



C25/292 Proposed City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025

Mr M Emery, Head of Community Safety
Ms C Newman, Head of Governance



City of
Melville

C25/292 Proposed City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025

Purpose:

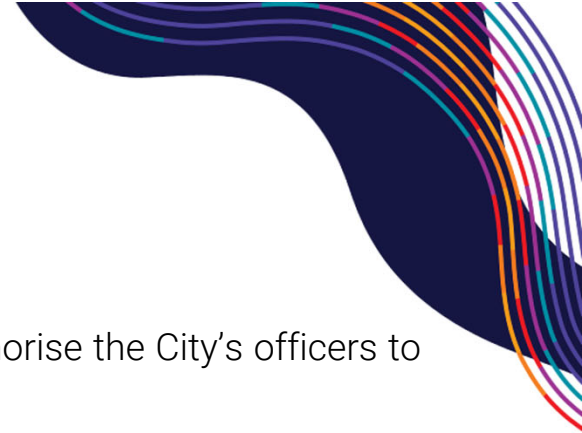
This report seeks Council to make the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025, and authorise the City's officers to undertake relevant statutory process to implement the law

Key Points:

- Council previously resolved to re-consult the community on the proposed Cat Local Law (November 2024)
- Community consultation from December 2024 to January 2025 resulted in 87 submissions
- Minor amendments were made in response to community feedback and to align with regulatory requirements
- Adoption of the Cat Local Law supports responsible cat ownership and reduces impacts on wildlife and community spaces

Recommendation:

Resolve to make the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025 and authorise subsequent implementation actions including gazettal and public notification.



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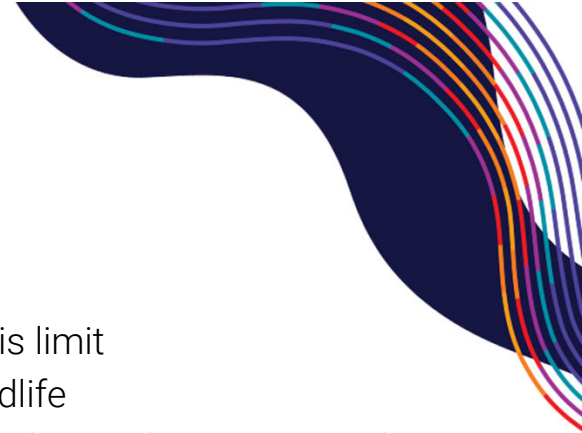
The Cat Local Law will:

- Limit households to two cats, with the possibility to apply for permits to exceed this limit
- Define specific reserves and natural areas where cats are prohibited to protect wildlife
- Respond to strong community support for enhanced cat management measures, despite limitations under current State legislation

Common Community Feedback:

- Objections primarily related to the 2-cat household limit
- Community expressed a strong desire for tougher cat containment rules, curfews, or effective public control
- Feedback indicates general support for the law's intent, despite a majority objecting to the revised draft law

Although it appears that most objections aren't to the idea of a cat local law, rather, the objections are to the changes made, or because the submitter feels the cat local law needs to be tougher, by either imposing mandatory cat containment, a cat curfew, or a requirement that cats are kept under 'effective control' in public

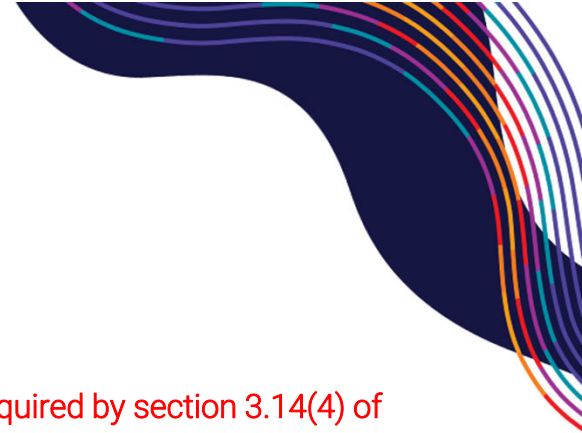


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OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Council by absolute majority decision:

1. Considers the public submissions received on the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2024, as required by section 3.14(4) of the Local Government Act 1995;
2. Resolves to make the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025, as attached (Attachment 1), incorporating the minor changes as detailed in this report;
3. Authorises the affixing of the common seal to the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025; and
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with section 3.12(5)-(6) of the Local Government Act 1995, to:
 - a) Publish the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025 in the Government Gazette; and
 - b) Give a copy of the local law to the Departmental CEO of the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries;
 - c) Give local public notice of the publication of the local law; and
 - d) In accordance with the Minister's directions, provide a copy of the local law and required explanatory material to the Western Australian Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.
5. Authorises the instruments of delegation (Attachment 2).



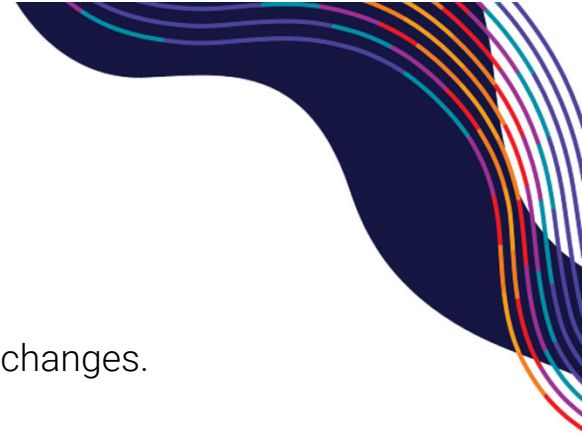
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Next Steps:

- Minor modifications made as a result of community consultation – no significant changes.
- Significant Changes would require the local law making process to recommence
- The Council could choose not to adopt the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025. This action would not be aligned with the City's endorsed 2022-2026 Cat Management Plan, and may lead to community backlash and reputational damage as there is strong support for a cat local law within the community.
- Seeking Council support for officer recommendation – absolute majority required.

If Approved:

- Publication in Government Gazette – 14 days later comes into effect
- Copies provided to Departmental CEO DLGIRS and WA Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.
- Updates to Delegations in relation to this local law.





Agenda Briefing Forum

July 2025



City of
Melville