



PROPOSED CAT MANAGEMENT LOCAL LAW

Community Engagement Report

March 2020

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Introduction

The purpose of the engagement was to give notice and determine community support for a proposed new cat management local law.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 September 2019 Councillor Adin Lang raised a motion including the recommendation that the City of Fremantle initiate the adoption of a Cat Management Local Law. Council supported Councillor Lang's motion and made the following decision: *“Council support the initiation of the process of making a City of Fremantle Cat Management Local Law that is practical and effective and that aims to provide real improvements to environmental outcomes including creating the ability for council to declare certain natural areas from which cats are restricted and any other measures that prove effective preventing predation.”*

A proposed local law was drafted and approved for engagement in November 2019. As well as cat welfare provisions it proposed designating a number of natural areas as 'cat prohibited' areas, in order to better protect biodiversity:

- Booyeembara Park
- The Royal Fremantle Golf Course
- The Fremantle Public Golf Course
- Bathers Beach Reserve
- Sir Frederick Samson Park
- Cantonment Hill
- Leighton Beach Reserve
- Port Beach Reserve
- Rocky Bay Reserve
- North Fremantle Foreshore Reserve (including Prawn Bay)
- South Beach Reserve
- Hollis Park, Sandown Park and any other land within the boundary of the former South Fremantle landfill site.

Community Engagement

Submissions were invited on the City's intent to adopt the local law (as proposed) and engagement was also an opportunity to reinforce existing principles of responsible cat ownership in suburbs potentially affected.

Methods used were:

- Online submission via My Say Freo between 21 Nov 2019 and 20 Mar 2020; and
- Two drop-in information sessions on Saturday 7 Dec 8:30-10:30am, one at Booyeembara Park and one at Point Direction Reserve.

The engagement period was extended from 28 Jan to 20 Mar after an error was found in the initial proposed local law. DLGSC determined the amendment constituted a significant change, and so the updated document was re-advertised for an extended period.

Awareness and promotion of the engagement was undertaken via:

- Newspaper advert in Fremantle Herald in 23 Nov, 7 Dec & 21 Dec 2019, 7 Mar 2020.
- My Say Freo e-newsletter November, December and February 2020.
- Post on City's facebook page and twitter account.

- An email notifying the convenors of the City's precinct groups.

The City will also advertise the adoption of the local law if Council decides to adopt it.

Findings

From 21 November 2019 to 19 March 2020 the My Say Freo page was visited by 677 people. There were 78 submissions.

Key findings:

- 56 people stated support for the proposed local law, and an additional 12 supported the principle of restricting cat movements or an extension of the proposal.
- In total, 28 people wanted the local law to introduce further restrictions. This included suggestions that cats should be prohibited from roaming outside of their property altogether, that night curfews should be applied, and suggestions of other places to include in the cat prohibited areas.
- 3 people stated they did not support the proposed local law. The reasons for this included a belief that this would duplicate existing legislation, and that the decision should be up to the residents.

My Say Freo

There were a total of 78 submissions from 76 people. 9 respondents were current cat owners within the City of Fremantle, with the majority interested community members (68) and 5 self-described as 'other'. Respondents could select more than one category.

In total 68 submitters supported the proposal or the principle of restricting movement of cats. 28 respondents stated they wanted the local law to impose further restrictions in some way.

Some of the key themes that emerged included:

- Cats should be prevented from freely roaming:
 - Anywhere outside their property (13)
 - At night/introduce a curfew (8)
 - In all parks/reserves or public spaces (6)
 - In other specific places, including Clontarf Hill (3), Fremantle College bushland, Hilton reserve, Fishing Boat Harbour, Rottnest Island, Salentina Ridge and Booyeembara Park (all 1).
- 12 people mentioned their own/other's gardens and the broader neighbourhood and associated biodiversity being threatened by cats.
- 9 people pointed out requirements for dogs are stricter and believe these should apply to cats.
- 6 people commented on enforcement and resources for implementation.
- 5 people mentioned education either in place of or supplementary to the proposed local law if adopted, including wider community education on cat containment and the release of tracking devices and cat roaming maps.

Three submitters stated they did not support the proposal. One submitter stated this would be a duplication of existing legislation and two stated that the City should trust residents to do as they see fit. One of these submitters stated that keeping cats fed and engaged at home would prevent them from hunting.

A number of suggestions were made regarding support for cat owners if the law was adopted:

- Subsidies for cat fence toppers.

- Grants for people to construct 'cat runs' at home.
- Installing an enclosed outdoor community cat gymnasium.
- Need to consider the financial implication for owners (e.g. who can't afford netting).

Please see the Appendix to read all comments in full.

Submissions came from the following suburbs:

Suburb	Number of submitters
Fremantle	15
White Gum Valley, South Fremantle	11
Hilton	10
Beaconsfield	7
Hamilton Hill	6
North Fremantle	4
Samson, North Perth	2
Coolbellup, Bicton, Kardinya, Huntingdale, Coolbinia, Munster, East Fremantle, Doubleview, Aveley, Willagee	1 each

Information sessions

Information sessions were held on Saturday December 7 from 8:30-10:30am at Booyeembara Park in White Gum Valley and Point Direction Reserve in North Fremantle. There were a total of four attendants across all information sessions. All participants supported better control of cats in principle. One attendee believed that similar to dogs, cats shouldn't be allowed to roam outside of their property.

Next Steps

All submissions will be considered by Council who will make a decision on the adoption of the local law.

Appendix: Submissions

Month	Please share your feedback on the proposed local law
November 2019	I am supportive of the proposed local law. I have observed kittens around the skate facility at Boo Park. Anything that increases control of cats in our natural areas is needed. Too many people let their cats roam freely.
November 2019	The same rules that prohibit dogs from wandering at large should be applied to cats
November 2019	I agree with the proposed law. Having proposed cat prohibited areas where catching will occur will go a long way to reducing the cats breeding and feeding in public places.
November 2019	re: cats. they are hyper-predatory killing machines - the proposal is good. go for it.
November 2019	<p>Great to see an increase in the control of cats in our environment. The damage that these creatures do to native wildlife is incredible. I'd highly recommend a trip to Karakamia in Chidlow to see just how plentiful our local marsupials can be without feral predation.</p> <p>I think it would be interesting to know what would happen with unregistered cats. Presumably they'd be sent to a shelter and/or put down?</p>
November 2019	Just like dogs if they are on a lead they should be allowed. If not on a lead not allowed. Plenty of people are teaching their cats to walk on leads.
November 2019	<p>Can we please have the restriction areas increased to other Parks / Reserves in the City of Fremantle. I am a Cat owner and understand the responsibility of trying to minimize their impact on the local fauna.</p> <p>Why are these laws being implemented in park and recreation areas around most of the City of Fremantle but the suburb with the second highest number of registered Cats (Beaconsfields) has no restricted parks...</p> <p>These new laws should at least be implemented at parts of Hilton Reserve and the small park on the Beaconsfield ridge located, opposite Roscommon Cr which is next to a natural wildlife area where we have many local birds nest over Spring.</p> <p>Like most Cat owners I have been in situations where our Cat has unfortunately brought back native wildlife into the house, fortunately we were able to release the bird but we have since tried to put in place measures to prevent this from happening again.</p> <p>Can the number of parks selected for this initiative please be reviewed and increased. Our local wildlife comes under enough</p>

	<p>stresses as higher density developments increase, reducing the amount of suitable habitat available to them.</p> <p>At the very least we should be looking to implement these new Cat Management laws in a minimum of 2 reserves per suburb, this still leaves plenty of park areas available without the restriction.</p> <p>Cat and Dog owners need to be more responsible or pay the consequences of leaving their pets roam free uncontrolled and our local council needs to do more to protect the local fauna. This is a start in the right direction but it doesn't go far enough.</p>
November 2019	I think this new local law is a good start however cats should not be allowed to roam about at night anywhere. They kill our precious native birds.
November 2019	I think it's a terrific idea and I wish there was more patrolling and capturing of uncollared (without bells to alert birds) cats!
November 2019	I am wondering why Clontarf Hill is not on this map? I wish to propose that Clontarf Hill also be included.
November 2019	How are you going to police this cat law, currently, there are dogs every day on the non dog beach, but where are the rangers I've seen 4 in 24 years at Leighton Beach. If you don't have the rangers to police these areas, are you going to pull them out of thin air to police the cat laws. You are really not serious about this issue, of destruction & killing of wildlife by cats. If I take a dog out on a lead in the, morning, lunch time, sunset & the evening I see cats, roaming without bells, you need to make it law that all cats have a collar with 3 bells, not that this helps anyway
November 2019	I fully support the move by Council to manage cats in all parts of the city and especially in the designated areas. Cats are so dangerous to native animals, birds and reptiles. Cat owners should face substantial fines which should be wholly channeled to conservation activities.
November 2019	Excellent! Cats kept as domestic pets (just like dogs) should be prohibited in certain areas. I'd like to see this law rolled out to all public areas within councils and potentially private properties. At the moment, there are no laws that inhibit cats from roaming.
November 2019	I think this is a great idea and should be spread across other suburbs
November 2019	Excellent step to protect native wildlife. Even stricter would be better to prevent any night time wandering but this is a good step.
November 2019	My concern is that it is a disincentive for people to register their cats. It punishes those who do the right thing (partially) by registering their cars. In order to make a real difference as is being done successfully overseas, TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) is something that has yet to be adopted or even trialled in WA. Would love to see an innovative council like Freo be the first. Wandering and feral cats are a problem but not nearly as big a problem as the humans who have caused it.

November 2019	As a people that live near these spaces with cats there is no way to control a wondering animal and their natural instincts. To make sure they don't hurt wildlife you feed them and keep them engaged at home so that they don't need to hunt. The most the city of freeo should do is make sure the cats are registered and are desexed. Limiting the number of cats a house hold has is also unreasonable as multiple people may live together with multiple cats. You should trust the residents of the city of freeo to do as they see fit.
November 2019	I'm in favour of any measures which will protect small animal and bird life. I have been a cat owner.
November 2019	I completely support anything that will restrict the movement of cats and help I price our native wildlife. Whilst this nowhere near enough it is still a step in the right direction and I congratulate the Fremantle council for their work in this matter.
November 2019	I think the proposed law is a start but not enough. I think all cats should be kept indoors / in a cat enclosure in your yard/ or on leash. There is no way to keep cats out of your prohibited areas before they may have already killed native animals. I am tired of neighborhood cats pooping/marking in my garden and running loose on my property. It's illegal for dogs and their owners to do this ... why is it alright for cats? I have seen dead birds ripped to shreds near our house the cats do harm outside of your proposed areas. Please have cat owners be as responsible as you require dog owners to be. They should be required to pick up their cats poop and have their animals under their control otherwise cats should not be let out to just roam all day.
November 2019	I am definitely in favour of this! We have few enough areas for wildlife as it is, cats should be kept inside, in a run, or on a leash.
November 2019	This is a much needed initiative that evidence shows will strongly contribute towards protection of native wildlife. I would support the widespread implementation of this, as well as laws even stricter on cat ownership and where cats are prohibited. Congratulations for the progress so far.
November 2019	Great idea, can you also include Clontarf Hill please
November 2019	These proposed laws don't go far enough. They should apply to any cat found outside of the owners premises. Dog owners aren't allowed to let dogs roam the streets or other peoples back yards, why are cat owners allowed to do so? Cats also kill far more native wildlife than dogs do. I have lots of different cats wandering though my backyard at dawn and dusk multiple times a week. None have bells, some have collars. All are on the prowl for wildlife. It's a disgrace on both the owners and the council allowing it.
November 2019	This is a great idea and one that I wholeheartedly support. Thanks City if Fremantle for proposing this.
November 2019	Excellent idea
November	Please also control dogs, people are so selfish about letting dogs off lead and out of eye sight. Seriously in south beach park ALL

2019	the time there are dog owners without care for the signs and the place smells bad! Dog owners for example allow dogs off leash in boo park and the wetland vegetation, which keeps trying to grow is repeatedly destroyed by dogs dragging through the wateredge. I don't usually contact the city because I think you are quite impolite in the way you communicate.
November 2019	As a veterinarian, conservation scientist and animal welfare policy manager, I applaud Fremantle Council for proposing this cat management local law to protect cats and wildlife and promote responsible cat ownership. I would also highly recommend that the introduction of such local laws be accompanied by community education about cat containment. There are existing resources Fremantle Council could draw upon for example the RSPCA Australia 'How can I keep my cat happy & safe at home' guide and RSPCA VIC/Zoos Victoria Safe Cats, Safe Wildlife campaign.
November 2019	Cats should be prohibited outside or only kept in enclosure. This law is not strict enough. How are you going to prevent them from not entering the cat free zones?
November 2019	I am not sure how a management plan that restricts cats in some areas is going to work. I believe that the only way to reduce the impact of cats is to licence them in the first instance and then enforced sterilisation if their impact isnt reduced. I understand that this may impact on elderly people - I'm am relatively elderly myself - who may see their cat as their companion but we really need to start turning the titanic of community attitudes on this one. I may be a little facetious on this one but no one would want to see fremantle residents having crocodiles as pets, and while cats mightn't be able to kill people, they can kill local fauna and they can cause insomnia with their middle of the night calling. I encourage the council to take firm steps to regulate cats in the city, with the view to limiting their ownership to residents who control their cats behaviour and breeding tightly.
November 2019	Cats should not be allowed to roam in public spaces unless under control similar to a dog. All parks should be cat free, with owners fined if their cat is found to be roaming. If this law is enforced by rangers, then this is going to take rangers aware from more important environmental day to day activities. If additional resources are to be employed, then prior to implementation this needs to be better outlined to the rate payers on how it will be funded and what other services will be reduced to pay for this service. If this law is not enforced, then the law is worth nothing!
November 2019	Yes we need to stop domestic cats (and feral) from killing millions of insects, lizards, frogs and birds etc, every year
November 2019	It is fantastic that you wish to prohibit cats in certain areas. However, have you asked why cat owners let their cats out to roam? Could it be that they wish to provide their feline with some exercise. Can we please these locals with installing an enclosed outdoor cat gymnasium for cats to meet and exercise during the day. It would increase social capital amongst the cat loving community and have wellbeing benefits for both cat owners and the general public.
November 2019	I support this initiative. Anything that helps reduce the impact of cat predation on our native fauna is a step in the right direction. This initiative also has significant potential to educate the public on predation impacts, ways to manage cats better and hopefully to discourage ownership altogether.

November 2019	I want to thank the City of Fremantle for protecting wild life but also protecting owners of cats who don't stray into the designated areas from vigilante like behaviour if restriction was the boundary of the home where the cat lives. Our cat lives in two homes, ours and our neighbours. He is our cat, 8 years old, but started spending a lot of time next door when their old dog died. He is a comfort to them and they love him as we do. Imagine his fate if the City had ruled all cats must be retained on their property. He has no ability to catch birds, he cant even climb trees. To accommodate this restricted ability our neighbours cut a hole in their fence. Such is the joy this cat shares. Thanks once again City of Fremantle for not going too far or bowing to excessive demand.
November 2019	Domestic cats pose one of the most significant risks to native wildlife. They should be widely prohibited. This proposal to restrict them from a few designated areas is good but very conservative.
November 2019	Perhaps a warning and some info on how to keep your cat closer to home/at home. Some may not be able to afford to build a netting for their property to their cat in and furthermore, many cats who have been outdoors most of their life won't enjoy being enclosed. Cats will roam.
November 2019	If, as seems to be the case, that cats in Fremantle need to be registered, as per dogs, what will happen to non-registered cats caught in the prohibited areas? I imagine retention in the Fremantle pound and if not claimed within a certain period they'd be destroyed would be appropriate. Any moves to limit the damage to our native wildlife caused by wandering cats, especially at night time, is a good thing. In my view, as per with dogs, cats should be required to be kept within the property boundaries of their owner day & night, unless on a lead (and yes, I have seen cat owners 'walking' their cats).If dogs must be kept within property boundaries, so should cats.
November 2019	I welcome any law to control cats. I think they should have to be registered, kept indoors or in a cat cage.
November 2019	Support the proposed law
November 2019	Fully support this proposal. In fact I wish more was done to check up on cat ownership and steralisation. The randy cat calling in the evenings suggest they were never steralised in the streets near me.
November 2019	Go ahead with laws. Too many cats left to roam leading to excess kittens & therefore feral cats. This only brings Fremantle into line with other shires
November 2019	I certainly support a City of Fremantle Cat Management Local Law. In fact, I would prefer a 24-hour cat curfew, requiring residents to keep cats within their property at all times.
November 2019	It is a good start but it seems to me that the prohibited areas are too small. Looking at the map they cover only a tiny percentage of the city.

<p>November 2019</p>	<p>'It's a start to a policy, however it doesn't go nearly far enough. I'm not convinced that the late night, quiet and evasive nature of cats will be easy to detect in restricted areas. A few may be picked up but majority I believe would go through undetected.</p> <p>What ultimately is required is the same laws as those applied to dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always behind closed gates - so no free ranging on streets - Always on leads if out walking <p>If not the above then the inclusion of cat traps in the restricted zones to help ensure cats out and about do get picked up.</p> <p>However there is also wildlife in many backyards and people who don't have cats should have the ability to choose to have a cat free garden, to choose to have an australian bird and frog attracting garden which is not at threat of being killed by neighbours' cats.</p> <p>We put leads on dogs to protect people and wildlife, cats are a far greater threat to our sensitive environment currently under huge strain.</p>
<p>November 2019</p>	<p>I'm a cat owner and lover but this is a no brainer. I fully support the ban on cats in conservation reserves.</p>
<p>November 2019</p>	<p>The potential impact of domestic cats on wildlife is the subject of growing local, state, federal and international interest and concern.</p> <p>Although killing behaviour among domestic cats varies widely, it is estimated that a domesticated cat would kill, on average >70 animals annually.</p> <p>Managing the effects of domestic cats on our local wildlife is a challenge and I believe that the adoption of the City of Fremantle Cat Management Local Law would assist in promoting more accountability for pet owners and encourage the to take responsibility of their pet's potential kill behaviour. Doing so will result in both an improvement to cat welfare and a reduction to wildlife impacts.</p>
<p>November 2019</p>	<p>I believe that we should control the movement of domestic cats and seek to eradicate feral cats from our local environments. I planted a bird friendly garden which I love, but unfortunately so do the neighbourhood cats- as their private game park! I appreciate the right to have pets but with that should come responsibility to keep them on your own property and not allow them to hunt and roam. Making the designated sites for the enactment of the cat regulations is a good start. I wish controls and fines were stronger.</p>

<p>December 2019</p>	<p>I am in support of any efforts to reduce cat numbers in local reserves as I am aware how far they travel at night when hunting and I am aware They fight, spread diseases like feline HIV And kill many small animals like geckos birds skinks etc. in an effort to educate the community maybe the city of Freo could distribute the gps data on how far cats travel at night. https://mashable.com/2016/05/26/cat-roam-maps/ I keep my cat inside the house except for about 1-2 hrs a day!</p>
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>I fully support the proposed cat managment local law. I feel they are not far reaching enough. Cat wandering should be further discouraged. Possibly a night curfew? Also non registration should be prosecuted, I believe I have never seen a cat with a registration tag - and according to the Act from 1 November 2013, "owners of cats (over the age of 6 months) must ensure they have their feline pets: Micro-chipped, wearing a collar and registration tags - for identification purposes if the animal becomes lost or injured. Sterilised – unless being used for breeding purposes by an approved breeder. Registered – with their local council. " The damage that wandering cats do to wildlife and the nuisance caused by upsetting other domestic pets e.g. indoor cats, dogs, birds is cause for much disturbance to community members trying to do the right thing.</p>
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>I think this is a great step forward in protecting some of the natural wildlife from wandering hunting cats, and making cats owners more accountable for the habits of their cats. Well done City of Fremantle. Great start, hopefully it could go further in the future in protecting all of our natural areas, and lets face it all our urban streets and gardens are full of birds and geckos and the likes.</p> <p>I recently had a cat jump on my front verandah the other night with a lovely willy wagtail dead in its mouth, I was very upset and had seen this cat around my place before. My garden is full of birds everyday, so hopefully in the future we can go further to prohibit cats being on others' property and killing beautiful wildlife.</p> <p>But well done, hold out to all those cat lovers out there who say their lovely little "Polly" doesn't ever kill anything, and its too hard/cruel to keep my cat in, and make these cat lovers more accountable and try to be bird lovers as well. Good luck, and I might be investing in a cat trap myself soon.</p>
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>I think the proposed law is a great idea. While I'm a cat lover and I have one myself, I don't think cats should roam free all over the place, particularly not at night. I'd also support laws to make it mandatory to keep cats locked inside at night, or even more often. That way the birds, small mammals and other natives are better protected.</p>
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>I agree with this proposal</p>
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>You are forgetting areas which also contain native wildlife, such as bush area next to South Fremantle High School (now Fremantle College). Also Hilton Reserve, and especially on Clontarf Hill. Also around the Fishing Boat Harbour, Success Harbour seems to have feral cat populations.</p>

	I am not sure if Rottneest Island falls under Fremantle, or if it still has a problem with cats, but that maybe added. In fact any park areas should really be added, as birds/wildlife rely on these areas, amongst the urban sprawl.
December 2019	I support the strongest level of local provisions to protect wildlife within the Fremantle area from domestic cats.
December 2019	I agree with the council's proposed local law that will impose stricter conditions on the owners of wandering cats. If anything I would like the laws strengthened to include cats found in any public space in Fremantle. I have a dog that I am required to keep contained to my own property, I see no reason why cat owners should be allowed to let their animals wander. As an environmental scientist and former natural resource manager, I am fully aware of the devastation domestic cats have on local wildlife.
December 2019	I would love to let my cat outside unsupervised but he has discovered he can jump the fence. Would council consider subsidizing cat fence toppers to keep them safely in our own yards if this is passed? I also have a dog and no longer let him use it in order to keep the cat in. Would love a bit of financial assistance to keep pets safe and happy while doing the right thing for the community. Thanks
December 2019	Great initiative! as much as i love cats, i love wildlife more. Small reptiles, insects and birds are essential for healthy ecosystems - cats kill all of these. they are voracious hunters, sometimes without even their owners knowing. Please ban cats from any area of bush.
December 2019	Thank you for proposing cat prohibited areas. This is long overdue to protect declining wildlife. I would like to even go as far as requesting people to keep their cats indoors during the night. No other pets are roaming the streets at night, entering other people's gardens where they kill wildlife and leaving faeces. I hope the cat trapping in the proposed cat prohibited areas will be undertaken often and compliance policed. Thank you.
December 2019	I fully support this and would love for even more restrictions for cat owners. I am tired of cats killing the native wildlife in and around my yard.
December 2019	My interest in this matter comes mainly from a wildlife perspective, however, the by-law could also have important welfare management implications for the cats themselves. Suburban environments are important areas for biodiversity, supporting large numbers of threatened species. Yet cats are ubiquitously distributed in these environments and are having a significant impact on native fauna. According to a new book "Cats in Australia: companion and killer" (Woinarski, Legge & Dickman, 2019), each pet cat kills an average of 75 animals per year. With an estimated 4 million pet cats in Australia, the cumulative predator-induced effects on wildlife arising from cats are of concern. Cats not only directly impact wildlife through predation, but can change the behaviour

of the prey species, causing fear and a reduction in parental care (Greenwell 2019).

I have seen first hand, the devastating impacts that can arise from a single, free-roaming cat. Last year, a threatened seabird colony of Fairy Terns in Mandurah was subject to persistent incursions at night by a desexed cat over several nights, which led to the death of six adults, at least 40 chicks, and ultimately, the abandonment of 111 nests. I have attached a copy of the published findings for your information.

In direct response to this event, the City of Mandurah formed a cat working group and their new local cat by-law was passed unanimously by city councillors. I have attached a link to the by-law for your information (Page 116 onwards: <https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/-/media/Files/CoM/City-and-Council/Council/Council-and-Committee-Meetings/Agendas-and-Minutes/2019/Council/Council-Meeting-Agenda-Jul-23.pdf>). In addition to restricting cats from important biodiversity conservation areas, the by-law provides legislative powers with respect to nuisance cats (i.e. the potential confinement of cats for up to 28 days).

Such regulation has strong merit and would be widely supported in the community, given the problem that we are seeing in relation to free-roaming cats. For context, my neighbour's cats are free to come and go from my yard, use it as a toilet, stalk birds and reptiles in my native, bird-attracting garden etc, and there is nothing I can do about it. The City of Mandurah has included such a rule that would allow notices to be issued to the owners of cats who are causing a nuisance. While traps can be loaned to residents where cats are causing a nuisance, their use is limited to 18:00 to 08:00 and relies on the cat entering a trap. Not all cats are trappable and if a cat has been trapped previously, it is unlikely to re-enter a trap in the future.

Targeted education programs that highlight the welfare benefits that arise from restricting pet cat movement and encourage wildlife-friendly cat husbandry, implemented at community- and state-levels, could be used to drive change in attitude and behaviour among cat owners.

Best regards,



January 2020

Is this really required ? There are already cat laws in place and an additional law seems like unnecessary overkill and a waste of tax payer funds for something that already exists in other pieces of legislation.
I do not support the proposed local law

January 2020

I hate it this proposed new law. We live in suburbia, not a national park. I agree with keeping cars out of national parks and rural areas, but not in towns and suburbia. I think 'man' has caused more problems to nature in our suburban townships than animals. Please stop telling us all what to do. First the dogs on leads in Samson Park , now this. Fed up as a resident - would prefer Council to look at making FREMANTLE a more safer, inclusive, and prosperous place to live. Stop being a nanny council!

January 2020	I am greatly in favour of this law. A device is available for owners to track their cat's movements, and I would like the council to run a study. Most owners would be surprised at how far their cats can roam and what they get up to. I think this would be very educational for owners and lead to more cats being kept in at night. The results could be collated and shown on the council website.
January 2020	I am supportive of this proposal and any measure to keep cats out of our natural areas. Critically, this Local Law must be accompanied with a substantial and targeted trapping effort in those reserves for it to actually have any notable impact. A holistic control program for foxes and rabbits should be undertaken in tandem with any cat trapping, to mitigate the effects of mesopredator release (i.e. remove cats from a reserve and foxes become more prolific, or remove cats and rabbit population increases). Perhaps offering grants for people to construct 'cat runs' at home would be a useful supporting measure.
February 2020	I'm fully in favour of this proposal. However, I am concerned about its implementation. I say this as the current Cat Law 2011 doesn't appear to be implemented very well in my locale. I never see cats with collars and tags, indicating that they have been registered, sterilised and desexed. From the noise at night it suggests they aren't desexed! Neither are they declawed, as is apparent from the prey they catch, eg, parrots!
February 2020	I think it's appropriate to act to protect our local and native wildlife. We know that cats are a severe threat to native fauna, and I am very supportive of efforts to curtail their ability to access areas that support native wildlife
February 2020	There should be a far greater area of cat exclusions than those proposed. If not total exclusion, then a restriction of the number of cats per residence. In Delamere Lane, Beaconsfield we believe there are 10 cats within a 30-metre radius of our home. We used to have an abundance of small birds visit our yard - no longer. We are absolutely convinced the presence of cats is the reason for the absence of birds.
February 2020	I support this proposed local law. I am most familiar with Booyeembara Park and this Park would greatly benefit from keeping cats out. They are currently often seen roaming in this reserve that is trying to re-establish an endangered ecosystem - tuart woodland. Small reptiles are repopulating the reserve and various bush and wetland birds are now successfully breeding in the Park so need protection from the cat.
February 2020	I fully support the proposed Cat Management process and think it should apply to all cats in all areas not registered or not at their registered home address.
February 2020	I believe all cats once they have left the confines of their owner's home represent a significant threat to our native wildlife, hence any proposed increased cat management is welcomed, particularly in parks and bush reserves where they are most likely to do the most damage to our already threatened wildlife. From discussions I've had, including recently with cat owners, I continue to be gobsmacked at the level of ignorance and denial that cat owners display when they try to convince me that their cats do not kill wildlife, albeit after they've freely admitted their cats are free to roam at night! Cats are the world's most efficient and ruthless hunters and killers. Cute and cuddly (when they choose to be) they may be fireside in someone's home, but beyond those four

	walls, the cutest of them becomes a predator.
February 2020	I am all for trying to keep cats out of parks and bushland, and even neighbours back yards! We have not have a cat but have neighbours cats killing small birds in our yard. Also, I regularly see cats exiting from Boo Park in the very early morning.
March 2020	it should be the whole of Fremantle. When we had a cat it was locked up every night and not allowed to roam. My house at the moment is frequented by about 6 different cats that wander through my premises at night and use my garden as the local toilet!! I think the council should capture any cat that is roaming at night and prosecute their irresponsible owners.
March 2020	I think this is great, and about time we see laws like this come into place to protect our native species. Would love to see fines for any cats outside at night!
March 2020	<p>Please see the attached file for my feedback, thank you.</p> <p>I have reviewed the proposed changes to local law relating to cats in the City of Fremantle. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. The policy makes an excellent beginning. I applaud having cat-free zones. I have observed domestic cats hunting wildlife at Booyeembara Park in broad daylight. Allowing these animals to be trapped will be an asset to the wildlife at Booyeembara Park and assist in meeting the City of Fremantle’s Land and Nature targets of increasing biodiversity. I would like the new local laws to consider private backyards as assets contributing to biodiversity in the City of Fremantle also – not just public parklands. As a Fremantle resident I feel the changes to the cat policy do not go far enough. I site several examples as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allowing Cats to Roam – the City of Fremantle website states that “...Most people are aware that cats should be brought in during the evening to reduce hunting...” Most cat owners may be aware of this but there are no guidelines or subsequent penalty for letting cats roam at night. An example of how this impacts our community is my neighbours let their cats roam freely at night and they enter my property and hunt (and eat live) the native frogs and fish living in my pond. There is nothing I can do according to City of Fremantle laws about this and I now have no more native frogs or fish in my pond and don’t see any small birds around my property. 2. Removal of Cat Excrement – the City of Fremantle website states that there are \$100 fines for dog owners who don’t manage their dog excrement. This should be the same for cat owners also. An example of how this impacts our community is my neighbours let their cats roam and they come into my courtyard and leave excrement. According to City of Fremantle laws there is nothing I can do about this situation, unless the animal is a dog. 3. Cats as a Health and Safety Risk – the City of Fremantle website has a section on dog attacks and writes about dogs as though they are a potential danger in our community, but not cats. According to reporting in ABC news (https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-29/cat-attack-warning-after-stray-savages-fremantle-woman/10562828) a Fremantle resident spent three days in hospital following a cat attack. Cats pose a significant health and safety risk to local

Fremantle residents, which is not addressed adequately by the City of Fremantle.

4. **Cats as a Nuisance** – The City of Fremantle website has a lengthy section on dogs barking as a nuisance but no comparable information for cats as a nuisance. Although cats are inherently quiet animals, they do fight and cat call, especially during the night. An example of how this impacts our community is that I am regularly woken up at night by cats fighting near my house as the owners of the cats have allowed them to roam freely at night.
5. **Cats as an Ecological Hazard** – the City of Fremantle website has a section on “One Planet – Sustainability – Land and Nature”. The current policies around cats are not in keeping with the city’s stated corporate and community targets which both state “...increasing levels of biodiversity...” Allowing cats to roam freely does not support these targets. Further, the City of Fremantle website link to “feral animal control” writes at length about feral rabbits, with no mention of feral cats. Feral cats live in Fremantle and feral cats are a specific issue that needs to be addressed.

March 2020 File attached.

I applaud the City of Fremantle for proposing a law to further control cats. Like their feral counterparts, domestic or stray cats take a variety of prey. Despite access to human-derived foods, cats in urban environments will routinely prey on small mammals and birds, and this predatory behaviour has contributed to the decline of urban populations of naïve species such as bandicoots. Cat prohibited areas, if effectively managed, have the potential to improve the conservation values of the Fremantle urban environment. ‘Effectively managed’ is the key criterion in this respect. I therefore ask the following:

- 1) What additional resources will be used to police the cat prohibited areas?
- 2) If a domestic cat is caught repeatedly, is there an option to destroy the animal?
- 3) Will the data on trapping effort and trapping outcomes be available for public scrutiny?

In addition, I feel that the benefit of the cat prohibited areas will be undermined if their creation is not coupled to stronger control of the large domestic pool of cats in the surrounding suburbs. Periodically removing several cats from a given protected area will presumably provide new opportunities for surrounding domestic or stray cats to expand their home range. In light of this I propose the following:

- 1) Introduce a cat curfew (at least in the streets surrounding each cat prohibited area but more broadly would be most effective) – this would reduce the probability of new domestic or stray cats expanding their home range into the prohibited area and preying on wildlife.
- 2) Introduce a no cat buffer around the cat prohibited areas. This could be a staged policy stating that no new cats can be kept in the streets surrounding each cat prohibited area.
- 3) Toughen the current laws around domestic and stray cats. At present we are obliged to accept cats roaming the neighbourhood, especially at night. We wear the consequences of finding the remnants of a cat’s kill even if it is a

neighbour's cat. I am aware of the current trapping policy for nuisance cats but I feel that many residents would be reluctant to hire a trap and then convey the trapped cat to the Cat Management Facility.

The proposed cat prohibited areas are a step in the right direction. However, I feel there is a reluctance to tackle the broader problem of wildlife predation by domestic cats. I suggest that the City of Fremantle uses cat management as an opportunity to implement progressive policy on conservation management in an urban environment.

March 2020 .I fully support this Cat Management Proposal.
I support all measures that can better protect our biodiversity.
I witness daily in our neighbourhood the destruction that cats cause.
I have seen them hunting and killing many native creatures- birds, geckos, lizards, dragonflies, frogs etc

March 2020 In my area in Fremantle we have troublesome cats on our property at all hours of day and night defecating in the garden and hunting and killing the birds, frogs etc. There don't seem to be any responsible cat owners. I would like to see cat owners keeping their cats on their own property and hopefully stopping them from killing the native wildlife.
In as much as these proposals are a small step in this direction I fully support them and would urge the council to take further measures too to bring the cat problem under control.
Thank you