



Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law

Community Feedback

31 July 2023

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The Perth metropolitan area has been experiencing an emerging trend of nuisance cat behaviour in recent years. This has generated a heightened awareness of cats in the community and increased reports of cats fighting, roaming, and preying on wildlife within the City of Stirling.

Despite proactive education about responsible pet ownership and the legal obligations (microchipping, sterilisation, registration) many owners don't take steps to comply with the requirements. An analysis of the City's current animal registration records cross-checked against the census data (2019/20) suggests only 27% of cats which live within the City are registered.

A range of issues about responsible cat ownership have been raised by residents including motions at the 2021/2022 Electors' General Meeting on Wednesday 22 March. These included:

- The City of Stirling expand cat prohibited areas to prohibit cats from all parks and bushland areas
- The City of Stirling expand cat prohibited areas to include all other Council owned and managed areas where cats will be prohibited unless under effective control.
- The City of Stirling increases their cat trapping program across all prohibited areas and strengthens its policies to ensure compliance with the local laws
- The City of Stirling writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting immediate amendments to the Cat Act 2011 to enforce cats being contained within an enclosed area on the owner's property
- The City of Stirling amends the Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 1999 to include a cat containment provision stipulating cats to be contained within an enclosed area on the owner's property.

In response to this strong community interest, we asked to hear the community's views on these ideas and the City's 'Keeping and control of cats Local Law 1999'. The community feedback from Local Laws In Focus will help inform the formal Local Law review process currently scheduled for 2024.

What's your view?

The City is seeking community feedback on the Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 1999 to gain a deeper understanding of new and emerging issues related to the Local Law in focus. Please share your feedback here.

144 responses from the community:

1. Over the past 12 months, I have noticed dead birds + a rat in my garden and on the lawn of the property next door. A cat lives there; I have suggested to the neighbour to put a bell on the cat. He said it can get them off. I have no idea if it is registered, chipped, or desexed. It does not wear a tag. It is also free to roam day and night and when the owners go away the cat is left to do whatever. I have noticed a distinct loss of the small native birds that used to visit my verge garden. What action can council take without pitting neighbour against neighbour and what are you proposing to do to restrict free roaming cats? Thank you for this opportunity.

2. Free-ranging cats should be totally restricted with the city, not just sensitive zones, our native wildlife suffers tremendously from this activity. Most citizens (in this area) who allow their animals to free range are belligerent, dismissive of Council by-law and their general responsibilities even when directed to published City information.
3. cat owners should be made by law to keep their cats restricted to their own property only, day and night. penalties should apply if wildlife are impacted, even on their property.
4. Cat should be contained within the owner's property. We have a frog pond and a native garden, and our neighbour has two cats which roam wild at all hours of the day and night. We have had up to 13 frogs at our pond now we have none after the cats frequent it.
5. I think keeping cats in at night can help. Seems that when cats get into the most fights. I think cats deserve to be able to go outside and enjoy some freedom. Humans have single handedly brought tons of animals to extinction as well as are in the process of ruining the planet, yet for some reason we are allowed to do what we want and roam free.
6. I would like cats to be contained to their properties, cat trapping for those off their properties and large fines imposed.
7. The costs of increased measures to control the few cats who spend time outside are not worth our ratepayer's money. Control of feral cats is absolutely part of your role. But I can see these laws being abused by irritable neighbours who don't like a cat that sits on their fence. If my cat is sterilised and registered, I believe it should be allowed to enjoy time outside and not be imprisoned all day. I'd rather see bigger fines for dog owners who let their dogs poo on the school ovals constantly. That is genuinely unsanitary.
8. I am very supportive of much stricter rules for cats, in particular I would like to see the laws changed so all cats must be confined to indoors, or within their own back garden. I am very concerned about the impact of cats on the natural environment, and I do not believe cats should be allowed to roam freely.
9. Please keep cats in an enclosed area. I have a large yard, with birds nesting. Cats fight on my roof almost nightly. Feathers found on lawn frequently Birds messed destroyed often Willy wagtails, dove, galah nests in my yard. Galah nest is the only survivor.
10. I support stronger controls on roaming cats both generally and especially around nature reserves. I have owned cars before, and I support harm-free trapping and return to owners with infringements for repeat offenders. Presumably this is the same as applies to nuisance roaming dogs.
11. Fully support the changes. The number of cats still seen hunting at night is atrocious.
12. I am a cat lover and owner, and supporter of the Cat Haven. I fully support any law that requires cats to be kept secure on owners premises. Unfortunately legislation to ensure sterilisation has not done enough.
13. I strongly recommend that all domestic cats should be kept either inside their homes or in a cat run. Every day I see people posting on social media about their cat going missing, getting run over or attacked by other animals.... or cats killing native animals. This could be avoided by restricting cats to their property.
14. Cats should not be killing native wildlife. Therefore, cat owners must keep cats indoors or in a cat run.
15. We need cat confinement. It's better for the cats. Also the issues around here with cats doing whatever they like cause a lot of issues. Cats sleeping on/ scratching neighbours cars. Cats killing birds. Cats climbing on roofs.
16. Cats should be kept on individuals property and not allowed to roam.
17. Hate cats Pest Shit in my garden Sleep on my outdoor furniture - I have to clean off cat hair which I'm allergic too Had kittens in my shed when we went on holidays They should be banned in the city It's not fair Shit in my vegetable patch where I try and grow food Owners are completely disrespectful and have no regard what so ever

They fight out the front of our house It's a disgrace Costs me money and have tried the cat/dog keep off sprays

18. Unfortunately cats unlike dogs cannot be controlled to stay in their own owners property. I therefore have my neighbours cat spending a lot of time on my property, including entering my house if I leave the door open. Why should i then need to try and corner and scare the cat to get out of my house? Is it legal for me to lock it in and then catch and euthanise it? If damage is caused who pays? I get on well with my neighbours but this subject has no win, unless you force all owners to keep their cat in an enclosed area, inside or out. Unfortunately only the neighbourhood knows when the cat is not contained and thus will cause more community issues if a neighbour reports a free cat.

19. Cat must be under control of owner all the time. Cats should not be allowed to roam freely at all. We have experienced so many time that in the middle of night we all woke because of someone else's cat screaming in my back yard. Some time cats left half eaten mouse in my back yard. So disgusting. In my view cat owner is responsible and must be fined, in case of complains from neighbours.

20. Too many cats are allowed to wander freely. I live in Cambridge, but walk along west coast highway into the city of Stirling. There are lots of well kept cats that get into the bush land along west coast highway. They often have collars and are definitely not feral. Could you just catch and fine the owners?

21. I live across from Lake Gwelup and see cats out at night stalking. I believe cat owners need to keep cats inside.

22. Cats should at the very least be inside at night

23. I'd like to see cat owners be forced to keep their cats on their property and not let them roam.

24. I'm alarmed when I notice cats venturing out into reserves and play ground areas in our neighbourhood. We see less native fauna every year.

25. For the protection of local wildlife, domestic cats should be contained in enclosures on the owners' property at all times.

26. I am very concerned about the impact of cats on local wildlife, particularly in bushland areas as I live close to Breckler Park. I support increased monitoring and trapping in bushland areas, and an overnight cat curfew to keep domestic cats indoors overnight. It would also be great if the City could prove rebates for cat owners to install cat enclosures, to restrict cat roaming. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

27. Cats should be contained to owner's home/property unless uber direct control/supervision. Anything less is irresponsible, and a danger to both the cat and wildlife.

28. Cat enclosures should be encouraged by council rebate for owners

29. all cats should be confined to their property

30. I believe all cats like dogs, should be kept within the household and not be allowed to roam the streets.

31. To extreme, parks wildlife sanctuary are realistic but to not allow cats to roam on any council property is extreme. Example my elderly 20 year old cat who can't wear collar but who is microchipped will often go next door to spend time with elderly lady who like to pat him but due to his age he can't jump fence anymore and I have to open gate and he walks over footpath to her front yard.

32. Cats should be kept inside their owners house or in a cat enclosure that they can not get onto neighbours property. I am sick of tending to my garden and come across cat poo in my garden. Plus my dogs have to be kept contained to my yard. But yet cats aren't and they like getting in my yard and my dogs do not like cats. One day I'm going to come home and find a dead cat in my backyard. And it won't be my fault.

33. My view is that cats should definitely be contained in their owners property. They are a menace to local wildlife, dangerous for motorists, as they run out onto the roads and force drivers and Motorcyclists to apply emergency braking, damage people's cars, shit on other people's properties, and impregnate other cats putting pressure on rescue organisations. It is unbelievable that cats are still allowed to roam free.

34. Cats should be contained to their property. I'm sick of finding dead birds and cat poo in my garden.

35. I am 100% in favour of restricting cats to people's properties and while I understand that the 1999 Cat Act prevents the City of Stirling from taking that step just yet, I think the suggested cat control measures are a good interim option. Obviously restricting cats from public parks and bushland is a huge win for wildlife, but it's also good for the cats. As a young kid, two of my family pet cats were hit by cars, which would have been entirely avoidable with cats contained to their owners' properties. No matter how informed people are, a large number of people believe that their own cat(s) don't kill wildlife or get into danger. Without more regulation, a lot of people will still allow their cats to roam free.

36. The City should increase the severity of its local law, increase the cat prohibited areas and increase cat trapping, and implement/increase fines for owners to the maximum extent allowed under state law. The City should also advocate to the state government that the Cat Act (2011) be changed to allow local laws to require cats be kept in doors

37. Whilst I feel all cats should be registered and desexed, I don't agree with blanket rules requiring all cats to be enclosed within the boundaries of the owner's property, or banning cats from all Council owned and managed areas, I mean will that mean your cat can't be on your own nature strip?

38. Keep them inside or in an enclosed area outside, they should not be allowed to roam, just as dogs are not allowed

39. I've seen dozens of cats without collars roaming the streets especially around local parks. Keeping cats within own property and mandating collars and bell on outdoor cats should be done rather than recommendation.

40. Not all cats are pests, not all owners are irresponsible. Trying to enforce cats to stay in when they are already indoor / outdoor cats is not viable. Nor are the costs associated with fencing on our property.

41. I think it's a storm in a teacup. Where's the data? There seems to be a noisy minority kicking the ball down the road, this is evident in the Facebook (And reddit) posts on the internet.

42. I feel that the cost of registering a cat is a deterrent. This fee should be minimal to encourage people. I agree with keeping cats out of bushland and parks. However, putting this into practice is challenging. Unlike dogs, cats can jump and climb. Perhaps incentives for installing catios (aka cat enclosures) to residents world help.

43. I strongly believe that cats should be be contained within an enclosed area on the owner's property.

44. For there to be more control of cats in the neighbourhood roaming. There are many cats in my street that are roaming throughout the night and as a result have witnessed several (clearly unplanned) litters be born without much changes to the cats routine. It is also a disturbance when they wander into our property and can scare our dog and each night they poo throughout our garden. Dogs have many standards that I feel like cats should be held to as well.

45. Agree that all domestic cats should be registered, ID tagged, microchipped, and contained to their own property. So many roaming cats around us that are constantly killing wildlife and defecating all over our street and garden, mainly throughout the night. There is a minimum of 5 different cats roaming our tiny cul-de-sac every night and fighting in the street. Needs to stop! Dogs are subject to these same rules and they don't do anywhere near as much damage as cats do.

46. Cat should be kept indoors, or in enclosed areas. They can be walked on a leash if willing. I have been a cat owner myself and mine was always contained. They are a menace to our delicate environment and kill our local

creatures. Having cat free areas is an insane and useless idea, cats can't read. Owners do not know where there cats are.

47. All cats must be kept and confined to the owners property at all times.

48. We have multiple cats entering our yard at all hours of the day/night. They have excreted into our children's sandpit and near our front door. They jump our fence near our bedroom window at night and it frightens us awake.

49. As a cat owner myself, I believe cats should be contained to their owner's property. Since moving to Tuart Hill in 2022 we have had stranger cats trying to fight our indoor-only cats through windows which has resulted in a lot of stress and issues for us and our pets

50. Laws need to be expanded and strengthened. Cats roam freely in our street, squashing plants and stalking wildlife

51. I've never lived anywhere who hates cats as much as Australia I'm sure humans have caused more destruction to habitat than cats Maybe if councils stopped sub diving and allow tablecloth sized courtyards as a garden many more native species could flourish Certainly in Doubleview there are very few pockets that could be classed as a park ? Maybe rethink enhancing nature not hunting cats

52. Cats should be treated the same as dogs.

53. It is well overdue for Local Govts in general to review the keeping and controlling of cats. It has been a problem for many years now and it is good to see CoS being proactive

54. I agree that we need to manage cats, however I am concerned that keeping them enclosed on property is too much. Cost is a big factor, especially for properties with large land or boarders. The spinning tops just don't work, and 'catios' are expensive and take a lot of space, especially for cats who are used to being outside. Keeping them in at night is reasonable. Perhaps for kittens and those near the exclusion zones you could be more proscriptive. Having a refund/grant for people to build these (either professionally or by self) may help.

55. All cats should be contained within the owners property

56. I live in Loughton Way, cats are a big problem. I created an all water-wise native garden at the front of my property and my backyard is also an area to encourage birds to the area. Now, with these irresponsible cat owners have around 6 cats roaming everywhere on my property. In my native garden I cannot walk anywhere without having to avoid where the cats have dug and their business...it stinks and it is totally so unhealthy. They sit under trees, beside shrubs and try climbing a huge native Adonis tree stalking and trying to catch the birds. I have had to try to block them from getting into the backyard and my back patio.....whatever I do to stop them from coming is an absolute waste of my time and I find it so frustrating, annoying and stressful having to put up with this. Next door they have around 5 cats which I am aware of, and they place their food in a tin foil baking tray and leave it out on the step to the front patch all day...hence encouraging other cats to feed from it. None of these cats have collars. These types people should not have cats. Another woman across the road has numerous cats (they are kept in the backyard which she has enclosed with cyclone wire) but all those cats would encourage strays as the back of her property backs onto a couple of vacant blocks. I am sorry to have had so much to say about this issue I am having.....but honestly I am so frustrated and stressed. The sooner those new laws can be brought in hopefully these cats can be brought under control.

57. Cats should be as controlled as dogs . A neighbours cat sprays urine right at my back door and the number of birds has decreased greatly in my yard. I had to seal my eaves to keep it out of the roof

58. I would like clarity on what constitutes an "enclosed area". My cat has access to a courtyard he can't get out of but it's not fully enclosed. Would it need to have netting above to meet the proposed requirements?

59. More needs to be done to fix the issue of roaming cats without collars and responsible cat ownership

60. Cats should not be allowed out of the boundaries of their home address to protect native wildlife

61. We feel that all cats should be kept on the owner's property at all times. Our native fauna needs to be protected, further to that, we have previously had a neighbour's cat use our garden for their toileting. This is unacceptable. We are responsible cat owners, we own one cat, we do not personally need laws telling us to be responsible as it is logical, but unfortunately many people do not understand and let their cats roam uncontrolled. Stricter cat laws will prevent this.

62. I support the suggestions outlined in the introduction to this survey. I have had cat trapping done on our property as at that time there were up to 5 cats roaming on our property and using our vegetable garden as a litter tray. I noticed a marked decrease in the small skinks and goannas in the yard and our neighbours witnessed bird nests being preyed upon by the cats and feathers around in the mornings. I did speak to our then neighbours about their two cats which were often out and on our property, especially at dusk when the birds are actively feeding. However, my attempts were to no avail. they completely failed to see any problems. This response, and studies on the domestic cat problem, has convinced me that the only way this will be improved is by cat containment on the owners property. thank you for pursuing this issue.

63. I do not own a cat however there are a few roaming cats in our street, we have often found their droppings and torn up remains of mouse/rat right in front of our front door which should not be our job to clean up. We own a dog and free roaming cats can sometimes torment him if they are in our property. I feel there needs to be more regulations regarding cats being confined to their property just as dogs are also meant to be safely contained. This would also help minimise the impact on wildlife

64. Cats have often come onto our property and disturbed our dog as well as left remains of mice/rats.

65. I like the proposed changes to the Cats Local Law. I have 2 cats who stay inside my property. I currently don't have a safe way for them to be outside but contained to my property so I don't let them out. I wouldn't want them to hurt wildlife or escape and get injured themselves. There are roaming cars in my neighbourhood which can smell my cats inside and urinate at my front door or growl at them. I also worry about hitting cats while I'm driving as I see them running across the road all the time. My house backs onto a vacant lane way and there are often wild cats in there fighting or meowing at night which upsets my dogs, and I worry if they jumped into my yard that they might get hurt by my dogs.

66. As someone who owns a canine, I believe that all animals should be self contained to an owners premises. Having an animal is an individuals decision and it shouldn't majorly impact other people. I'm sure I would receive complaints if my dog was wondering around other peoples properties.

67. Too many cat owners let their cats roam free killing wildlife and making mess / cat fights without any supervision

68. Cats should be kept indoors. It's safer for them, safer for the wildlife and makes for a more well-adjusted cat. If you must have your cat go outside, it should be in a run or on a leash.

69. Cats should be kept contained within the owner's property, and only allowed out under effective control - just like dogs.

70. We didn't have any cat issues when living in the City of Swan. Completely understand it was a different area with larger blocks etc. but since moving to Dianella, we have had countless issues with roaming cats. Out at night and traffic hazards. I have had to stop my car suddenly a number of times because a car has run across the road (at night) and the car behind me has had to brake as fast as myself. There is a cat that lives across the road and despite our best efforts to amicably work with the neighbour, every night it makes its way into our yard and remains there the whole night. Often leaving dead birds etc. on our property. Please ensure the law is revised to ensure cats remain inside owners priorities at night. The community are all being impacted. Updating and communicating this to residents would be received positively. Thank you.

71. We have two neighbouring cats that are free to jump fences and antagonize our dogs. We once found one inside our house, came through the dog door, and we called the council and vet only to be told to let it go as there are no restrictions the neighbours need to follow. Totally unfair

72. I agree all pets should be contained in the property of their owners. We regularly find dead birds on our property and have neighbours cats wandering in our garden. We are so fortunate to have wildlife nearby and want it protected.

73. Keep cats locked up inside or in a cat run. The amount of times they come in the garden and kills birds and annoy my dogs and pee in my car rims and occasionally hear them fighting at night

74. No this is typical Australian nanny state... Let's imprison first all those dumb humans who kill the planet

75. Cats are nuisances that invade and leave their excretions on other peoples properties. They disturb and kill the local wildlife, and create noise and disturbance amongst the community. They should be kept under a tighter leash.

76. Roaming cats are a nuisance. They come onto my property. They defecate in my yard. They fight with other cats and wake us up. They cause my dogs to bark unnecessarily. They cause friction between neighbours. Just like my dogs, owners should be required to contain them on their properties at all times.

77. I would love to see owners having to keep their cats indoors or cat patio. I have issue with cats digging up and constantly using my garden as a toilet. Also kills the birds at my bird bath

78. Reform is needed.

79. I absolutely agree with the proposed laws, especially increasing owner responsibility of keeping the cat indoors within their property AT ALL TIMES. Cats are a nuisance to the environment, our precious ecosystems and non responsible owners do not currently take any accountability for their animals.

80. Cats should be kept inside 24 hours per day and COS should issue big fines for cats found wandering outside. Unregistered cats found outside should be put down within 24 hours of capture.

81. Cats can be beautiful pets but also dangerous predators of our wildlife. Please ensure adequate regulation to require owners to contain their cats on their premises to help reduce killing of our beautiful birds and other wildlife. Too often during Rainbow Bee Eater breeding season I see cats near the nesting borrows in Lake Gwelup reserve. Please help prevent this to preserve these special visitors.

82. Cats should have to be kept on owners property and council should actively trap cats

83. Cats should be kept inside 100% of the time the same way dogs must be contained. If outside it should be in a cat run, or on a leash. Cats are killing our wildlife because it's in their nature. It's also a part of responsible pet ownership to protect your animal, many cats die prematurely if left to roam as they are hit by cars/ wander too far. We should be amending our laws to reflect the changing attitudes of our area and updated scientific evidence.

84. We own a cat, he is on a harness whenever he is outside, he is inside at night. We have stray cats fighting outside our bedroom at night. More trapping is required in the area.

85. According to the most recent data, cat containment laws are ineffective: ""Australian councils are increasingly adopting mandatory cat containment (curfews). It seems like a logical solution, but based on the evidence it is not effective. It doesn't reduce stray cat numbers in the short or long term, as shown by the experience of councils such as Casey and Yarra Ranges in Victoria. RSPCA Australia acknowledges: Overall, councils with cat containment regulations have not been able to demonstrate any measurable reduction in cat complaints or cats wandering at large. In contrast, Hume, Hobsons Bay and Merri-bek councils in Victoria have rejected mandatory containment. Their decisions cited reasons such as it is ineffective and unenforceable because most stray cats don't have an

owner to contain them." (<https://theconversation.com/australian-shelters-and-pounds-kill-50-000-mostly-healthy-cats-and-kittens-in-a-year-theres-a-way-to-prevent-this-pointless-killing-201947>) Furthermore, introducing a mandatory cat containment provision without providing the means for cat owners to install enclosures is problematic. Cat containment systems (e.g. in backyards) are prohibitively expensive. The best evidence demonstrates trapping and sterilising + providing free sterilisation programs on a rigorous basis is the best way to manage nuisance cats.

86. I've been quite shocked to learn cats aren't required to be kept indoors at night. I have personally come across wildlife remains- the face and upper skull of a pink and grey galah, other birds- who have been the victims of cat attacks. They are killing wildlife and should either be banned or kept inside, with heavy fines for those who don't comply.

87. I strongly urge the City to implement a law to enforce cat owners to keep cats indoors or inside an outdoor enclosure. We have created a beautiful native garden for birds, frogs and other wildlife, and too often we see cats roaming at night, as well as during the day. We have even seen cats in and around Star Swamp! Cats are known to hunt and kill small animals even when they are well fed and cared for - so owners that don't keep their cats inside are personally responsible for the killing of our local wildlife and should be fined accordingly.

88. I live opposite Gwelup open space and have cats roaming free around every night! Maybe the law should be enforced to have cats enclosed their homes and not catching wild birds especially baby doves,

89. So many of our local birds are been massacred by the neighbourhood cats every night, we no longer have any birds in our street. As we walk the dogs down Huntriss Road, we always see cats going down to Lake Gwelup to hunt. When is the council going to trap them, it needs to be a targeted approach as it's always the same cats that live in Bartlett Cres, Gwelup St and Finnerty St. The native species in the area need to be protected from cats with a 24hour curfew and the owners who break these rules need to be extensively fined.
https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/environment/cats-kill-more-than-300-million-native-animals-a-year-c-10922309?utm_campaign=share-icons&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=clipboard&tid=1686449662581

90. I think legally, cats should be indoors only or with a contained outdoor cat run. I think the current "suggestion" to keep them safe and indoor at night is silly, as they should never be allowed outside. I love cats and have always owned indoor-only cats, that are safe and secure in my home. Last year a neighbours cat was mauled by a dog in their front driveway, and this could have been prevented had it not been outside and vulnerable. As vulnerable as the native animals that domestic cats kill daily. As we are required to keep our dogs contained, cats should be the same, and until people change their attitude to letting them roam I think a fine is fair.

91. The council are not strict enough about it. In new policy. Take out the word CONSIDER keeping your cat in at night. it should be mandatory for all animals. This is law in most eastern states. Also people should be notifying if cat dies and council should give back any months unused. People should also notify if animal changes ownership. Neighbours are getting sick of cats using their gardens as toilets. How do we report this issue outside protected areas. It's not just these areas we need local laws for. When reading the guidelines it seems to read its ok for cats to be out and about during the day. I don't want them in my garden spraying on my door and children's play toys

92. I support that all pet cats should be confined to the premises at which they live. If cats are outside, they should be in an appropriate enclosed space from which they cannot escape. Cat ownership in buffer zones around cat prohibited areas should be phased out altogether. I support expansions to cat prohibited areas and expansions of the buffer zones around them.

93. I strongly agree that Cats should be contained within the properties of cats owners and or within the properties of those people who care for cats temporarily.

94. Stray cats are a longstanding problem in Australian towns and cities. Common complaints about roaming cats include nuisance (fighting and urinating), disease risks to humans and other animals, and predation of native wildlife. The huge numbers of cats and kittens taken in by animal shelters and council pounds are a challenge to manage, leading to an estimated 50,000 being killed each year – most of them young and healthy. Council-operated pounds killed 46% of all cats and kittens admitted. Shelters killed 25%. One in four council pounds in

New South Wales and Victoria killed a staggering 67-100%. Despite the scale of killing, Australia's stray cat numbers are not decreasing. The evidence shows an urgent need for proactive community cat programs offering free desexing of cats in targeted problem areas. Australian councils are increasingly adopting mandatory cat containment (curfews). It seems like a logical solution, but based on the evidence it is not effective. It doesn't reduce stray cat numbers in the short or long term, as shown by the experience of councils such as Casey and Yarra Ranges in Victoria. Trapping and killing stray cats and kittens is costly and has not worked. This reactive approach has not reduced the stray cat population over the decades it has been applied. Therefore, the potential nuisance, disease risks and native wildlife predation have not been reduced. Assisting semi-owners and owners in disadvantaged areas to desex their cats is the best long-term solution to the stray cat problem. The Community Cat Program is an evidence-based approach that supports cat owners and semi-owners with free desexing and microchipping of the cats they are caring for. These efforts should be focused on areas of high cat intakes and complaints. Proactive community cat programs are scientifically proven to reduce the number of stray cats and unwanted kittens in targeted areas. They thereby reduce nuisance complaints, cat intake and killing, trauma to people, costs, disease risks and wildlife predation.

95. I support "enforce cats being contained within an enclosed area on the owner's property"

96. Cats should be under the same restrictions and control as other domestic pets such as dogs. They should be required to be registered with the council, and restricted to the owners property as dogs are to prevent injury of death of native animals. Roaming cats also cause nuisance barking of dogs, which can lead to complaints. Roaming cats can soil other people's yards and cause damage to other people's gardens.

97. Cats should be allowed in any house but should not be allowed to leave their property.

98. Cats are not native animals and should not be allowed to have a negative impact on out wildlife. Owning a pet doesn't mean not control it. Now we are aware of the impacts of having a cat we should minimise it.

99. I agree that cats should be contained on an owners property, as other pets are contained

100. Firstly, this is NOT a NEW or EMERGING ISSUE. Uncontrolled cats have been a problem for years and the incompetent City of Stirling Councillors, many I am sure are cat owners, refuse to take a strong stand on behalf of the majority of ratepayers, who are sick and tired of cats entering their properties, defaecating, spraying, killing wildlife and generally being a nuisance. The claim that these domestic cats aren't a problem is just rubbish. Too many owners let their cats roam the the suburbs and happily claim that "their" cat would possibly be causing problems for locals. I have had a complaint with the City of Stirling and sadly, the Ranger was limited in what they could do as the area where I live is not one of the designated control areas so they were not able to trap and even if they caught the animals and they could identify them, they would have to just hand them back. The result would be that the cat/s would be out roaming around again in a couple of days. People aren't allowed to let their dogs roam around, why should cats be allowed to ?? Also, a pitiful excuse that the City of Stirling is sitting on it's hands to wait for the state government to act. The councillors were voted into act, if they aren't prepared to do that, then what is the point of having local government.

101. Cats should absolutely be kept on an owner's property or under the owners control (i.e. on a leash), and should be microchipped and registered. Loose cats are a danger to themselves, the environment, and people. The council needs to urgently increase trapping in protected areas, including Herdsman lake. Owners should face a hefty fine to retrieve their cat if it is caught off the property, and repeat offenders should lose their licence to keep a pet. People who are experiencing problems with feral and free ranging cats should receive more support from the council to trap them. To soften the transition, the council could offer subsidies for catios and enclosures. I quite like cats, but it is irresponsible to let cats roam and the council needs to start enforcing pet owners' responsibilities.

102. What education and programs? I've been living in Balcatta for 15 years and I have not seen anything on education of pet ownership or animal care. Where is the education? Ideally, you should partner with rescues to deliver education. There are heaps of issues that need to be addressed, including SIGNIFICANT education and action on pets being allowed to breed.

103. I live approximately 50 meters from the edge of Herdsman lake. I moved here to appreciate wildlife which unfortunately, is being decimated by free roaming cats. You can hear the frogs screaming at night as the cats eat them alive. It's horrible. The council of owners of my complex have discussed this issue many times as we are all passionate about protecting our wildlife and keeping cats indoors. We have even gone as far as renting a cat trap from the cat haven to trap a seemingly unowned cat. The same cat continues to roam and kill wildlife, only now it wears a collar. We need the support of our local council to help us protect wildlife and our pets. I am a small animal owner and though I keep my pets safely contained within my own yard, cats are constantly coming into my courtyard to harass and stress my small animals. I do not want to have to rehome my pets as I love them but it seems very unfair that they should be under a constant state of stress due to cats trespassing on my property, despite my best efforts to keep them out. It is also unsafe for the cats. They fight each other at night and are vulnerable to car strikes. The neighbour living opposite me spent \$2,500 and was lucky to save his cat's life after it was bitten by a tiger snake. Whether the poor tiger snake was as fortunate to make it out alive remains unknown. Please help us protect our wildlife by ensuring residents are required to keep their cats contained on their premises.

104. keep cats on their own properties

105. Cats should be contained to owners properties due to keeping the cat safe and healthy, and keeping our fauna safe

106. I'm a passionate responsible cat owner and believe cats should be contained on an owner's property not only for their own safety but to protect our wildlife. More advertising and education is required. There should be no restriction on how many cats a person can own providing they are kept indoors with access to an enclosure or on a harness or in a pet carrier if taken out. There are several businesses in Perth who can design and build such enclosures if people can't DIY, therefore pamphlets or education days should be organised with these businesses and cat welfare groups to inform people. There also should IMO be some assistance given and/or discussion with vets regarding the high cost of sterilisation although if cats are contained then unwanted litters wouldn't be an issue. Cat containment is a massive problem. Getting people to comply will be challenging in all councils.

107. Cats should be allowed to roam, they are less dangerous to wildlife than humans which are allowed to roam everywhere... ridiculous only in nanny country Australia.

108. If cats are going to be banned from being outside then dogs should have to be kept in a leash at all times.

109. I feel that cat containment is a good thing and the laws for cats should be the same as for dogs. Cats should need to be contained to the owner's property and if leaving the owner's property then they need to be restrained on a leash or in a carrier or cat pram. I don't think there should be restrictions on the number of cats a person can own as long as they are kept in good health, sterilised, and on the owner's property

110. I agree with no 1 I disagree with no 2 as effective control? is too ambiguous. I disagree with increasing trapping in no 3 as the money would be better spent on part two of the question. Spend funds on at least one full time Ranger to enforce and educate re the existing Cat Laws and educate re Cat Containment Laws coming in. Maybe consider installing cat nets and fence raisers around small wildlife parks at maybe 7k per 200m small areas could be done especially those backing onto housing estates. Sadly people may cut it so upkeep costs could deter this option unless cameras were also installed. No 4 is badly worded 'within an enclosed area on the owners property'? Is the house considered enclosed or do you have to build a special stand alone enclosure? Rental property's that allow cats would have to have these enclosed areas raising rents or stopping them allowing cats on the property. No 5 a cat containment provision is not viable yet. People need to first abide by the existing Cat laws and Council needs cat registration to be 80%+ before educating the public on cat containment and then easing into it over at least a 2 years maybe probation period. Maybe if a person has a cat netted property or cat run checked by Council they are then allowed up to 4 free lifetime registrations for their cats. You'd need an amnesty period of a year to get all cats registered and a grandfather clause meaning they can get up to 10 cats lifetime/registered at a property as long as any leaving are NOT REPLACED till they get under the maximum 4 cats. Contained via a cat netted property or enclosure a condition for this leeway on cat numbers. Etc

111. I fully support any actions or change in legislation that ensures that cats are kept contained to the owner's property. I'm sick of having cats in my yard. It is unhygienic that they are spraying in my garden (and on my car!) and using my garden beds as a litter box. It is also irresponsible of the owner because they harm native wildlife, and harass and injure people's pets whilst they are on their property. I often have native birds in my garden and I have seen them chased off by a neighbour's cat. I also get a lot of geckos and would hate for the cats to kill one of them. I did a letter drop to make the owners aware but there has been no change. I think they simply don't care. It is also putting the cat at risk of injury or death because it frequently crosses the road to get to my property. In a previous house a neighbour's cat was hit and killed by a car because it too, wandered frequently. The owners even went away for the weekend and left it outside! It was horrible. I feel bad for these cats. The majority of the public has had enough of irresponsible pet owners. Cats and dogs must be contained to their owners' property, no wandering at any time of day. I strongly believe this needs to be put into legislation and should be enforced so it is taken seriously.

112. It is not possible to contain cats, and enclosures are too costly for most people. The risk of too many laws is that people will stop registering their pets to avoid fines, resulting in a lot of problems for the council. Unregistered cats will be more likely intact, leading to more strays and feral cats, more breeding in the wild and more damage to wildlife. Support rescues to get cats off the streets with funding. That is the best solution for wildlife.

113. I have no problem with keeping cats contained. I have 2 fully indoor cats that want for nothing. Dog owners generally don't let their dogs roam, they keep the animal contained for its safety. I think keeping cats contained is essential for the health and care of the animal. I also think that some cat owners will say it's cruel to keep them contained, however it's done with dogs, birds, rabbits, Guinea pigs etc. all pets are contained for their care and safety - cats are no different.

114. I support all of the proposed action.

115. I don't believe it the correct approach to contain cats to a property. This is unfair to the animal and will result in an increase in cat owners surrendering their cats. It is going to put on due pressure on the organisations dealing with unwanted pets, who are already struggling.

116. I fully support the aims of Responsible Cat Ownership Stirling.

117. I love all animals and living creatures however cats are a disturbance and destructive when not contained within their owners' property. As a domestic pet I feel they should have the same rules as dogs and shouldn't have the freedom to roam and destroy wildlife, defecate within others' properties, disturb dogs and risk being hit by cars.

118. Cat owners should take responsibility of keeping their cat indoors or in their house. We have cat urine all the time in our garage. It is becoming annoying, I don't have a cat but I have to smell cat urine everyday and my kids have allergy to cat hair. Please keep your cat indoor. Not everyone is a fan of any animals.

119. Cats should be required to be securely contained within their owners' property. The evidence is irrefutable that letting domestic cats roam free results in deleterious outcomes for native wildlife and the cats themselves. To encourage this, the city should offer a payment for cat owners wanting to construct enclosed outdoor areas for their cat/s. There should also be improved enforcement of existing laws; the registration, sterilisation and vaccination of all cats.

120. As an owner of two cats, we have decided to stop letting them outside as we've seen them kill many birds and wildlife. I can't even imagine the effect this is having long term on Stirling and WA in terms of birds and wildlife. Our eco system will soon be so out of balance. I think it's important that all cats are kept inside, but owners or incentivised to keep their cats entertained with cat runs, outdoor netting and other toys. Cats should only be outside on a leash. I wish I could let my cats wander the streets, but unfortunately if they do, it's at the expense of our native wildlife.

121. I'm just here to say it's fine the way it is and I don't agree with changing the Council laws on cat confinement.

122. I would like it to be necessary for cat owners to keep their cats on their own property during the day as well as night time. I have had to collect numerous dead birds in our yard that have been caught and half eaten by neighbours cats Thanks and regards

123. Cats should be contained to their homes from dusk to dawn 100% cats are a menace in our area killing birds that have taken residence in our trees, fighting and terrorizing us in the early hours of the morning, digging up soil in our tidy yard and leaving it all over the driveway. There's also been an issue with cats taking up residence in peoples ceilings in the area and kittens lit falling from eaves. It's not ok, as a city we need to catch up with the laws in other councils ASAP

124. While it is agreed that cats should not be in parks, bushlands and protected areas, I do not agree with the proposal to keep cats housed in an enclosed space on the property as the answer. Instead, I believe that it should be mandated that cats have not only ID and council tags, but also a bell on their collars. They should also be required to be inside at night time.

125. I am fortunate that many birds visit my little garden and bring me much joy. It distresses me at night to hear the screams of Tom cats fighting which makes me concerned for the safety of the local birdlife. I fully support any measures that can be put in place to protect our birdlife and the small animals that live in our urban reserves.

126. Cats in our area stalk and kill birds. I think they should be contained

127. I have personally witnessed a roaming pet cat from Sykes Ave, Innaloo, where I lived previously, kill three New Holland Honeyeater Chicks, pulling them from their nest in my LillyPilly hedge. It also killed several marbled geckos on my drive. I actually took one marbled gecko, with puncture wounds, to Native Animal Rescue in Malaga, but sadly it had to be euthanised. Pet cats should be inside pets, by law, to protect them and the native wildlife.

128. I think we need stronger laws in place when it comes to containing cats and more people patrolling the areas and actually enforcing the law. I also think that the bush land on Padstow St needs to be a cat free zone and also the private golf course in Karrinyup. I understand that half of the bush land has been purchased for development but feel that until there is any actual development on the land it should be made cat free as I often find cats running through the bush and can only imagine the amount of wildlife they are endangering. I think we need to make it a law that the only way a cat gets outside is if it is in one of those inside outside enclosures on their own property or via a lead or pet carrier and these laws will be enforced so that people actually obey them. I am sick of seeing cats running around the neighbourhood especially at night and nothing ever being done about it.

129. Cats should be contained indoors. I am sick of cats wandering into my backyard and killing or scaring off the native birds. They are a complete menace to wildlife. I don't understand why people think it is acceptable in this day and age to let cats wander the streets as they please.

130. I would like to see cat containment laws put in place. I personally experience regular disturbances from cats fighting and spraying my property. At the bare minimum, cats should be contained at night.

131. Cat act needs to be amended as proposed to help council enforce containment on owners. We are struggling in our street with a ridiculous amount of cats around and council seems effectively powerless at present.

132. It is in the interest of the community and it's environment to protect against damage incurred by cats. Cats make great pets, but need to be confined to the property of their owners

133. Cats need to be confined to the owners property, like any other animal. They need to be kept inside or contained overnight to prevent the killing of wildlife and contained to the owners property during the day. COS need to step up like other council and before some actual restrictions the idea that cats can roam anywhere except parks is completely ludicrous, how would that be possible to manage. Time for cat owners to step up and look after their animals by keeping them contained to their property.

134. There is a massive rat problem in the waterman's area . Please be aware of reducing cats being allowed to kill rats then the rat population will increase even more . The public won't want you to bait the rats so you won't have any control in the future . As we know rats carry bad virus so best not to allow this to happen . Old people love their cats and won't be able to keep kitty litter trays in their house (bending down and dealing with the poo etc and the cost of the kitty litter - it's expensive . So more cats will be abandoned in shelters etc . Please note that cats rarely get birds they catch rats and mice more . For the people who get upset about cats eating birds are the same people who eat chicken every day - another bird and I think are just as precious as a wild bird but somehow meat eaters think native birds are more important then chickens . A lot of people just don't like cats and it doesn't matter what you do they just don't want any around .

135. There must be tighter control of cats. The number wandering around our area at night near the Willows is quite distressing for the wildlife. We are required to register our dog and follow relevant signs. Why not cats

136. Cats need to be contained by their owners and not allowed into our wetlands where they are attacking birds and other small animals.

137. Having grown up in Inglewood and lived most of my adult life here, I have observed the increased number of roaming cats throughout the suburbs, including through urban bushland spaces and other people's homes beyond their owner's properties. I have also observed a dramatic decrease in the number and diversity of birds in the area. I understand there are numerous threats to native wildlife, however roaming pet cats are one of these threats, and one that could easily be reduced through strong cat containment laws. Myself and my parents who also live at a separate home in Inglewood both do our best to create native wildlife-friendly gardens with native plants for habitat and food sources, however our efforts are undermined by the roaming cats that are left to freely enter our yards day and night. We have all witnessed these roaming cats stalk and kill native wildlife including birds, reptiles and frogs, and we have all been repeatedly disturbed and unable to sleep due to loud fighting cats- I continue to have roaming cats getting into my ceiling at night and I hear them running about above my bedroom and hissing and fighting. How can this honestly be considered as responsible pet ownership when this is allowed to go on? There are no repercussions for the cat and the owner. Yet if a roaming pet dog attacked and killed wildlife or repeatedly barked loudly night after night it would be viewed as a problem and (hopefully) responded to stop the problem. This odd distinction between these 2 types of pets and how they are permitted to behave is illogical and frustrating. Owning a pet comes with responsibility for caring for that pet and ensuring that pet is not a problem in the community, a risk to health and safety or a nuisance to others. This is particularly frustrating for those of us who do not own any pet cats but are left to deal with other people's cats entering our properties as they like and using our yards as their litter trays- including our gardens and home vegetable patches we invest our time and energy into. I am seriously concerned about the health risks from cat faeces repeatedly left in our yards which is frequently not even buried and has such a strong sickening smell- not at all pleasant or safe for our families including young children who like to play and garden outside with us. These health risks including Toxoplasmosis are a real concern and I feel the council is not taking this seriously. I urge the council to take strong immediate action on this matter to implement cat containment laws that contain cats to their owner's private property.

138. The laws need to be changed to better define ownership of cats to include "if you feed and shelter cats on your property, then you claim ownership". Something along those lines.

139. Cat control laws are urgently needed to manage the free roaming Cat population in the Mt Lawley area

140. I am for cats being contained on owners' property. To stop the carnage of our wildlife and the safety of the cats themselves.

141. Cats pose an unacceptable risk to native wildlife, pose threats to themselves, and are a significant nuisance issue in the community. There are no justifiable reasons for allowing domestic cats to freely roam. The scientific, animal welfare, and social welfare improvements by mandating and enforcing cat containment are so overwhelming that there is no more time for debate and action must occur urgently. The CoS have received in writing formal submissions from myself and the RCOS community group to this effect outlining a wide base of community,

organisational, and scientific support/evidence for cat containment provisions and the urgent expansion of protected areas to cover all bushland areas.

142. As a former ratepayer who was haunted by the birds being slaughtered in my yard and little assistance by Rangers. I have taken a huge interest in this and the tree canopy issue that once again has raised its head with the city of Stirling. I believe the cat laws should be the same as dogs. Kept contained within one's own property or impounded or fined like a dog owner. Mandatory desexing no backyard breeding allowed and chipped and registered. A pet is a pet. Even a snake has to have a licence cats are a member to society unless controlled. I am glad the council is finally being proactive and addressing this long overdue matter and hope this will be phased in soon enough. My current council has exclusion zones in the hills and around flora fauna areas and don't know why others don't my partner's place in Bedfordale is a cat free zone unless in an exposure with strict criteria. This is more than acceptable. I will see how this plays out. Wildlife are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. I would also love to see the city cease use of 1080 baiting and start using more humane methods in our nature reserves.

143. I have had many issues with neighbourhood cats preying on my pets, fighting in my yard and scaring my kids at 2am, and cats soiling my kid's sandpit so there are concerns of toxoplasmosis infections transmitting.

Known owners of some of the cats frequenting my home have refused to keep the cats on their property because they are not legally required to do so. I have had to modify my property to try excluding someone else's pet from causing problems to my family and home. I support the proposed requirements for cats to be contained on the owner's property.

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