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## **1. PREAMBLE**

### **1.1 Background**

The City of Holdfast Bay (the Council) recognises that while many residents enjoy the pleasures of cat ownership there are times when cats cause problems in the community and require a cat management response. These times would be reduced by increased responsibility by cat owners and intervention by Council.

Legislative framework for cat management is set out in Part 7 of the *Dog & Cat Management Act 1995*.

The Council's Cat By-law came into operation on 7 September 2009.

### **1.2 Purpose**

This Policy describes the Council's position with regard to the management of cats within the municipality.

### **1.3 Scope**

Due to the absence of any funding mechanisms in the legislation, the Council's involvement in cat management is limited to the following:

- a. Provision of cat traps;
- b. Provision of educational/promotional information on responsible cat ownership generally and to neighbourhoods experiencing cat related problems;
- c. Working in partnership with Cats Assistance to Sterilize (C.A.T.S) or other similar organisations; and
- d. Working with community members.

### **1.4 Definitions**

There are no specific definitions associated with this policy.

### **1.5 Strategic Reference**

# CAT MANAGEMENT POLICY

Environment: Protecting Biodiversity

Culture: Providing customer-centred services

Culture: Supporting excellent, efficient operations

## 2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Where an excessive number of cats associated with a property are causing offensive conditions to the extent it is assessed as being in an insanitary condition under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*, the Council's Environmental Health Officers will take the necessary steps to have the owner or occupier of the property reduce or remove the insanitary conditions.
- 2.2 Where appropriate, Council will co-operate with agencies such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Animal Welfare League (AWL) to deal with specific cat related problems.
- 2.3 The Cat By-law will be policed primarily by education, negotiation and warning. Secondary enforcement will come from the issue of Expiation Notices, prosecution, and the issue of Requirement Notices under the By-law.
- 2.4 Cats are to be identified in the manner stipulated in the Regulations under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.
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- 2.5 To cater for problems people might have where they are already keeping numbers of cats in excess of the limit, the limit does not apply to cats already being kept on premises when the By-law was introduced - 7 September 2009. However, it will apply if new cats are brought onto the premises and the limit is exceeded.

## 3. REFERENCES

### 3.1 Legislation

- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*

### 3.2 Other References

- *By-law No 6 - Cats*