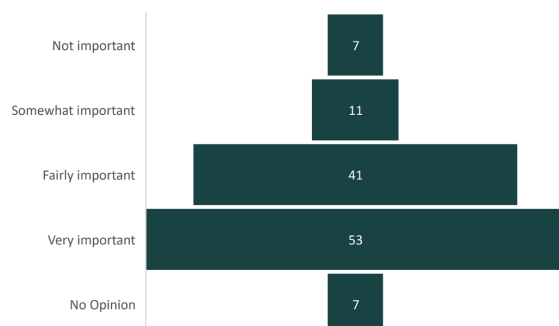
PART 4- MISCELLANEOUS

i. Giving of an infringement notice



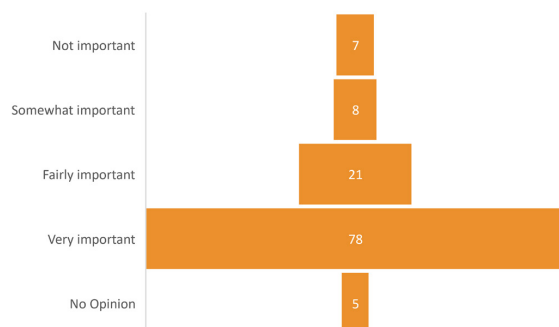
PART 5 - OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

i. Objections and appeal rights



PART 6 - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

i. Offences, ii. Prescribed offences, iii. Forms



Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

5. Tell us what you like about the draft Local Law

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
1	That it enables a conversation about how to minimise the effect that cats have on our natural environment.
2	Addresses a problem which has existed and impacts on wildlife and privately owned properties.
3	It requires a permit to keep a cat and restricts its access.
4	Large infringements
5	seems to cover laws in place that will deter Cat owners.
6	Cat breeders should have to desex cats before being sold and cats should be kept indoors .
7	That there is one
8	Set out well
9	Because it will hopefully improve the local cat situation. There's a wild one near us (not the first) who seems to live in the drain across the road. We find dead rats and birds in our back garden; it also fights at night. Anything to resolve this is helpful.
10	That is will hold owner accountable for their nuisance cats
11	"Its great to see a council protecting native fauna when millions are killed each year due to cat attacks.Strict fines needs to be in place."
12	I like that people in control cats now have to take responsibility.
13	I like that cats will need to be controlled so we won't hear unwelcome cats jumping our gates at night or making out in our yard!
14	It's finally making the owners responsible
15	Prohibiting cats from being in any nature reserves
16	Finally we are doing something about the cat problem we have. Just in the last year I have found and disposed of 2 dead Quendas and a number of birds from my front yard. All cats need to be registered, microchip and contained at all times.
17	Not a lot.
18	Responsibility of cat ownership, and responsibility for their behaviour.
19	It makes cat owners more responsible for their cats. It protects native animals in reserves. It protects residents private land (and native animals living on that land) from cats.
20	"Permits Limits on cat numbers per property Prohibited areas Penalties"
21	Good step towards ensuring all cats are registered within the Shire and can commence eradicating those that have become pests to wildlife
22	"The fines are appropriate but may not go far enough. Its about time some action was taken to reduce and control the cat population. The main problem with cats however is their owners and their poor attitude towards protecting the wildlife in the area."
23	It may help local wildlife, particularly small birds re-establish in our gardens. We used to have a large variety of wrens and honeyeaters in our area that no longer visit.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

5. Tell us what you like about the draft Local Law (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
24	It is reassuring that the issue of stray cats in the community is recognised and there is a willingness to address this in Local Law.
25	It restricts the likelihood of cats roaming in our environment which helps protect the wildlife
26	Cats to be indoors/contained on the owners property.
27	Prohibiting cats from entering reserves and private property.
28	Clearer guidelines for owners and those impacted by nuisance cats.
29	As above for question 3.
30	You have one
31	It will encourage cat owners to be more responsible for their cats, especially with restrictions on the number of cats that are allowed to be owned without a permit.
32	At least it is an attempt, but this is an opportunity to actually be effective and this proposed Law will NOT be effective in protecting wildlife.
33	I hope it will raise awareness of cat owners that they need to take responsibility for their cats and prevent them from leaving their own property.
34	I like Part 2 - Cat Control.
35	The principles of protecting wildlife and reducing negative impacts of cat behaviour. I am very happy the draft law appears to be seeking greater oversight of cat breeders as we have rescued a cat from physical neglect in the hands of a breeder who could not give any indication of how many cats she had.
36	"Property owners need to give permission for cats to be in their land. That there are penalties for not complying."
37	I like that it is clear that cats are not allowed in local bushland.
38	It gives people clarity on where their cat is allowed to be.
39	"It protects property owners from straying cats It protects the environment"
40	I think its important that cat owners are dis-incentivised from allowing their cats to wander. The clarity around permits for higher numbers of cats is also nice.
41	I think it is concise and covers a huge range of issues pertaining to responsible cat ownership.
42	Defines Prohibited Areas and confirms permit requirements
43	It's way overdue and about time something was done about irresponsible cat owners.
44	I dont like it at all
45	Will be A "Wake up Call" to Cat Owners
46	Nothing. I feel it is a waste of time and resources.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

5. Tell us what you like about the draft Local Law (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
47	"it's a start but does not go far enough in addressing the scale of the problem that cats represent to our Native Mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. in the Publication mentioned above by 3 Scientists it is estimated that domestic cats alone kill some 300 million native animals a year. To put that in perspective if it was Humans they killed and all the estimated 4 million domestic cats arrive in perth, in just over 3 days there would not a single human left in WA and in just over 30 days there would be not a human alive in All of Australia.....Cats are a big problem and one that this Council can help address. "
48	So that cat holders can be held responsible if their cat is caught being a nuisance or damaging wildlife, the same as dog owners are if they were to escape
49	A fine for people who don't keep their cats in
50	The effort to control roaming cats.
51	I'm not a fan but I do think it's very important to make it accessible to people.
52	All of it
53	I like that cat owners can be fined or their cat removed if it is deemed to be a nuisance.
54	Anything that keeps the cats out without having unpleasant conversations with cat owners who literally are unchecked.
55	Its a start to addressing an important issue
56	I like that the City is addressing the problem of cats.
57	It is useful for not having stray cats everywhere, but except at the beginning, there is no mention of what will happen to stray cats or how these will be identified.
58	Nothing
59	Nothing, start from scratch!
60	I think it's very unfair to suddenly limit the number of cats to two per household.
61	I like that people should have to keep their cats secure on their premises/under control at all times, same as rules that apply to other pets like dogs. It's what is safest for everyone including the cats and will help reduce strays.
62	Not much. It's a punitive approach and will bring out the cat haters. It is good to have rules in place where you have cats as a business.
63	Ensuring responsible pet ownership.
64	Attempts to keep cats out of parks/reserves. No cats on other properties.
65	Look I think it makes sense but I don't think it will change much about how (responsible) cat owners care and manage their cats
66	Its about time..
67	Keeping control of unwanted or neglected cats.
68	It will be easier to get something done about nuisance cats in our own yards.
69	When I've read it!

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

5. Tell us what you like about the draft Local Law (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
70	Cat owners must be responsible for ensuring that their cat does not roam the neighbourhood and public reserves, especially hunting overnight. This is a shift in thinking in the right direction. I miss having bandicoots hopping through our backyard each night, which promptly ended after the local cats became regular visitors.
71	Informs cat owners that their cats do not have the right to be on other people's property or to roam freely in parks and nature reserves.
72	It's a positive first step towards reeling in the free-ranging cats in our city and protecting our wildlife.
73	Its goes against animal lovers
74	It is written in English.
75	Great initiative
76	As per my respons to 3 above. Provides clarity around cat requirements and boundaries. I like that it covers information on what is a nuisance, non public places (which I interpret to be personal property like a neighbour) and restricted areas.
77	"Are you going to do the same for families which own Pit Bulls and the-like? This cat-hating mentality where the statements are so generalised, is discriminatory amongst all the other pets."
78	Enforcing tighter controls of cats.
79	Nothing
80	"It is great that the subject is being discussed, as the impact of cats on our wildlife is devastating, and the cat ownership laws need to be updated. I like the extensive list of reserves which are off-limits to cats. "
81	Someone is actually thinking about the harm cats do to our wildlife and trying to restrict that.
82	It's happening.
83	As said above, I think it is fair and makes people accountable for the behaviour of their cats and therefore will help protect our wildlife from the predatory behaviour of uncontrolled cats.
84	It's a step in the right direction
85	Nothing except that is a start in the right direction
86	The management of cats in protected areas (schedule 3) and the consideration which has been given to catteries, vet centres ect and the detailed registers and forms for such establishments.
87	Clear definitions. Easy to understand.
88	The reduction in the ability for cats to roam and destroy wildlife.
89	That there is an acknowledgement that cats owners are responsible to others to keep their animals under control and on the cat owner's own property. People have still got a mindset that they can just let their cat outside and not be responsible if it annoys others, the City needs to run an education bliz on this and then start fines when people don't change what they are doing.
90	The underlying premise to protect local wildlife and reduce nuisance is commendable and important, but I feel the suggested Local Law itself requires much work and alone is unlikely to achieve this goal.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

5. Tell us what you like about the draft Local Law (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
91	Fines should be greater
92	That it now specifies that a owner is committing an offence if the cat is on anyone else's property without explicit permission.
93	Nothing. I am upset that this is even being talked about.
94	Your scale makes no sense for responses, please review
95	Permits. Penalties, not to be a nuisance
96	I like that someone is thinking about it and trying to limit the damage cats do to the local wildlife, but it is a lame and unworkable proposal.
97	Appears to give some rules and boundaries.
98	That it's a draft and not an actual law.
99	its dealing cats as an issue in our community
100	That it puts higher onus on owners, however it does not go far enough. Cats are killing too much of the wildlife in the hills, which is already suffering by high clearance, subdivisions, higher traffic.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change?

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
1	Cars should be contained over night
2	Clause 2.3 - I would like to be able to identify cats that enter our garden but they are too quick to run away when approached. How do we deal with this? Without cat-proofing our own gardens this clause seems to be too difficult to police.
3	Gladys Newton park in High Wycombe is not listed as a restricted area and should be, particularly as proposed upgrades are completed.
4	Perhaps allowing 28 days after an infringement is too long .Could an authorised person inspect the premisis before a permit is granted?
5	More mandated desexing
6	"I believe there should be more specified written requirements that cats should be contained only on their registered property. The penalties should be higher for non compliance and increase each time there is a breach for reoffending."
7	No
8	How do people with cats who have kittens deal with the two cat limit? I can't see the relevant section about this? Not that I want them to have kittens, I dislike cats with a passion and am allergic to them!
9	"Please include the Toornaart Reserve which is the area between Torwood Dve and John St. That reserve is contiguous with parkland and should not therefore be excluded for reasons of jurisdiction. Please define 'nuisance'. Cats are more than a nuisance to fauna - dont confine to humans. Consider the roles and do and donts that are available to deal with cats beyond calling on the authorities. "
10	"Clearer information. Warning systems to provide owners with the opportunity to adhere rather than allowing power tripping rangers to overreact "
11	No
12	"Fines must apply and no cautions. 3 strick policy and euthanasia being the outcome with non-compliance."
13	I think part 2 regarding cats being a nuisance is very open to interpretation.
14	I don't think so.
15	If a cat gets injured due to not being inside...no one can be sued or made to pay for any injuryif it's in my property and it gets hurt I would not be responsible for any vet bills if it gets injured on the road the driver is not responsible for any vet bills
16	Cats should be treated the same way dogs are - compulsory microchipping, registrations and they have to be in the control of their owner at all times. They should not be allowed to wander off their owner's property unattended.
17	Constructive help for cat owners to know what and how to adapt to this. Have you ever tried to keep a cat out of a reserve?!
18	You can't tell a cat where it is and isn't allowed to go! If a neighbour's cat comes into my back garden. Yes deal with strays but leave domestic cats to get some fresh air in peace. (with their collars and bells on). Foxes are far more damaging to local wildlife, and chickens etc.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
19	If anything, I would suggest cat owners should keep cats on their own properties. Dog owners must build a fence and contain their dogs. I believe cat owners should build an enclosure to contain their cats and protect the wildlife.
20	"Require that cats that live on premises within a significant distance of prohibited area be kept in enclosures - are not free to roam. Seek advice on how far cats roam to determine the distance from prohibited areas. Provide details of how cats that are in prohibited area can be reported to the person authorised to seize and impound cats. Is photographic evidence of cats on private property or prohibited areas useful evidence?"
21	Higher fines after a grace period
22	Address the issues of cats not being sterilised and being allowed to roam freely to kill native wildlife.
23	no
24	I would like to see every cat owner required to have a permit plus heavier penalties for having unrestrained cats. My preference would be to ban them.
25	The instrument as it stands seems to focus on premises such as catteries and other places where more than two cats are kept. This is obviously important but no guidance seems to be provided for people who have one or two cats in a possibly domestic environment.
26	Possibly expand on what can be termed a 'nuisance'
27	Community outreach around cat runs, responsible pet ownership, protecting native wildlife.
28	It appears to me that there is a significant limitation in the law in relation to 'authorised persons'. In clauses 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 it says an 'authorised person may seize'. It needs to be clear that an occupier has the authority to seize a cat on their premises through prescribed means (eg a cat trap). Without this option it may be that the Shire will continually be inundated from people contacting the Shire for their authorised person to seize a cat. It would also be preferable to expand the definition of who could seize a cat on prohibited land. eg maybe some who has undertaken 'cat seizer' training offered by the Shire.
29	Re prohibited areas - why are national parks not listed? Are they covered by the areas that are listed? Perhaps this is because pets are prohibited in national parks already, but wouldn't it make sense to state that here?
30	It needs to be simple speak, too much lawyer speak. You are leaving it open to 'I didn't understand.'
31	Some consideration should be given to cat owners who are responsible and get their cats registered, microchipped and kept inside.
32	All cats to be contained at all times. This is the responsibility of the owners.
33	An obligation to register cats and have them sterilised (in the same way that dogs are currently treated).

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
34	Yes. The problem is identifying nuisance cats when they don't have a collar and you don't know which house they are coming from, especially at night. They are a huge threat to native wildlife not only in nature reserves, but also in the backyards of residents who have native birds, quendas and other animals living in them. For this reason I would recommend the installation of night vision cameras in key locations in the City of Kalamunda with Rangers checking these for cats and then trapping the strays.
35	I don't believe it is reasonable to expect current cat owners to have to retro-fit cat boundaries or lock their cat(s) indoors to keep them within their property. I would strongly recommend this law be grandfathered in so that people are fully aware of how they will need to train and enclose their pet cat before they get it. It is bordering on cruel to have to lock up a cat when it has had years of being able to come and go.
36	Higher penalty rates, current rate of around \$150 is too low, maybe an increase each time cat is found out of owners property. \$120 first offence, \$200 for 2nd, \$300 for 3rd.
37	It is not clear whether cats are allowed to be on other people's property. They should not be.
38	no
39	Clarity for how anyone wanting to manage a nuisance cat is meant to do so. ie what steps should be taken.
40	"Increase the number of cats allowed to be kept without a permit to 4. From what I understand, the draft law allows cats in public places that aren't listed as prohibited. I think cats should be confined to a single property less under control of a responsible person. "
41	Wording should be clearer that cats are to remain in the owners property
42	Nope, it seems quite good to me.
43	"I think it's important for pet cats to be spayed/ neutered. Unless, the premise is a registered breeder (or anything along those lines), there really is no reason for cats to be "intact". Cats tend to be less of a nuisance as well. It should also be legislated that all pet cats be microchipped/ registered. "
44	Effective Control means on larger properties can also be via electronic tracking and electronic recall.
45	Stricter laws and harsher penalties.
46	Delete it all
47	Use of the term "nuisance" is too soft ,particularly when you notice when your local Bandicoots have disappeared after your new neighbour moves in with a cat that is not restricted !
48	If you need to pass this, then keep the parts about nuisance behaviour and prohibited areas, but leave individual cat owners out of it.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
49	"yes..and the language could be simpler. 1. No more than 2 cats property.. period. 2. Cats must not be allowed out, they should be contained within a purpose built run on that property. allowing them access to the entire property means that all and any native animals are at risk. 3. it should be simply state department that it is an offence for cats not to be contained on a property. 4. Even reliable photographic evidence of a cat being on an adjoining property should be sufficient grounds for issuing an infringement notice and / or issuing a fine. 5. Any multiple offender should have the cat removed from them and destroyed. and „No I don't hate cats it's not their fault, they just should not be allowed to kill our wildlife. 6. you must police and enforce effectively all of the above otherwise it all becomes meaningless. "
50	"I think the section 2.1 subsection 5B needs to be amended/reworded - the sentence reads 'an authorised person may seize the cat and deal with the cat pursuant to the act' This part 'deal with the cat' makes it sound like the cat is going to be euthanised or harmed. I feel 'seize the cat and hold it in the pound' would suffice. "
51	Increase infringements.
52	All cats must be microchipped.
53	Na
54	I would like to see more prohibited areas included to protect more fauna, particularly the munday swamp and jacaranda parks in high wycombe
55	The wording "not a public place" is confusing. Can't it just be written "private property". Also, there needs to be further details on containing a cat to the owner's property. Cats shouldn't be allowed to roam freely day or night, they should be contained to the owner's property at all times. The wording in the law needs to include details about cats roaming onto neighbouring properties as this is a significant issue. If a cat is deemed to be a nuisance, is the complaint made directly to the City of Kalamunda? I know with barking dogs that people are encouraged to approach their neighbour before submitting a formal complaint to the City. However, if a cat is going to the toilet in a neighbour's garden this is a significant health issue. For example, if a pregnant woman comes into contact with cat faeces it can have a detrimental impact on her unborn baby. If a cat is killing wildlife in the neighbourhood it is a significant environmental issue. Therefore, complaints regarding a nuisance cat should go directly to the City of Kalamunda, the person submitting the complaint should remain confidential. One complaint about a nuisance cat should immediately mean that a penalty should be enforced. All of these details should be listed in the Local Law.
56	Please add token fines 50 to 100\$ as a deterrent after warning.
57	I would like to see the local law permitting cats only in their owners property and if not on their property, on a lead at all times.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
58	yes, I repeat my previous comment: If I remember correctly the number of cats allowed without a permit was 3, so why make it 2 now? If an owner abided by the rule for 3, and is not in a restricted area, it is not reasonable to change that. I suggest the rule for 2, if that is judged necessary, should apply for new cat owners, and those owners who have had 3 cats according to the 'old' rule should not have to apply for a permit. It is like having to apply to keep a third child when that child already exists.
59	Yes. Please also include a law that ensures the worst menace to the environment is also punished if found in public places.
60	I would make it less harsh and the fines are way too high,
61	This ridiculousness that you should have to have a permit to keep a cat? That's just insane, and seems like just another money maker. What exactly would they be paying for to have this permit? It's not like the council does anything for cats around the suburbs. And what business is it of the council to say who should own a cat. This change would be unfair and unjust.
62	Delete Part 2 and instead work on more education for the community regarding cat ownership and responsibilities. When people bitch about the neighbours cat defecating in their garden, remind them that at least a cat buries their crap unlike the many dog owners who leave dog crap on their neighbours lawns, pathways and verges.
63	definition of nuisance. Current definition gives Neighbours too much say over whether or not I can have a cat. For example, I may not like my neighbours having multiple cars, but me as a neighbour should have no say over what they can and can't do with there land.
64	Have offence where cat is found in any public space outside of property boundaries. They can cause a lot of carnage to wildlife outside of reserves/parks.
65	Making sure you state that no cats will be harmed!
66	Don't believe so other than if possible set a trial period to begin with.
67	With regard to the number of cats, whatever people already have BEFORE the execution date, should be allowed but any additions AFTER the local law commences, must apply for a permit etc. If owners are responsible, the actual number of cats is irrelevant (as long as we're not talking hoarding situations because that's a whole other ball game), as this may trigger felines being dumped if the owners aren't prepared to go through the permit application process, which in my mind might be good for the cat to be away from such uncaring owners but the immediate effect wouldn't be nice for the cats themselves or the collateral damage caused by their (humans') actions.
68	"Please add Emms Reserve to list of prohibited places. Please add that cats need to be registered in similar way as dogs and a registration fee paid. "
69	Penalty units not fixed penalty amount.
70	Increase the penalties and fines for breaches of the local cat law! don;t think
71	Yes! I would have cats contained completely. The damage they do to wildlife is immense. Even cat faeces can kill native wildlife. Cats do not belong in Australia!
72	Should only for complaints only.
73	As ive said, make it that the owner needs to keep their cat restricted to their own property.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
74	<p>"Existing property owners with 3 cats should be exempt from application fees and ongoing associated fees.</p> <p>Any cats being contained in a cage on any property should have a minimal sized cage determined by the RSPCA with shelter from the sun, as well as food and water for the well being of the incarcerated cats.</p> <p>The minimal size per cat to be in a cage, with shelter from the sun, and water should be written into the proposed law.</p> <p>Penalties and fines should be mandatory for anyone not providing the minimum requirements for any number of cats left in any cage.</p> <p>All healthy stray cats that are impounded should not be 'destroyed'.</p> <p>All healthy stray cats should be rehomed."</p>
75	No
76	No
77	Some sections have too many points so are overwhelming.
78	No but complaints should definitely be followed up and acted upon. In the past, things have been overlooked or shrugged off.
79	Define what is a nuisance very clearly. Open to interpretation and I have seen first hand how bad ranger interpretation is in relation to dogs.
80	<p>"Yes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The draft needs to be prefaced by the facts of how much devastation domestic cats cause to native animals each year. Please read CSIRO publication ""Cats in Australia, Companions and Killers"" if you have not already done so. 2. There should be no more than two cats per property (except for Catteries or Vets). 3. Cats MUST be contained on the property, in a humane manner. The only way to ensure this is either with a 'cat run' attached to the house, which the cats have access to from indoors, or a separate outdoor run, with adequate shade etc. I suggest all new owners should have to comply with this. 3. There should be a simple process for a neighbour to prove a cat is a nuisance. A framework for complaint when amicable communication has not achieved a successful outcome. 4. The laws need to be enforced. How is this going to happen? Otherwise it will end up just like some people not picking up their dog's poo, because they know there are no repercussions. If people can't be responsible pet owners, then they shouldn't be allowed to own pets."
81	Make it law that cats must be restricted to being indoors or in cat runs. They are not to roam freely in the owner's garden because they are so difficult to contain. They are great climbers and quiet. Turn your head, and they've jumped the fence. I saw a feral cat in the bush behind my home this morning. He or she will be living off wild life. Makes me feel so sad.
82	Not at this stage.
83	No.
84	I think the fines are reasonable but should be increased for repeat offenders
85	Cats owners should be compelled to keep cats under constant control

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
86	"Permits for 2 cats to too restrictive Clearer requirements for homes with cats as pets, e.g tagging pets, ensuring no escape routes but safe and suitable for the cats. There should be a peer to fine for keeping cats as pets in unsuitable conditions (e.g which allow escape) not just for the act of the cat being a nuisance. "
87	Failure to abate nuisance/Cat in place without consent - any further penalties if the cat owner continues to commit offences later?
88	Confine cats to the property of the homeowner 24 hours a day.
89	I would include a movement towards cats in enclosures permantely for the future. I am a cat owner and I made the change to my cats being enclosed when they were 7 years old, and I realised what was better for the environment around me. It is easy enough to do if you are determined to be resposnsible for your cats.
90	I have outlined most of the points in question 3 but this is not exhaustive.
91	make it clearer tht cats must not be allowed outside
92	The Coral Road Reserve has been missed from Schedule 3 and needs to be added.
93	"Change 3.7 (1)(f) to say EVERY cat must have a permit (like dogs). 3.7 (1)(g) doesn't make sense or seem relevant. Add 3.7 (1)(h) Compulsory that EVERY cat owner MUST have an outdoor cat run cage to lock cats up, especially at night, so they can't kill native animals. Dogs are locked up in backyards. Rabbits, chooks, ferrets and other animals are caged, or locked up, so why not cats. Add 3.7 (1)(i) Cats must be on a chain/lead when out in public otherwise locked up, just like dogs, ferrets and other animals. Ancient Egyptians put their cats on leads so it is possible to do so. 6. We have dog catchers so should have ""Cat Catchers"". Dog catchers set traps around the city and return to pick up trapped cats. This way the cost of catching traps is not with the public and people who live in the Kalamunda city area - we already pay rates for dog catching services..."
94	Yes, I would use common sense, something which I am yet to evidence in CoK. Obviously people need to be responsible for their pets but the rules need to be practical
95	Cats to be in a cat enclosure when outside
96	See above - I would limit cats to the land owned by their owners, unless on a lead.
97	Very hard to understand
98	The language. Make it easier to understand rather than the bureaucratic write a lot but say little.
99	"terminology lacks clarity. The term nuisance hasn't been adequately defined and is too subjective. Limitations on owning cats doesn't mention a grace period or phase in. The fines are absolutely ridiculous. Compare these to the local parking laws and a human who knowingly parks in a no parking zone gets HALF the fine of a subjective assumption of a cat being a nuisance. Really? One could cause risk to the safety and lives of others but an annoying cat is worth double the money? That makes no sense at all."

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

6. Is there anything in the draft Local Law that you would change? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
100	clearer process for process around notifyng neighbours of issues when their cat violates the new laws
101	Yes. Requirement for a permit to have any number of cats in a premise, photo to be provided, cats to be microchipped so they can be identified when caught, higher penalties for second or third offences.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

7. Do you have any additional comments that are important to finalising the draft Local Law?

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
1	None at this stage.
2	No restriction on nighttime presence of cats. Nor registration of cats, as per dog legislation.
3	I think the Local Law could be even more strongly worded to ensure cats are unable to leave their owner's premises in order to protect our local wildlife.
4	if an owner(wont or cant)comply or pay fines and the Cat is removed for good they should be banned from owning a cat with an legal inspection.
5	No
6	No
7	More publicity for comment - circulate to your residents who aren't online. Ensure sufficient consultation with ageing Hills population
8	No
9	I think that the draft should combine all domesticated animals that can harm native wildlife. They should not be allowed off the property of the person who is in control of that animal just like dogs must be on leads.
10	"Yes to stop back yard breeders using animals for their own profits(cats & dogs) Listen to neighbours complaints of people doing so, all have to be registered (2/3 cats to one house only), microchipped & desexed, keep in your own property not everyone elses, indoors after 6/7pm unless housed already behind netting/enclosed. Once cat/dog trapped ""impounded"" owners collect, out again roaming with proof Shire can seek Fines to that owner again. Obviously escapee's do happen. Thanks "
11	There are a couple of places where there is a missing space between words, particularly in section 3.7 and others in 3.5 (d), 3.8 (1)(b), 3.9 (1)(d) and 3.11 (b).
12	Just get it done...long overdue
13	Please protect our vulnerable wildlife by making cat owners responsible for their cats. This half attempt at changing the cat law will not do anything to keep cats off other peoples property which is a huge cause of conflict within the community.
14	Currently the City allows three cats per residence and this is going to be reduced to 2. What happens to all the people currently keeping 3 cats? Are they suddenly going to be expected to get rid of their cats?
15	I don't support this law at all.
16	How it is going to be governed? How will the Shire be able to action complaints regarding cats in the prohibited areas? Will there be more Rangers recruited?
17	An anonymous reporting regime to protect those who are being affected.
18	A permit for all cat owners should be required.
19	None
20	Please make it mandatory for cats to be inside pets or, like dogs, be supervised on a leash when out in public.
21	I live in the shire of Mundaring on the southern boundary shared by the Beelu National Park. Efforts mad in the Shire of Kalamunda to restrict cats would impact our area. It is great to see this being brought in. Congratulations on the initiative.

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

7. Do you have any additional comments that are important to finalising the draft Local Law? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
22	Thank you for addressing this. It's distressing to see the number of cats that roam the streets (with collars on, so they clearly have owners), and that come into our backyard where there are many native animals and birds.
23	People need to know how to have a cat dealt with if it is a nuisance.
24	Cats are roaming animals. How can an owner be responsible and in control of a cat once it goes out? This new Law caters to all the cat-haters out there looking for an excuse to get rid of them. Where does this stop? Is there going to be a new Law to stop people keeping aviaries because they attract vermin? Don't think so. It feels like responsible cat owners who have registered their cats, keep them inside and looked after are being punished. If my cat gets out by accident, gets scared and runs into someone's yard or a public park, why does that give anyone the right to take that cat away from me and have it put down? Responsible cat owners are the losers here.
25	Please use this opportunity to actually help save our wildlife by prohibiting all cats from being outside unrestrained.
26	The current idea of the innocent resident having to hire an expensive cage and catch the nuisance cat themselves is grossly unfair. The residents should not be doing the job of the local Rangers, especially the elderly. Residents should be able to report the location of the nuisance animal and provide photographs to help identification, then the Ranger should capture it and prosecute the owner.
27	I would like to see some provision that the 'nuisance' behaviour has to be backed up with evidence.
28	Please consider the local native wildlife when making these laws. I understand that owning a cat is comforting to a lot of people but that should not be to the detriment of our native animals. Cat owners should be containing their cats to their property by making an outdoor enclosure.
29	no
30	Increase infringement
31	No.
32	This cat law is difficult for owners to comply with. Cats are far more agile than dogs and are difficult to contain. This law is pandering to those believe cats kill native animals. it is clearing of land that has a far greater impact on native species. We have just had wholesale destruction of local trees and vegetation by the MRD for Roe Hwy and Kalamunda Rd and the City sat back and did nothing.
33	How can I help making it happen sooner!
34	"The issue of cat ownership and those for and against it is a highly emotive subject. people need to understand the magnitude of the devastation cats cause amongst our native animals. it is estimated that of all the mammal extinctions that have occurred in Australia in the last 200 years, cats are responsibly for 60% of them. This amendment to cat laws is an opportunity for this Council to be a leader (the current proposed changes are not as forward thinking as other councils). And set an example to others about how seriously you take the threat to our native species, but based on good scientific research ...NOT emotion. The Native animals cannot help themselves ...but you can. "

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

7. Do you have any additional comments that are important to finalising the draft Local Law? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
35	You need to make sure you have a plan if people don't care and don't collect them from the pound. Making sure to have an arrangement with a rescue for them to go too as some people will disregard an animal to avoid the fine and it would be sad for a cat to be euthanised when it's not their fault that their owner is stupid and didn't want to follow the rules.
36	Please allocate rangers to parole and trap roaming cats.
37	I understand certain people have problems with cats - I'm not convinced they are the whole problem - small dogs, foxes and feral animals are just as destructive. I also feel that human interaction with cats based on these laws is often cruel and unjustified. Cats have sadly become scapegoats for uncivil behaviour, fuelled by this type of one sided thinking.
38	Please include more prohibited areas that cats are not allowed, often turtles, ducks and birds are hunted and injured or killed but cats at jacaranda park and munday swamp in high wycombe! Also the process to report a nuisance cat needs to be further explained
39	It is important that the Local Law for Cats is enforced strictly to ensure that people's mindsets are changed. It is important that people realise it's not acceptable to own a cat and let it roam free anymore. If the Local Law is not enforced strictly people's mindsets won't change.
40	Please make it as early as possible already had significant mental stress with cats doing and destroying what ever they like.
41	I believe cats are a problem only if they are let roam outside their owners property. Over the ~ 66 years I have lived in the City, I have seen what damage stray cats (and dogs) can do when they are not controlled. there has been, on occasions, stray cats (& dogs) gone wild in the bush next to where we live. Thankyou,
42	There is no mention, unless I missed it, of cats having to be micro-chipped. Surely this is necessary to differentiate between strays and someone's companion?
43	"This will have no effect on the wildlife. Just like mandatory cat registration and desexing has done nothing to reduce kittens. Because the problem is the humans. This law demonises cats and the cat haters will now feel entitled to inact this law if they see cats outside. There is enough animal cruelty in this country with actively encouraging more. Better fit Rangers policed unregistered cats and fined owners or have a catch, desex and release policy."
44	When is there a law made against dog owners whose dogs kill wildlife and cause a big nuisance with dogs barking?
45	Get real. The more punitive laws you put in place, the harder it is to police and it cause more misery to responsible owners. T focus on education. Canvas neighbourhoods, talk to ratepayers. Educate them. All you are doing at the moment is creating a bureaucracy that puts bums on chairs but no one actually in the community talking to people.
46	Clear education and enforcement campaign.
47	"Shire should provide more info and education material on the following: Requirements of Cat Act 2011 enforced by local govt, eg registration, microchipping, sterilisation; Environmental damage especially predation by stray/feral and domestic cats. "

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

7. Do you have any additional comments that are important to finalising the draft Local Law? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
48	All cats should be prohibited from leaving their owners' premises unless restrained (on a lead). All cat owners should have their cat contained within their property by using a cat-run (caged area) or shock collars. Cats that are left to roam the streets are a massive threat to the already under-threat native wildlife, and can become feral or breed with other feral cats.
49	No.
50	Nothing further.
51	Its causing stress, anxiety, and respect to against the shire.
52	"Existing property owners with 3 cats should be exempt from application fees and ongoing associated fees. Any cats being contained in a cage on any property should have a minimal sized cage determined by the RSPCA with shelter from the sun, as well as food and water for the well being of the incarcerated cats. The minimal size per cat to be in a cage, with shelter from the sun, and water should be written into the proposed law. Penalties and fines should be mandatory for anyone not providing the minimum requirements for any number of cats left in any cage. All healthy stray cats that are impounded should not be 'destroyed'. All healthy stray cats should be rehomed."
53	No
54	It's discriminatory and includes all cats. It will breed (no pun) divisiveness and hatred.
55	Maybe charges could be brought to cat owners who obstruct officers enforcing these laws or if there is aggression/ assault involved.
56	"I appreciate that lots of people love their cats, but for too long cats have been allowed to roam freely, killing wildlife (as they are naturally wired to do). They also deposit faeces in other people's yards that can contain a variety of harmful pathogens. We need much more public education about the destruction to wildlife which cats are responsible for. I don't think cat owners realise the cumulative effect of ALL the domestic cats. There is an opportunity for the City of Kalamunda to become a leader in formulating Local Cat Laws which place wildlife preservation at the fore. "
57	See above.
58	"Whenever we take on the responsibility of a pet, we take on how it is to be kept on a daily basis and on its final demise. Vet costs are greater than containment costs. "
59	We feel it is important for cats to be able to have some freedom, due to their nature, but agree that people who have cats should be responsible and look after their cat and prevent them from killing or harming our wildlife.
60	Make it stronger cats should be allowed to roam on neighbors property with just a smack on the hand
61	None
62	Restrict cats to the property of the owner,

Cat Local Laws: Engage (Survey)

Open Text Questions

7. Do you have any additional comments that are important to finalising the draft Local Law? (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Respondant	Comment
63	Acknowledge that the next step in this progression is to enclosed cats on owners properties. So that everyone will start to accept this and start to plan ahead.
64	<p>"I think there needs to be a recognition that cats present an enormous challenge in being controlled by their very nature. I appreciate that humans like to be in control but cats are not as controllable as humans would like. This Local Law offers cat owners not grace, direction or assistance to achieve what is, for many older cats set in their ways, impossible.</p> <p>The Local Law is harsh and can see an owner convicted and charged up to \$5000 in penalties if a child or visitor leaves a door open and the cat escapes the property and evades immediate capture, as it is likely to do. Is this really what you intend? If not then you need to rework the Local Law because that is how it reads.</p> <p>I believe that perhaps if you change your approach from overtly punitive to proactive support that cat owners are more likely to respond positively and we are more likely to achieve a better result in protecting other wildlife and community from nuisance cats."</p>
65	It doesn't address the redress available for property owners affected by uncontrolled cats on their property.
66	When I had a heap of stray cats and kittens in my yard the city/shire said I had to pay approximately \$25 per night/day for a cat trap. If you don't catch the cat(s) straight away and it takes a week, that's \$175 I payout for a cat that's NOT mine. It's highway robbery. I still have cats in and out of my yard often, especially one in particular.
67	Please don't take away people's family pets.
68	Actually speak to people and ask them to work with you instead of trying to appease the whinging minority with slap dash rules
69	Please do not waste this opportunity to actually make a difference. Have the courage to take a real step that is right for our native wild life while we still have some.
70	Need to attach a MAP of the Reserves - the reserve we live next to is not listed by name.
71	How are we to identify where a cat is coming from? As an example - we have a ginger cat frequent our yard during the night with the purpose of getting to our bird.
72	There a lot of conjoined words that need a space in between. May just be the formatting or version of Word used?
73	It's a short sighted policy that needs to be aligned with other local laws and begs for clarity for residents.
74	no
75	As above.

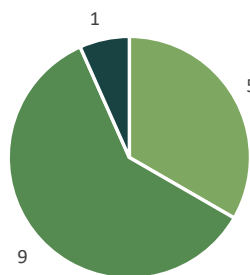
Are you a cat person or a dog person: Engage (Poll)

Overview & Demographics

Poll | Are you a cat person or a dog person?

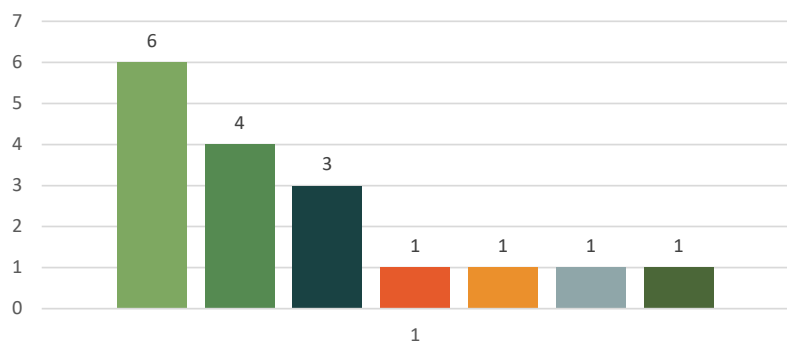
The Poll received 17 responses

Gender of Respondents



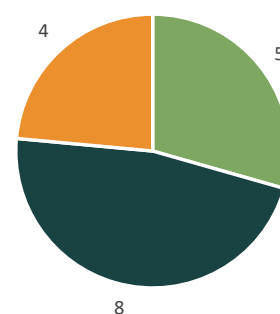
Male ■ Female ■ Undisclosed

Suburb of Respondents



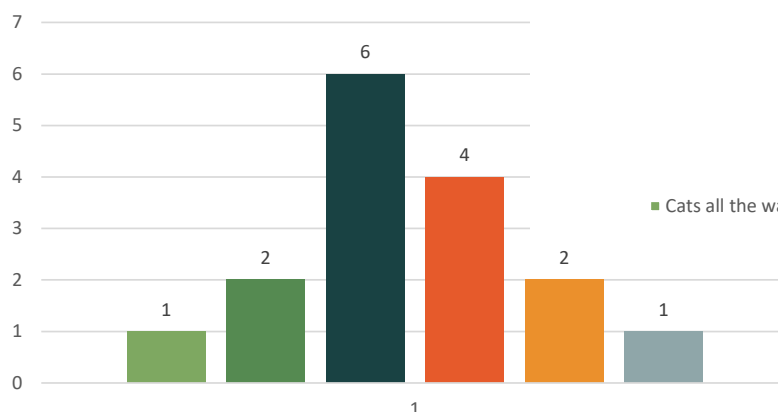
■ KALAMUNDA WA ■ LESMURDIE WA ■ FORRESTFIELD WA
 ■ GOOSEBERRY HILL WA ■ BAYSWATER WA ■ HIGH WYCOMBE WA
 ■ BICKLEY WA

Cats or Dogs?



■ Cats all the way! ■ Dogs are the best! ■ It's the ferrets for me!

Age of Respondents



■ Age 26-35 ■ Age 36-45 ■ Age 46-55 ■ Age 56-65 ■ Age 66-75 ■ Age 75

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 1

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.



All Correspondence:

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The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt Foundation

25th February, 2022

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation Submission to City of Kalamunda

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022.

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) does not support the Draft Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022. Research evidence does not show that these regulations will provide beneficial outcomes for native wildlife conservation or reduce cat-related complaints, which are the basis for proposing these regulations. In fact, these regulations are likely to increase cat-related complaints to council. However, scientific evidence demonstrates that targeted, high-intensity desexing of cats will significantly decrease complaints (Cotterell 2021).

We have outlined the details of the research supporting our position, and have made alternative recommendations below.

Stakeholder Background

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) is the peak research body and advocate for pet welfare in Australia. As a not-for-profit organisation, APWF specialises in evidence-based solutions for reducing euthanasia in animal welfare shelters and local government facilities.

APWF is led by Dr. Jacqui Rand, Emeritus Professor of Companion Animal Health at The University of Queensland (UQ) and a registered specialist veterinarian in small animal internal medicine. She has worked extensively in shelter research over the last 15 years, including collaborative studies with the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and local governments. Professor Rand has a distinguished track record in the delivery of industry relevant research outcomes. She is the author of over 115 journal articles, 118 abstracts, and 42 book chapters, and is the editor of three books. While at UQ she taught Urban Animal Management and since 2013 has co-authored 21 peer-reviewed articles on the management of urban domestic animals, including seven related to semi-owned and unowned cats. She is also the author of government reports and discussion papers on the management of urban dogs and cats, and consults with local governments on urban cat management. APWF feedback on the Draft Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022

1) Native wildlife protection The City of Kalamunda council meetings state that part of the rationale for the Cat Local Law 2022 includes the protection of native wildlife from cats as the city has significant areas of bushland with native fauna.

It is critically important for protecting native wildlife that council understands the difference between feral cats and domestic cats. This distinction is important because it impacts:

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Submission 1 (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

1. the methods available for successful management of cats to reduce their numbers and their potential for wildlife predation
2. the actual threat to native wildlife

Definition:

The Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats, adopted by the Commonwealth of Australia (2015), acknowledges that for management purposes, cats be grouped into categories based on how and where they live, and that individual cats may move from one category to another. The Plan emphasizes that "In any given situation, the category causing the most damage to wildlife needs to be identified because management actions will depend on the type of cat causing the damage."

The RSPCA's manual for Best Practice in Domestic Cat Management (RSPCA Australia 2018) defines domestic cats as those with some dependence (direct or indirect) on humans, and subcategorised into owned, semi-owned cats and unowned cats.

Owned cats are identified with and cared for by a specific person and are directly dependent on humans. They are usually sociable, although sociability varies.

Semi-owned cats are fed or are provided with some other care by people who do not consider they own them. These cats are of varying sociability, with many socialised to humans, and they may be associated with one or more households.

Unowned cats are indirectly dependent on humans, may have casual and temporary interactions with humans, and are of varying sociability, including some who are unsocialised to humans. Unowned cats often live in groups or colonies in urban environments, where common aggregation places include industrial sites, universities, rubbish tips, food outlets, and fishing harbours.

Feral cats can be distinguished from domestic cats because they are unowned, unsocialised, have no relationship with or dependence on humans, survive by hunting or scavenging, and live and reproduce in the wild. For practical policy and management purposes, there is a high probability that a cat in Australia found more than 2-3 km from the nearest human habitation is a feral cat (Roetman 2017). Feral cats are very different from domestic cats (pet cats and stray cats) which live around where people live.

Based on these definitions, the cats being trapped in urban areas of Kalamunda as a result of complaints from residents are domestic cats. Those deemed "feral" based on behaviour, are in fact domestic cats. They may be poorly socialised semi-owned or unowned cats, or highly stressed pet cats with no identification. Impact of Feral and Domestic cats on Native Wildlife Impact of Feral Cats: The impact of feral cats on native wildlife in natural environments is well documented and is believed to have contributed to the extinction of 27 of 47 extinctions of reptiles, birds and mammals since European settlement (Woinarski 2019).

The actual numbers for feral cats are subject to marked seasonal effects with their numbers fluctuating depending on prey availability, which is influenced by rainfall. Their number is essentially self-regulating, and lethal control measures have been shown to be minimally effective in protecting wildlife (except within exclusion fencing). Where poisons are used, these also have negative effects on other native wildlife. Active management of the impact of feral cats on wildlife by non-lethal means is favoured including fire management, rangeland management, habitat protection and habitat restoration (Doherty 2017). Impact of Domestic Cats: In Australia, domestic cats receive significant blame for negative impacts on native wildlife populations in residential areas (areas where people live). Surprisingly however, very scarce research exists on this topic and the impacts (if any) of domestic cats on native wildlife populations

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is largely unknown. Contrary to popular belief, there is actually no definitive scientific evidence demonstrating population viability or conservation impacts at a population level on Australian native animals by domestic cats living around people in urban residential or semi-rural areas. Notably two studies from Perth were unable to detect a measurable impact of domestic cats on native mammals or birds, but found that vegetation quality (Lilith 2010) and housing density, distance from bushland, size of bushland (Grayson 2007) were of greater importance. An ongoing issue is that feral cat impacts are often wrongly attributed to domestic cats, even though they are two very distinct populations with different behaviour and ecology. Please refer to the attached Perth-based research paper published in Pacific Conservation Biology (Lilith 2010): 'Do cat restrictions lead to increased species diversity or abundance of small and medium-sized mammals in remnant urban bushland?'. This Perth-based study analysed 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 the study. The researchers 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. Strikingly, no significant differences in species diversity were found across the sites and KTBA (known-to-be-alive) statistics for Brushtail Possums and Southern Brown Bandicoots, the two most abundant medium-sized mammals present, were similar across all sites. Very importantly, the smaller Mardo Antechinus flavipes, which the authors suggested could be regarded as the most susceptible to cat predation of all the native species trapped because of its size, was trapped mostly at an unregulated cat site. Total mammals trapped at the unregulated cat sites exceeded those caught at the two sites with restrictions, but these unregulated sites also had significantly denser vegetation. The authors concluded that this suggests pet cats are not the major influence on the species diversity or abundance of small and medium-sized mammals at these sites and that vegetation characteristics may be more important.

Please refer to the attached research paper "Species richness and community composition of passerine birds in suburban Perth: is predation by pet cats the most important factor?" (Grayson 2007, Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales).

This study was conducted across 57 sites in metropolitan Perth. The researchers investigated factors affecting passerine bird community composition, which was the most common bird type preyed on in our study by cats. Bird data were collected at each site, and a questionnaire distributed to surrounding neighbours to determine cat and dog density.

No link was found between cat or dog density and passerine bird species richness (abundance). However, a negative correlation was found between richness of bird species and both housing density and increasing distance from bushland (and decreasing size of bushland), leading the authors to suggest habitat destruction and degradation were the critical factors rather than cats or dogs (Grayson 2007).

Recent findings in the journal Frontiers of Veterinary Science: "Do Pet Cats Deserve the Disproportionate Blame for Wildlife Predation Compared to Pet Dogs?" (Franklin et al. 2021) (please see attached) analysing pet cat and dog predation, challenges longstanding assumptions and beliefs about the impacts of pet cats on native wildlife.

The key findings of this study included that not all pet cats were observed to catch prey which concurs with previous research. Critically, of the pets observed to catch prey, the median numbers of native animals caught per dog or cat

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over 6 months were actually low. Only a very small minority of cats were prolific hunters countering common claims that all cats are efficient and prolific hunters that kill many animals. This finding also potentially invalidates often-used calculations estimating the number of native animals preyed on by pet cats.

This Australian study found that pet dog hunting behaviour is actually comparable to that of pet cats, demonstrating that the substantial blame directed at pet cats is disproportionately large compared to that directed toward domestic dogs. Very importantly, most prey animals in the study were common native or introduced species suggesting that cats may not be having a significant negative effect on these populations.

As other researchers have concluded, hunting by domestic cats appears to be of relatively minor conservation concern compared with habitat loss and urban development. Therefore, efforts directed at habitat preservation are likely to be the most effective strategy to protect wildlife, as opposed to pet control regulations.

To protect Australian native wildlife effectively, the APWF recommends the following evidence-based actions instead of the proposed cat local laws which, based on the scientific evidence, will not provide beneficial outcomes for native wildlife conservation.

Recommendations:

1. The City of Kalamunda should identify areas within Kalamunda where threatened and vulnerable native species are located, and implement exclusion fencing around these areas of high conservation value.
2. The City should also focus on habitat preservation and the prevention of any further land clearing for human use such as urban development or agriculture, given that habitat loss is the number one threat to native wildlife in Australia (Evans 2011, Australia State of the Environment Reports 2011 and 2016 and The Conversation, 2017).

The APWF understands that bushland clearing is currently occurring in Kalamunda, including clearing of native animal habitat. There are over 240 natural areas identified in Kalamunda, and it is imperative that these areas have regulatory protection from any future land clearing.

3. Wildlife road safety measures to mitigate wildlife road strike should be implemented in Kalamunda, particularly in areas of risk for wildlife. Note the NSW Government Dashboard (2021) shows that in 2019-20, 290 threatened species were rescued as a result of collisions with motor vehicles, 127 as a result of dog attacks and 31 because of cat attacks.
4. Effective reduction of free-roaming cat numbers by implementation of high intensity desexing for owned and semi-owned cats that is targeted to areas of high numbers of cat-related complaints and/or cat impoundments. It has been scientifically proven that targeting areas of high complaints and assisting residents to get owned and semi-owned cats desexed will significantly decrease cat-related calls to council. This is evidenced by data from the City of Banyule in Victoria where cat-related calls decreased from 11 calls to 4 calls/1000 residents in just three years after implementing a targeted high intensity desexing program (Cotterell 2021).
5. Promotion of practical and effective methods for keeping cats inside at night (see Strategic Feeding).
6. Provision of cat deterrent devices for hire to residents.

2. Responsible cat ownership and management of stray cats

The City of Kalamunda states that the local law is also being proposed to reduce the number of stray cats in the Kalamunda community and to encourage responsible cat ownership. The APWF understands that since 2014, Rangers

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Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

have impounded 739 cats. Of these, 129 cats have been recollected by their owners, 379 have been rehomed to the Cat Haven and 231 were deemed feral and were euthanased. Based on this information the APWF assumes that 'stray cats' refers to both microchipped and desexed pet cats which are 'straying' (roaming in Kalamunda) and 'stray cats' which are not microchipped or registered to an owner.

→ To reduce pet cat straying/roaming

To reduce pet cats straying/roaming we note Kalamunda council already refers residents to the RSPCA Keeping your cat safe and happy at home: <https://safeandhappycats.com.au/>. Additionally, the APWF recommends strategic feeding of pet cats. While keeping cats contained indoors all the time is safer for pet cats, confinement at night is essential. Night-time is when cats are most active and travel the longest distances (Roetman 2017). It is also the most dangerous time for cats as they roam further and are more likely to fight with other cats, be attacked by dogs, and injured or killed by cars. Strategic feeding keeps cats indoors from dusk to dawn. It is highly effective and has almost no cost for residents, compared to other containment methods.

Strategic feeding: Cat owners should feed one-third of their cat's daily food in the morning, one-third at dusk, and the last third when they go to bed. Owners need to close windows, screens and doors before the dusk meal is fed to prevent their cat from leaving the house after it has eaten.

→ To deter cats from property and reduce complaints

There are a number of ways to deter cats from properties including motion-activated water sprinklers, Oscillot fencing and non-toxic deterrent sprays. Please see the attached APWF document 'Deterring the presence or activity of cats' for more information.

→ To reduce the number of stray cats

The typical approach to managing cats in residential areas is 'trap, adopt or euthanase', which has failed over many decades to reduce the number of cats impounded, and can actually increase the number of cats (Lazenby 2014, Miller 2014). 'Trap, adopt or euthanase' leads to a constant cycle of breeding, impoundment and then euthanasia, over and over again.

Fortunately, a highly effective approach is high-intensity, free desexing programs (known as Community Cat Programs) targeted to areas with high levels of cat-related complaints or impoundments. This scientific approach is evidence-based and reduces the number of cats and kittens in the target area long-term. CPPs have demonstrated a 30-50% reduction in cat intake/impoundments and a 50-80% reduction in numbers of cats and kittens euthanased, in the first year (Cotterell 2021, City of Banyule 2020, Levy 2014, Spehar and Wolf 2019).

A reduction in the number of cats and kittens will reduce cat impoundments, euthanasia, nuisance/complaints, long-term costs, wildlife predation and disease risks. Community Cat Programs (CCPs) also incorporate adoption of kittens and convert cat semi-owners (people who feed and care for stray cats) to full owners (the cat is desexed and microchipped/registered to the cat carer). Critically, CCPs reduce the significant mental health damage suffered by animal services staff and community cat carers associated with the euthanasia of healthy cats and kittens.

As a first step, the APWF recommends that Kalamunda City identifies the areas which have highest cat-related complaints and/or the highest cat impoundments. If Kalamunda City determines there is a stray cat issue, these areas should be prioritised for assisting residents with free desexing, microchipping and registration, for both pet cats and any stray cats residents are feeding and caring for, because cost is the main barrier to desexing cats (APWF 2021).

Research conducted by APWF shows that for 90% of residents with undesexed cats, cost is the major reason for not

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desexing. In low socioeconomic areas, 25% or more residents are in households (average of 2.4 people) that live on less than \$650 per week. The cost of desexing and microchipping a female cat often exceeds \$300, and 89% of people enrolling a cat in a Community Cat program say they could not afford more than \$200. In fact, annual family income was the strongest predictor of whether cats in the household were desexed (Chu 2009).

Council assistance needs to be conducted with a Community Liaison approach where the role of the Council is to assist community members to have their animals desexed, microchipped and registered. A punitive enforcement/compliance approach is not supported by the APWF. We are concerned that this type of approach may create a negative relationship between the Council and cat owners/carers in the community. This could then seriously compromise positive engagement with cat carers in target areas. Positive engagement with cat carers is crucial to the success of Community Cat Programs in reducing stray cat numbers. Punitive compliance action may cause cat carers to hide their activities for fear of financial penalties or euthanasia of their cats, rather than facilitate desexing, thereby preventing improvements to the situation. It encourages semi-owners to say it is "not my cat", rather than be willing to take ownership of the cat.

3. Cat-related matters/complaints

The City of Kalamunda Annual Report 2020-2021 states that Rangers attended 514 cat-related matters. In a population of around 59,000 Kalamunda residents this equates to a high cat complaint rate of approximately 10 complaints per 1,000 residents. If one of the intentions of the proposed cat local law is to reduce resident cat-related complaints to council, then the APWF predicts that enacting the cat local law is likely to actually increase the number of cat-related complaints to Kalamunda council and potentially, significantly increase cost to council. This is because the local law will likely create an expectation in the community that cats should not wander off the owner's property, and that council animal management officers are responsible for ensuring the by-law is being complied with. Instead of local cat laws which will not be effective at reducing cat complaints, the APWF highly recommends targeting areas of high complaints with assisting residents to get owned and semi-owned cats desexed. This desexing approach has been scientifically proven to significantly decrease cat-related calls to council as evidenced by data from Banyule City Council in Victoria (Cotterell 2021).

4. Cat assessment

The APWF seeks clarification about the cat assessment process undertaken by Kalamunda council. Critically, if trapped cats are not allowed at least 3 or more days to settle in an appropriately calm environment after being trapped, even friendly socialised domestic cats can be wrongly mistaken for unsocialised cats or feral cats if they display fearful behaviour such as hissing (Slater 2013).

Behaviours such as hissing, growling, and striking reflect the cat's fear as a result of being trapped and confined in a frightening environment such as a council animal management facility or trap cage. Behaviour does not differentiate if a cat is domestic and highly stressed, or feral (no reliance on humans for food and at least 1 km from humans). In fact, trapped pet cats can respond with more "feral" behaviours than truly feral cats.

The APWF also seeks clarification regarding the protocol for taking trapped or captured cats to the City animal management facility and the total number of cats euthanased since 2014. Council meeting minutes state that 'Residents within the City that complain about stray cats entering their property can, for a fee, request animal traps from the City. If a cat is caught, a Ranger can check for a collar and scan for a microchip. All registered cats and those identified as domestic are taken to the City animal management facility'. According to council meeting minutes, since 2014, Rangers have impounded 739 cats and of these 231 cats were euthanased. However, it is not clear if some cats were euthanased on site and were not taken to the City animal management facility and therefore may not be reported in the statistics published.

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation | ABN 14156 658 721 | P.O Box 5042 Kenmore East, 4069

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Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 1 (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

The APWF would be happy to discuss these issues in greater detail with the City of Kalamunda. We also provide a 2 hour Discovery Session to local governments. The purpose of the session is to build Council's understanding regarding contemporary urban cat management and key factors to consider in building a considered, strategic and evidence-based approach. The specific objectives are to:

Explore current pain points in the area (including understanding current council data and how this compares with other councils)

Introduce principles for effective urban cat management (based on the latest international evidence and research)

Start a strategic discussion about options available to the City moving forward.

Yours sincerely,



Jacquie

Emeritus Professor Jacquie Rand, BVSc (Melb), DVSc (Guelph), MANZCVS Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Executive Director & Chief Scientist Australian Pet Welfare Foundation

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation | ABN 14156 658 721 | P.O Box 5042 Kenmore East, 4069

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Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 2

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Subject: Coral Reserve needs to be added to list of restricted areas - Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022 (Schedule 3)

Hello

Have noticed that Coral Road was over looked in the listing of restricted areas in Schedule 3 of the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022.

Please add to document.

sincerely

<information redacted>

Coral - Crayden Friends Group

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 3

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Subject: KEEPING AND CONTROL OF CATS LOCAL LAW 2022

Good afternoon,

I was looking online and saw the draft copy "KEEPING AND CONTROL OF CATS LOCAL LAW 2022". The draft itself makes reference to being open for public discussion for a period of six weeks. I'm unsure as to the exact date this is to start however I would like to make comment as a resident of the city. I have taken the time to read the draft and support it's strengthening of laws regarding responsible cat ownership within the city. That said I don't not believe the proposed legislation goes far enough. I whole heartily support a complete ban on cats and cat ownership within the city. While this may be considered by some as extreme I believe in 2022 we see undeniable evidence cats are the single biggest threat to many of our endangered species while at the same time pushing many others closer to this category. A ban on cats within the City would show great courage by our existing council and pave the way for the preservation of our ecosystems and the enjoyment of future generations. If a completed ban is not acceptable to council then I would ask additional restrictions be considered: The limit of two cats per residence be reduced to one. Rationale: Will cut by half the number of wildlife killed by cats within the boundaries of the owners property. That all cats within the city be desexed. Rationale: It only takes one cat to escape/ abscond from its home and within a short space of time generations of feral cats are breeding within the parks. A mandate on desexing all cats will ensure domestic escapees don't contribute to this problem. That all cats when housed outside of the main building (house) on the residence are kept in a secured cat run of an approved construction and dimension with a double security door.

Rationale: This will limit the possibility of escapees/ absconders and reduce wildlife killed by cats in the owners backyard. A three strikes policy. Owners who breach the legislation on three occasions receive a lifetime ban on cat ownership within the city.

Rationale: This will improve compliance and remove ownership privileges of those who consistently breach the law. Introduction of extensive cats control and eradication programs including shooting, trapping and baiting throughout city property and parks. Any cat located within the prohibited zones to be euthanised on sight.

Rationale: To reduce the impact of feral and escaped pet cats on native wildlife. The City of Kalamunda's vibe is entwined in its 'close to nature' hills living while retaining a heritage stylised life. Our businesses are fuelled by residents who wanted a tree change and our visitors, a desire to feel closer to nature only a short drive from the Perth CBD. Eco tourism with our parks, water systems and trails draw people from all over the world to experience our unique flora and fauna. This is our draw card and this is what makes Kalamunda so special. We still have Quendas and Fairy Wrens in our backyards but this won't last. Cats are destroying wildlife in this country at rates unlike any other invasive species. We can have cats or we can have wildlife, but we can't have both.

Time is running out.

For your consideration.

Kind regards

<information redacted>

<information redacted>

<information redacted>

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 4

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.



P.O. Box 656
Kalamunda
W.A. 6926
<http://nrpg.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/KalamundaNRPG>
<https://www.facebook.com/nrpg.bushcare>

**Nature Reserves Preservation Group
of Kalamunda, Inc.**

25 Feb 2022

TO: Rhonda Hardy, CEO
CC: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

SUBJECT: Submission on Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022

Dear Rhonda,

The NRPG appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Cats Local Law 2022, as follows:

Excerpts from the draft are 'boxed' for ease of reference.

1.4 Definitions:

nuisance means–

- (a) An activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law;
- (b) An unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of a person of his or her ownership or occupation of land; or
- (c) Interference which causes material damage to land or other property on the land affected by the interference;

The definition of 'nuisance' should specifically include reference to the Environmental nuisance and damage caused by cats in harming native wildlife, as this is a serious issue and relates directly to Kalamunda's Clean and Green strategy and other environmental policies.

NRPG has previously raised the issue of the lack of mention of environmental impacts in the City's current "Responsible Cat Ownership/ "Cat Owner Fact Sheet" pamphlet, in prior correspondence and meetings with the City. As an example, one of the City's prior pamphlets (below) does raise the environmental issue and we believe it is imperative that this information be reinstated.

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 4 (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.



Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 4 (Cont.)

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

2.1 Cats not to be a nuisance

(1) An owner shall not allow a cat to be or create a nuisance.

NRPG believes that there should be specific mention of 'environment' or 'harm to native wildlife' in this statement to emphasise the importance of this impact, beyond what most people would intuitively consider by the term 'nuisance'.

2.3 Control of cats in places that are not public

(1) A cat shall not be in any place that is not a public place unless—

(a) Consent to its being there has been given —

- (i) By the occupier or a person authorised to consent on behalf of the occupier; or
- (ii) If the place is unoccupied, by the owner or a person apparently authorised to consent on behalf of the owner.

This statement implies that cats can be allowed public places without doing damage, however cats can still do much environmental damage in public areas such as bushland or other natural areas (including state and national parks/forests) not specifically noted in Schedule 3 "Cat Prohibited Areas". While state and federal areas may be outside the City boundaries, they are not boundaries for native wildlife, cats, or people and the City has a responsibility to contribute to the surrounding areas. Therefore it is important that Section 2.3 'control of cats' (or other relevant section in the document) addresses this issue, stated clearly and specifically.

Kind regards,

Steve Gates
President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group

<information redacted>

<information redacted>

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 5

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

<information redacted>: Public Comment - Cat Local Law 2022 Submission

I wish to comment on the proposed new laws pertaining to cat ownership and containment.

I found the draft proposal complicated to comprehend with all the "jargon" but one thing I disagree on is the number of cats allowed to be owned as pets.

I am a huge believer that ALL domestic cats should be sterilised and should never be allowed to roam. I believe that all homes where cats are kept as pets should have enclosures attached to their homes whereby cats can access some outside space BUT be totally contained in a safe environment. This being the case, why should cat lovers be restricted to only being allowed to have 2 cats/pets. I totally disagree with that number and having to apply for a permit to have more.

There are many businesses in Perth that actually build cat enclosures for people (if DIY isn't an option) who are responsible pet owners, people who want to protect the wildlife, people who contain their pets because they do not want to see them come to harm from cat haters, people who do not want to see their pet become road kill.

Several years ago I actually spoke with a staff member at the City of Kalamunda suggesting that brochures containing information regarding these businesses should at least be on display in the office and/or sent out with the licence renewals. My suggestion fell on deaf ears to say the least.

I wholeheartedly support cat containment and the responsible ownership of cats. How the City of Kalamunda and all the other councils Australia wide EDUCATE people, "police" and implement these laws is going to be, in my opinion, mission impossible. Sadly a mammoth task.

Regards

<information redacted>

Submissions | Direct Community Feedback

Submission 6

Comments | Note: Text has been included without edits as provided by respondents.

Subject: Have you read the Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022?

Hi

Having thought about it some more I would also like to add that I don't really understand the rationale behind the purpose of the Local Law to the "control of cats in places that are not public."

I can understand a need to control cats in public areas and for catteries or people breeding cats for income to be potentially regulated, which I believe they already are, but I don't understand why you think it is appropriate to control family pets in ordinary people's homes. This just seems intrusive. What problems have arisen in the community to date that makes policing a family pet in a family home appropriate? I believe that this needs to be explained better before taking this step to intrude upon people's living spaces. The Local Law does not provide any explanation about what is expected of cat owners in their home but can refuse a permit on the basis of it not being suitable this is not fair or just.

I would appreciate it if you could acknowledge that you have received my further feedback on this matter and that it will be included with other feedback collected prior to this afternoon's deadline.

Kind Regards

<information redacted>

<information redacted>

<information redacted>

<information redacted>