

Draft Cat Management Plan Submission Report

97 valid submissions were received during public comment period. Comments within the individual submission have been allocated against the objectives listed within the draft Cat Management Plan.

Objective one: Improve the health and wellbeing of owned cats in Melville

#	Submission comments	CoM officer comments	Content change
1	Agree roaming cats are subject to being run over, hurt by cats/dogs, poisoned	Noted	N
2	Anything that helps to keep cats from wandering is a positive thing.	Noted	N
3	Cat owners know how harmful cats are & how they are hunters and killers. We don't need to educate them: that's just a waste of money	Best practice cat management strategies are based on the notion that the core to effective animal management requires control of reproduction, identification and location. This is essentially achieved through desexing (already mandated in the Cat Act 2011); registration and microchipping (already mandated in the Cat Act 2011); and confinement. The success of these strategies is underpinned by community understanding of the requirements of responsible cat ownership; and enforcement of legislation. Community education is required to build community understanding.	N
4	Cats all have different personalities and needs depending on their breed. I tried to keep my cat as an indoor cat for three years and she was clearly unhappy. Her behaviour was erratic with no routine. The day I put a cat flap in to give her access outside she became a completely different cat. Although I still keep her in at night time, I do not think it is fair to say that all cats can be happy as indoor cats as this is simply not true.	The plan is not stating that all cats can be happy as indoor cats. The plan references research which shows that wandering cats crossed more roads per day and showed signs of being in fights with other cats. This makes wandering cats more susceptible to disease, injury, and predators. Advocating the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night-time curfews also acknowledges the fact that some community members still want an opportunity for their cat to roam.	N
5	Cats are ok just doing what they do, but owners should manage their own cats.	Noted	N
6	Cats are outdoor animals by nature and enjoy exploring their environment. They are unhappy indoors and always try to get outside. Most cats prefer to spend time outdoors and are free by nature. I do not believe Melville has an interest in the health and well-being of cats otherwise they wouldn't be suggesting confining cats which would stress most cats and owners and cause mental health issues for both cat and owner. If Covid lockdown taught us anything it is the mental health aspect of being confined.	The plan is not suggesting that cats should be confined at all times. Advocating the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night-time curfews acknowledges the fact that some community members still want an opportunity for their cat to roam.	N
7	Cats need to get outside from time to time. Mine are 90% indoors and they very occasionally leave the backyard. In the front we have lots of cats who just sleep in the sun! I've never seen them hunt.	Addressed in previous comments	N

8	Cats should not be allowed to roam freely.	Results from the City's survey indicate there is community support from all respondents (including cat owners) for prohibiting cats from certain areas e.g. native bushland or reserves and for night-time curfews for cats. Survey findings highlighted there was a strong fear in cat owners of cats needing to be confined to their owners property at all times and penalties associated with this. While cats are loved family-members for many, research shows free-roaming cats kill millions of native animals each year, and can cause nuisance for members of the community. Many households own cats, and the City acknowledges they are a significant part of our community. The Plan aims to balance the needs and interests of our many cat owners whilst protecting native wildlife and amenity for the rest of the community.	N
9	Cats themselves are mostly good at looking after themselves. I'm more concerned with how they impact the neighbourhood and surrounding wildlife	The plan acknowledges the impact cats have on the native environment which is why there is an objective with a number of actions specifically to reduce predation of feral, owned, un-owned and semi-owned cats on native wildlife.	N
10	Didn't think the Happy at Home campaign was strong enough. Think people hear the catch phrase and that's it. If they don't want to keep cat indoors they will disregard any messages unless to can get them to engage in at least seeing what is being suggested. More positive message that people can see that they can realistically put into action or gradually move to that action.	An action in the plan is to develop and promote new and existing community education initiatives on the health and welfare benefits of keeping cats indoors.	N
11	Dogs have to be fully contained at home or otherwise on a leash outside SO WHY CANNOT THE SAME LAWS APPLY TO CATS?	Noted	N
12	Education is good but limited in effect. It should be combined with enforcement initiatives	The plan outlines an action to investigate a cat local law to restrict the number of cats allowed per household; and prohibit cats from certain areas e.g. native bushland and reserves. Once in place the City will be required to enforce this local law. The City is also responsible for enforcing and administering the Cat Act 2011.	N
13	Education to be made aware of the environmental impact of cats before purchasing a cat is needed. Cats are naturally drawn to the outside.	An action in the plan is to develop and promote new and existing community education initiatives on the health and welfare benefits of keeping cats indoors. Key stakeholders identified in the action plan include pet stores, breeders, vets and the Cat Haven to ensure that people are made aware before purchasing a cat.	N
14	Ensure a rat and mice management strategy is in place to correspond with the cat plan. The rats and mice are growing and is a huge problem. It's disgraceful	The City responds to requests for assistance regarding rodents by sending an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) to visit and look for signs of rodent activity. They also send an advice letter to surrounding residents with a copy of the Department of Health advice leaflet regarding rodents. If the EHO identifies a property where there is food or material likely to harbour rodents they provide specific advice on steps to take with a timeframe for completion. There is also a webpage on the City's website with information and tips on rodent control.	N
15	I agree that cats have an important role in some peoples lives but I think their cats should be kept on their property and not allowed to roam. For the safety and health of the cats and wellbeing of wild life and neighbours.	Addressed in previous comments	N

16	I am concerned that the views on health and well-being of cats is one sided, i.e. focused on life span as opposed to quality of life, and the studies provided in the draft plan seem to not relate very well to Melville's fauna/population/climate	As cat management can be a controversial topic, the City included independent subject matter experts to develop credibility on both sides. When sent to subject matter experts for peer review, all five respondents who completed the online survey either agreed or strongly agreed that the City had used reputable data sources to inform the draft plan; and that a sufficient amount of data had been used to inform the plan. Advocating the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night-time curfews acknowledges that some community members believe their cats health and wellbeing will be impacted by full confinement.	N
17	I believe it is ignorant to think that a cat can live a happy and stimulating life trapped indoors it's whole life. They need access to outside play areas fresh air and sunlight.	Addressed in previous comments	N
18	I believe that the approach will be tokenisation and not value elderly residents.	It is difficult to provide a comment without greater understanding of the concerns related to elderly residents.	N
19	I can't see the point of owning a pet cat if you are not invested in its well being and not prepared to consider the well being of native wildlife and a policy to deal with feral or neglected cats	Noted	N
20	I disagree with this & see it as a waste of money running a campaign like this. The majority of people you'd be wanting to inform/target wouldn't bother reading or engaging with the information you put out.	Noted	N
21	I do not object to people having cats, however I believe that they must contain them to their own premises	Addressed in previous comments	N
22	I have no issues with improving cats wellbeing, but cats should be able to roam around their own property.	Addressed in previous comments	N
23	I live in a small villa which would be too small an area for a cat to stay indoors. I have tried several professional people to help with keeping my cat within my yard but they were all very unhelpful & refused to even visit.	Addressed in previous comments	N
24	I think cats need the stimulation of being outside. I believe the sights, smells and sounds are important to their well being. Our 2 cats remain within our yard, sit on the fence or visit (with prior permission) our immediate neighbours. With open communication with our neighbours we have ensured our cats are not a nuisance. We also only let them outside when we are home and can keep an eye on them, calling them back if they have gone next door.	Addressed in previous comments	N
25	I think is important, but also need to be followed with laws that require people to keep their cats confined to their properties, and the ability for the council to act to trap roaming cats.	Noted	N

26	I think it is very important to educate the public and cat owners about how good it is to keep your cats in doors especially at night. The rate of FIV infection in cats in WA is about 12%. This is a potentially deadly disease transmitted by bites from an infected cat. Cat fights are common with outdoor cats and greatly increase their risk of being infected with FIV. Cats are naturally predatory animals and will prey and kill native animals. This is more common at night so could be greatly reduced if a night curfew law was introduced. Multiple cat households are common, and I live next to a person who owns 3 cats which are outdoor. I have personally seen them attack native birds at night which is not ok. We need to be protecting our native wildlife. It is important to stress to cat owners that a night curfew is for the benefit for not only native animals but their cats as well due to safety reasons. It will greatly reduce the incidence of roaming and cat fights which can severely injure their cat (e.g., cat fight abscess, FIV/FelV). Owners can also better pick up on health/behavioural changes if their cats are kept indoors which can better benefit the management of their health.	The plan proposes to advocate the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night-time curfews as well as to investigate a cat local law to restrict the number of cats allowed per household.	N
27	I think this is a good initiative for Melville	Noted	N
28	I understand this is a draft plan but there are no specifics on what this "education" might be - are you just going to put some posters up? Perhaps defining more practical detail would be beneficial to the plan.	Once the plan and the resources required to implement it have been supported by Council, Neighbourhood Amenity will be responsible for identifying further detail, outcomes and key performance indicators for each action. These are operational level and not required to be included in this plan.	N
29	I would prefer all cats are kept on an owner's property unless on a leash under the same rules as dogs. I have owned and walked a cat on a leash. They are as easy as dogs to train to walk on a leash. There's no logical reason for cats to be allowed to roam freely off an owner's property.	Addressed in previous comments	N
30	improving lifespan of pet cats if kept indoors, lowering stress on veterinary staff for motor vehicle accident cats.	Noted	N
31	It is highly detrimental to cats biological and mental health to confine cats completely to an indoor environment. They need to roam and have outside stimulation and exercise.	Addressed in previous comments	N
32	It would be great if cats were not allowed to wonder the street	Noted	N
33	It would be great to share positive local stories of contained cats and how their owners have adapted to keeping them contained and to repeat some of the cat roaming studies that have been done elsewhere to provide local stories and data for community education.	Noted	N
34	Must have a cat curfew at night because its only way to educate people that cats are a problem at night and stop cats poo in neighbours gardens and killing of birds.	The plan proposes to advocate the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night time curfews. This acknowledges the fact that some community members still want an opportunity for their cat to roam.	N
35	My daughter has owned a cat for 5 years and it has always been an indoor cat 24 x 7. The cat enjoys good health and appears to be contented	Noted	N
36	My experience is that cats need to spend some time outdoors.	Addressed in previous comments	N
37	My very well fed and nurtured cat does not require any extra health care or any action to control her behaviour as she does not hunt wildlife or stray from our property	Noted	N
38	No objections to improving the health and well-being of owned cats	Noted	N

39	Not all cats are comfortable with being forced to remain indoors. They become irritable, destructive, and/or depressed. Forcing them to remain indoors will not benefit their health and wellbeing, nor will it the people who have to manage this new behaviour.	Addressed in previous comments	N
40	Owners responsibility	Noted	N
41	Preventing cat fights and fouling of kitchen garden beds where I grow foods.	Noted	N
42	Provides protection for cats from theft, being hit by a car and attacks from other cats.	Noted	N
43	Residents should be able to enclose an outdoor area on their property for cats to play, get sunshine and experience the outdoor environment (even though it is within an enclosure)	The plan proposes to educate the community on options to keep cats confined e.g. cat runs. It also proposes to advocate the State Government for funding to subsidise cat runs in support of cat owners who wish to transition their cats to indoor living	N
44	Responsible ownership is a priority	Noted	N
45	Spot checks that cats have bells. Fines if not	Under the Cat Act 2011, all domestic cats six months and older must wear a collar with their registration tag when in a public place. There is no requirement for cats to wear a bell.	N
46	Targeted education to cat owners will not be enough to provide change to behaviour	Noted	N
47	The question says nothing about the health and well-being of cats, it actually reads as health and well-being benefits to the owners of cats. It reads as if you are trying to promote and encourage people to take up cat ownership which will lead to higher cat numbers and greater cat related issues in the community	The objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of owned cats in Melville. The plan references research which shows that wandering cats crossed more roads per day and showed signs of being in fights with other cats. This makes wandering cats more susceptible to disease, injury, and predators. It also references research which suggests that companion animals offer a range of health related benefits for people including a decreased risk for death due cardiovascular diseases, and allergic sensitisation to multiple allergens during childhood. The plan is not encouraging people to take up cat ownership, it is acknowledging that cats play a positive role in many peoples lives. There is therefore an objective to provide support to Melville residents who choose to have cats in their lives. The Plan aims to balance the needs and interests of our many cat owners whilst protecting native wildlife and amenity for the rest of the community.	N
48	The whole basis of the cat plan is flawed. It assumes that cat well-being is improved by being kept indoors. The survey questions are skewed towards achieving a positive result for the Cat Plan.	Research shows that wandering cats crossed more roads per day and showed signs of being in fights with other cats. This makes wandering cats more susceptible to disease, injury, and predators. As cat management can be a controversial topic, the City included independent experts to develop credibility on both sides. When sent to subject matter experts for peer review, all five respondents who completed the online survey either agreed or strongly agreed that the City had used reputable data sources to inform the draft plan; and that a sufficient amount of data had been used to inform the plan.	N
49	There is absolutely no reason cats can't be healthy and well indoors with the correct setup and amenities. My cat was transitioned to an indoor cat at the age of 5 and lives a safe, secure and healthy life.	Noted	N
50	This needs to happen because there are too many cats being run over by cars and fighting near others houses or going missing.	Noted	N

51	To suggest that simply educating people to keep cats indoors is a solution seems incredibly naive. As a cat owner who has tried to keep my cat in all night for years I can tell you from experience it is not that simple.	The plan is not only proposing community education. It proposes a number of actions based on best practice cat management strategies.	N
52	Very important to confine cats to indoors or in enclosed cat runs in backyards - good for health of cats & protects the natural environment	Noted	N
53	We found it impossible to keep our two young cats inside. They would take every opportunity to run outside when a door was opened, which caused us anxiety trying to get them back in. We decided that it was better to let them out during the day and get them in before dark when most cat fights took place.	Addressed in previous comments	N
54	We have a cat that regularly comes in to our backyard at night. It sleeps on our outdoor furniture and on several occasions it has left it's faeces on our furniture. It is impossible to know who it belongs to and therefore let the owners know that it is a nuisance. Constantly hear it fighting and find fur around the house the next morning.	Addressed in previous comments	N
55	Whilst I support the concept of protecting native fauna I also believe it is impractical to force all cats inside. I have not met any domestic cat owners that have cats to prey on native birds etc. The majority of cat owners, I would expect, would already take responsible steps to protect native fauna. It is like more native fauna dies from car traffic or other impacts of urbanisation, including as a result of natural habitat such as trees.	Addressed in previous comments	N
56	yes, if they cannot roam, they will not be fighting, or hit by cars.	Noted	N

Objective two: Reduce predation of feral, owned, un-owned and semi-owned cats on native wildlife

1	Feral cats are a problem and should be address. Please do not responsible cat owners for owning cats. Please take a fact based approach and shoe data not rhetoric	Noted	N
2	A permanent trapping campaign, combined with notice to the community of numbers trapped/culled/released etc. to provide incentives to owners to control their pets.	Noted	N
3	Absolutely. There is a huge difference between cat ownership for companionship reasons, for cats who are loved and cared for and feral cats which do an enormous amount of damage to wildlife.	Noted	N
4	Advocacy does not necessarily address issues in the City of Melville. Whilst the city can advocate until the cows come home there may be no outcomes for residents. I would rather see concrete outcomes or target for the City.	Addressed in previous comments	N
5	All CATS need to be contained and wearing a collar to protect wildlife and birds	Addressed in previous comments	N
6	All cats should be banned from roaming outdoors 24 hrs a day - not just at night. Cats found to have no owner/stray/feral/owner not found must be destroyed.	Addressed in previous comments	N

7	All cats should be confined to the residents property as owners really have very little awareness of what their cat does when roaming. It should be mandatory to have a bell and collar fitted when the cat is outside. This alone can reduce predation massively it's cheap and simple. This should be the first port of call!	Addressed in previous comments	
8	All cats should be licensed, sterilised and chipped. Sales of kittens and cats must be strictly controlled. I would apply this to dogs also.	Under the Cat Act 2011, all domestic cats six months and older must wear a collar with their registration tag when in a public place and must be sterilised; micro-chipped; registered with the local government where the cat is ordinarily kept; and wear a registration tag, issued by the local government where the cat is registered. Cat owners who do not comply with these requirements may be liable for fines. Any person wishing to sell kittens or cats is required under the Cat Act 2011 to become a registered breeder. Cat breeders are required to renew their breeding registration on an annual basis and have their properties inspected to ensure compliance within the Cat Act 2011. All kittens and cats sold are required to be microchipped and sterilised prior to sale.	N
9	All pet cats to be kept in doors therefore all cats outside of a home can be captured and dealt with.	Addressed in previous comments	N
10	Am sick of having garden ripped up with cats defecating during night time.	Noted	N
11	An owned cat wandering into a nature reserve should not be treated as a feral cat. Better understanding about the process and training of officers who are tasked with capturing the cats is require.	Noted	N
12	As long as actions target specifically the feral animals and other animals are not harmed in the process	Noted	N
13	At what cost? It is obvious if cats are better contained and have a curfew they will do less damage. Does money really need to be spent to prove it?	During the peer review process, subject matter experts from Murdoch University advised the City that there was an opportunity to be involved in a highly significant study. As a result the plan proposes to advocate the South West Group to take a lead role in, and provide support to securing funding through an external grant to conduct a scientific study on the impact of cats in native bushland and reserves before and after implementation of a cat local law.	N
14	Bit concerned about numbers per household. Up to 4 sounds ok. Bring on the night curfew. I have problems with a nuisance cat.	The plan proposes to investigate a cat local law to restrict the number of cats allowed per household. The community will be consulted on issues, implications and consequences during the development of a cat local law.	N
15	Cat owners should not allow their cats to run free and terrorise native wildlife	Noted	N
16	Cat registrations are a waste of time and a revenue increasing exercise. None of the Scandinavia countries have expensive pet registrations, they may opt for a microchip at the vets to retrieve a lots pet but that's it. Education all the way and stop restricting the number of pets people have as a blanket rule, only if it becomes a problem. Even one pet could be a problem so the number restriction makes zero sense. It's responsible pet ownership!	Noted	N
17	Cats need to be registered and kept inside at all times. This will stop wildlife being killed, I have had 4 willie wag takes killed at my house and a kookaburra injured and no one on my property owns a cat!	Addressed in previous comments	N
18	Cats should not be allowed to leave the confines of the owners property, especially at night time.	Addressed in previous comments	N

19	Cats that are not registered and chipped should be taken to the cat haven.	This already occurs through the City's feral animal control program.	N
20	Community education programs highly important especially re cat runs and welfare of cats. Also highly important is the unowned or semi owned education of especially befriending or feeding 'strays'	Noted	N
21	Create night time curfew. Owners fined when reclaiming trapped animals.	Addressed in previous comments	N
22	Ensure a rat and mice management strategy is in place to correspond with the cat plan. The rats and mice are growing and is a huge problem. It's disgraceful	Addressed in previous comments	N
23	Feral and Unowned cats should be euthanised	Noted	N
24	Feral, and uncontrolled cats have a huge impact on native fauna. It is our responsibility as a people to protect and ensure the survival of all species.	Noted	N
25	Good idea	Noted	N
26	How is this going to be done, is it going to be based on a complaint from some random person who dislikes cats is it going to be based on evidence, if so, what evidence.	Unable to comment without further context.	N
27	I agree to the measures proposed, but if it involves an annual fee I see it as another money grabbing government effort to do nothing but get income from people who cannot afford it.	The State Government sets all of the fees associated with the control and registration of cats.	N
28	I am all for protecting native wildlife from predation by cats. Our cat does occasionally kill a bird but kills far more rats/mice which seem to be an issue in the city of Melville. I'd estimate our cat kills 50 rats for every bird. I hope the council puts in place system to bait/trap rodents if cats are not allowed to roam.	Addressed in previous comments	N
29	I am all for reducing the impact on native wildlife from cats. There should be a complete ban on cats being out at night near bushland.	Noted	N
30	I am concerned that cats not living near bush land will be penalised for activities of those who do live near bush land. I am concerned that if a curfew is implemented (which I support), what penalties may be - a cat that is allowed outside during the day, may not manage to make it home before the curfew, and then what happens? I am concerned of the welfare of my cat if a curfew is implemented. As much as I aim to keep her inside at night, she does display signs of stress (pulling fur among others) when she is not allowed out - that is not welfare.. as she is a rescue, outside is her safe space	The plan proposes to advocate the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011 to include night-time curfews. The State Government would need to consider all of these concerns and logistics if it does amend legislation to include night-time curfews. The City would be a voice for our local community in any consultation processes related to amending the Cat Act 2011 and would ensure that these concerns are communicated to the State Government and relevant authorities.	N
31	I believe a maximum of 2 cats per household is sufficient. Education and the implementation of laws are needed to convince owners that having indoor cats is not cruel. With proper enrichment and socialisation an indoor cat will thrive in this environment and better bond with their owners. Unfortunately having outdoor cats is an easy option to many owners who do not want to put in the required effort and care into their cats. Even with proper education some owners will not want to keep their cats inside so laws need to be enforced. This is for the benefit of the cats and our native wildlife. This will also help to reduce the incidence of cats reproducing and therefore reduce stray cats, as desexing will be easier to enforce and regulate.	Noted	N

32	I don't think it goes far enough. Cats should be controlled from predation on all wildlife, not just native wildlife.	Noted	N
33	I don't believe it's the south west group role to do this - another waste of money & time. We, city of Melville, can & must reduce predation anyway. Melville knows the problem feral, stray & unowned cats cause to our wildlife already : so just be firm & curfew all cats 24/7.	Noted	N
34	I frequently find signs of bird kills in my garden and the number and species of birds has noticeably declined.	Noted	N
35	I just had 2 baby butcher bird chicks in my backyard eaten by a neighbouring cat in their own nest. Not great.	Noted	N
36	I suggest the mandatory wearing of a bell by all cats allowed outside to warn wildlife of an approaching predatory cat.	Noted	N
37	I support all initiatives that reduce predation of feral, owned, un-owned, and semi-owned cats on native wildlife.	Noted	N
38	I think that owned cats that have responsible owners, (that are fed sufficiently, curfews at night), do not affect the wildlife numbers greatly. I have owned 3 cats over 40 years and none have brought in native wildlife...the occasional mouse!	Noted	N
39	I think the first point should be stronger \more active than investigate e.g. Pursue	Noted	N
40	I wholly support the introduction of night time cat curfews and cat prohibited areas, and limitations on the number of cats allowed per household. These measures will achieve the most direct, on-ground results in reducing the devastating impact that cats have on native wildlife. Further, strict enforcement and policing of these actions is critical to achieving success. I do not believe further scientific research is required to study the impact of cats in native bushland. The detrimental impacts of cats on native wildlife is extremely well documented and therefore do not see the value or benefit that would be gained from a local study. Funds would be better spent on implementation of other measures/actions proposed in the plan.	Noted.	N

41	I) a. Restricting the number of cats per household; I am currently renting a house in which I own two cats and my housemate owns one. We have no relation to each other, how will you go about implementing this act? Neither one of us will relinquish our cats, and it is already difficult to find a rental that accepts felines, if you force a restriction, it could become even harder to find a place to live. b. In regards to prohibiting cats from native areas, how would this be implemented? I live next to a native area and cannot prevent cats from traveling there (mine are seniors and do not however). II) a. I already implement a night time curfew on my cats. b. Same query as above. III) I do not know, how and by what means, this will be conducted. IV) I do not believe the council should make money off of this. I should not be forced into paying for my family [cats] to live with me. With threat of a larger fine. It shows the council's greed. V) Less money is better, however no money is best. VI) Cats should not be confined. This being said, if the council were to provide a grant/funding for an appropriately sized [large] outdoor cat-run, I would be more inclined to set limitations on my wards [cats]. Cat-runs are expensive and plenty of people cannot afford them. VII) Do not know what is being implemented, however if it harms or threatens their well-being, or restricts house cats in any way, I am against this. VIII) People should have the freedom and encouragement to protect the livelihood of any animal by providing them with respect and food.	Noted	N
42	If cats are confined to owners own premises, this should not be a problem	Noted	N
43	It is unfair to bring in new punitive laws on existing ownership. It is fair to request that cats be kept indoors and educate and support this request. Feral cats should be trapped and as per current practice there should be warning for local residents of the area. It is not fair to expect people who have previously had outdoor cats to build cat runs, but future owners should be expected to do this. There should be a restriction on the number of cats per household - ultimately with the goal of phasing out cat ownership through education as it is not viable for Australian native wildlife to compete with cats. (I am a cat owner and love cats!)	Addressed in previous comments	N
44	Making sure it is an humane Option for reduction, insuring cats are not missing, helping out rescues to regime rather than destroy I	Noted	N
45	My cat is registered, and has been a 100% indoor cat for the past 11 years. For those of us doing the right thing, I feel we shouldn't need to re-register our cats every year and have to pay a fee to do so. Suggest having that done to all nuisance cats that may have been caught by a ranger perhaps, to encourage better ownership behaviour.	Cats can be registered for the duration of their life. This lifetime registration can also be transferred between local governments in WA.	N
46	Not sure it is necessary to provide rate payer funded assistance for cat owners to do the right thing.	Noted	N
47	number one admission to native animal rescues are cat attacks and there's a high mortality rate	Noted	N

48	On page 7 of 31 of the Draft plan, it states the local government does not have the authority to ban cats from public property or to have curfews. Yet later in the report it shows the cities of Fremantle, Canning, Stirling and one other I think, do have curfews in place. If they can do it, why not Melville. There's no reason why cats should be able to roam free when other pets don't have that freedom.	Under the current Cat Act 2011, local governments are unable to ban cats from all public areas or require cats to be confined to property boundaries; put in place cat curfews; or put in place requirements for cats to be under effective control. The table referred to was taken from a report produced by the City of Cockburn and we agree it is confusing as it doesn't have the context required for clarity. Since the draft plan was advertised for public comment, the Threatened Species Recovery Hub published a fact sheet summarising the management of cats by local governments in Australia. We have therefore used findings from this fact sheet and removed the table for clarity.	Y
49	Recent research from Tasmania has shown that dogs have a greater impact than cats on native wildlife. This prejudicial review, goes nowhere in addressing the wildlife chased and probably killed by dogs on the Foreshores and in our parks. Research from Exeter University shows that a cat fed a meat rather than biscuit based diet will kill 30% less wildlife. Education strategies along these lines, about cat and dog diets would benefit the health of the animal as well as wildlife. Dogs are a nuisance in Melville, at coffee shops, on roads and in parks. As Melville Council do not have a tree policy for preventing trees being removed from people's property, the impact on wildlife being killed or displaced when the numerous developments take place in Melville would far out way the number of animals harmed and often caught and not killed, by 4010 cats in Melville each year. A review of the environmental impact of the removal of trees would be welcomed. The numbers of dogs at coffee shops has grown immensely and not all dogs are friendly to people or each other.	<p>The City sought feedback from subject matter experts who peer reviewed the plan as the submission comments referenced research that Officers were not familiar with. Verbatim comments from these subject matter experts is listed below.</p> <p>"I appreciate that the respondent is concerned about impacts to our unique and valuable native Australian wildlife and agree with their sentiments of concern. While dogs and habitat loss via tree removal undoubtedly have an impact on wildlife, this does not mean that reducing additional wildlife impacts of pet cats is without value. Much of our wildlife is restricted because they suffer impacts from several threatening processes, but this does not mean that we should not address any of those threatening processes individually."</p> <p>"It is true that dogs harass and kill wildlife as well as cats, which is in part why free-roaming by dogs is restricted. If it wasn't, problems with wildlife would be greater. I anticipate that the proposed restrictions on free-roaming by cats would similarly reduce, but not eliminate, harassment and killing of wildlife by cats. Owners of free-roaming cats can reduce their pets' hunting behaviour by modifying their diet, increasing play interactions with them, or fitting collar-worn predation deterrents. In my opinion, these options should be encouraged if it is decided to allow cats to roam freely. Unfortunately, none of these options reduces the welfare hazards to free-roaming cats including injuries and deaths on the roads, fighting injuries, disease transmission, accidental poisoning and other trauma. These are substantial, well supported by evidence in many international studies and, on average, reduce cats' lifespans considerably. For me, they are the most compelling argument to contain cats on their owners' properties. Lastly, I agree that pet management is only one component of wildlife-friendly management in the suburbs. Other issues, including suburban density and tree planting, should not be neglected simply because policies managing pets are in place."</p>	N
50	Registration causes issues when implemented with recurring financial costs. People do not see any benefits to paying what amounts to a tax on their lifestyle choices. Registration should be a small nominal fee paid only once at the initial registration of an animal and an information pack supplied to the owner containing all the rules and regulations, tips and ticks, and local businesses and veterinarians details. This can be followed by an annual follow up information pack with changes to rules, stats and comments from rangers and a questionnaire to be returned updating the particulars of the animal and confirming the continuation of the registration.	The State Government sets all of the fees associated with the control and registration of cats. The animal registration renewal timeframes are also outlined in the Cat Act 2011. The City conducted a review of the animal registration renewal process in 2020 and made a number of improvements. The process will continue to be reviewed and improved as part of the City's continuous improvement. Cats can be registered for the duration of their life. This lifetime registration can also be transferred between local governments in WA. The City sends information on responsible pet ownership to all new registrations and registrations which are renewed.	N

51	<p>Scientific Studies: Scientific studies should be conducted on the role that Melville's resident cats have on the City's mice, rat and rabbit population. With reference to the research published in the 'Draft Cat Management Plan' from the 'Threatened Species Recovery Hub' it notes that "On average, each pet cat that is allowed to roam kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals per year in Australia. This number includes 110 native animals" implying that 40% of animals killed by pet cats are invasive pest species. The draft plan itself does not adequately cover the risk of increased rat and mice populations as a result of restricting cat movements. The draft plan's section titled 'Other Relevant data sources' on page 19 comments on the role of cats in controlling rodent populations and quotes a study by Parsons et al which implies that cats are ineffective at controlling rat populations. This study however was conducted on New York Rats and acknowledges that this variety of rat is large and that cats will be cautious against potential risks from large or defensive prey (unlike the smaller rats and mice in Melville). The study quoted by the draft plan is thus inadequate. Parsons et al also note that: -Among the few continental studies that examined the influence of cats on rats, there were mixed results. In Finland, researchers found that 72% of all prey brought home by cats were rodents. However the authors did not distinguish between mice and rats, and indicated that almost half of all kills belonged to exceptionally large cats (Kauhala et al., 2015). - Experimental release of 20 native long-haired rats (<i>Rattus villosissimus</i>) in Australia led to rapid extirpation by cats (Frank et al., 2014). However, these rats were also about half the size (150 g) of most city rats [New York Rats]. -Also in Australia, the analysis of stomach contents from 80 feral cats revealed 80% of their diet was from rodents, but the majority of rats were identified as long-haired rats (Yip et al., 2015). -There is no evidence that cats can directly suppress populations of city rats. However, predation impacts can also arise indirectly via non-lethal effects on prey from the risks of predation. The scent from cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) alone is enough to lower reproductive capacity in some mice (Kelliher and Wersinger, 2009; Voznessenskaya, 2014) and rats (Naidenko et al., 2003; Voznessenskaya et al., 2003; Voznessenskaya, 2014). The section 'Other Relevant data sources' from the Draft Plan is thus also misleading. If the Council does go ahead with plans to confine cats to houses, then it should conduct scientific studies to: -Measure rat and mice populations in the City of Melville -Survey how residents are managing increased rat and mice populations and determine if this is having detrimental effects on native fauna (e.g. – through increased baiting) -----</p> <p>Feral animal control: The City of Melville only controls Cats and Dogs. This should be extended to include mice, rats and rabbits (including the resident rabbit population at Piney Lakes). -----</p> <p>Registrations: Strongly disagree with annual registrations. One off single registration for life should be retained rather than implementing a revenue raising exercise. -----</p> <p>Educational material: Material relating to cats killing native wildlife likely contributes to negative sentiment towards cats and horrific acts of animal cruelty. Balanced material should be provided to convey the positive role that cats play in the ecosystem such as pest control.</p>	<p>Submission comments regarding lifetime registration and the City's response to rodent control addressed in previous comments. The City sought feedback from subject matter experts who peer reviewed the plan for some of the submission comments as they referenced research that Officers were not familiar with. Verbatim comments from these subject matter experts is listed below.</p> <p>"I agree that it would be valuable to monitor rodent populations in response to any restrictions on cat movements. Such a study could be part of larger monitoring of fauna that would include birds and lizards. Ideally, it would be good to have baseline studies prior to any intervention or to have areas with and without restrictions to allow a controlled, experimental assessment. Cat management regulations could then be modified, if necessary, in response to data. I also agree that any management plan for pet cats should aim to allow people all the pleasures of owning a cat, while seeking to minimise any possible problems. In my opinion, the key issue is cat welfare: free-roaming cats suffer greater trauma and disease, leading to significantly shorter lives, so containment of cats to their owners' property is an important welfare issue."</p> <p>"There is scientific evidence which identifies the content of feral cats stomachs in Australia can be up to 88% rabbits and rats. Any baiting done to eradicate rats and mice should ensure the bait used by any pest control company does not have a secondary kill to it."</p> <p>"New York has the same species of rat as Perth: <i>Rattus rattus</i> (black rat) and <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (brown rat). Both were introduced to Australia from sailing ships. They are the same size in NY and Perth. <i>Rattus villosissimus</i> (long-haired rat) is one of more than 60 native rodent species in Australia, and is susceptible to predation by cats, as outlined by the papers cited. Like many native Australian mammals, they are particularly naive to predation by cats and foxes. Unfortunately, cats are surprisingly poor at controlling introduced rats and house mice. In Perth, cats will target native skinks and geckos, birds, and mammals such as possums and bandicoots. While they may certainly catch some introduced species like pigeons, doves, rats and mice, it is not enough to provide effective control. If cats were able to successfully remove rats and mice, they would not coexist at high densities in cities. Roaming pet cats are not the solution to effectively controlling rats and mice in cities. Cats particularly target native species between 35 and 5500g – from small native rodents and birds, to 5.5kg rock wallabies. Size is not likely to be the limitation on hunting introduced rats, I would suggest that cats are less likely to catch black and brown rats due to behavioural differences and coevolution of this hunter-prey combination. Unfortunately our native wildlife is not so predator aware and are very susceptible to cat predation. The impacts that cats have on our native wildlife are hard to dispute."</p>	N
52	Simply desexing cats does not stop the massive and disastrous problem of native animal predation. There must be, at the very least, night time curfews but preferably laws making confining of cats to owner's property mandatory.	Noted	N
53	Suggest all cats in the city of Melville area wear cat bib: https://catbib.com.au/	Noted	N
54	There needs to be some financial & logistical support to enable the cat's night time confinement. The current commercial options are extremely expensive & prohibitive in design & materials. Cats are also very active & vocal at night & some help to manage that is needed.	The plan proposed to advocate the State Government, through the South West Group, for funding to subsidise cat runs in support of cat owners who wish to transition their cats to indoor living	N
55	This is a critical objective - it is important to ensure there is adequate legislation to enable the City of Melville to enact cat control requirements to achieve this objective.	Noted	N
56	This is very important	Noted	N
57	Trapping is sadly necessary	Noted	N
58	What does the feral animal control program involve? I would be concerned that it is just euthanising strays rather than educating the public and focusing on rehoming strays to homes that will keep them indoors	The City does not euthanise or provide the cats trapped as part of the feral animal control program with a chance at rehoming. Any stray or unregistered domestic cats trapped as part of the feral animal control program are taken to the Cat Haven who make an assessment.	N

59	Whilst agreeing with cat registration, cats are often owned by older people who perhaps are not in a good financial position. The fee should be low, perhaps even free for these owners	The State Government sets all of the fees associated with the control and registration of cats. Concession rates apply for cats owned by pensioners.	N
60	Yes wholeheartedly agree with this objective. As I have seen first hand the destruction of Native animals in many areas in WA due to feral cats. Roaming local neighbourhood cats also frequent our property of an evening & feast on local native birds overnight. Also fight with other cats.	Noted	N

Objective three: Reduce cat-related nuisance issues for the wider community

1	Nuisance cats that are found in traps should be returned to their owners rather than being released near by as per the current plan.	Noted	N
2	I do not know what this means for them, and I do not know what you mean by this. You should not allow for cat trappings. Unknown what this implies.	Noted	N
3	Add or increase fines to owners, increase availability of cat traps. Sick and Tired of cats fighting outside my window at night, wandering over our cars and on our roofs.	Noted	N
4	again the city knows this is a big problem : the community & ratepayers have told them over & over again. Fine cat owners who don't comply/obey	Noted	N
5	Again, there needs to be more assistance provided to owners so they can keep their cat indoors at night or in an enclosure.	Addressed in previous comments	N
6	An agreement with the cat haven should include the Ranger being advised who the cat belongs to so they may visit the cat owners and have a word to them about their cat even if they cant enforce anything at this time.	The City currently has a MOU with the Cat Haven. Any trapped cats that are re-located to the Cat Haven are scanned for a microchip. The Cat Haven contacts the cat owner to advise of the location of the cat and this information is passed to City Rangers to ensure the cat owner is aware of their responsibilities as an owner under the Cat Act 2011.	N
7	As above, having a plan that simply states that you will undertake a review is a bureaucratic way of saying you will do nothing (very "Yes Minister"). Once the review has been conducted the plan has been implemented. There needs to be clear targets or strategies outlined here. I personally have given up on making complaints about nuisance cats as no support is offered. I suspect your complaint data is under represented. I would like to see concrete strategies to support residents experiencing issues with nuisance cats rather than a statement saying that there will be a review.	Addressed in previous comments	N
8	Cat owners should exercise the same level of control over their pets as dog owners are expected to do.	Noted	N
9	Cats should be kept inside for their and nature's good	Noted	N
10	Concerns in regards to CoM's policy causing cats to be considered as pests by non-cat enthusiasts, and as a by product possibly encouraging cruel treatment of cats. The term 'Nuisance' can be interpreted very differently by individuals as it's not identifying specific behaviour. Also, Dog owners often leave their dog's faeces behind, so who is the nuisance in this scenario?! The owner! But no one would consider taking the dog to the pound, trapping the dog, or kicking it because of the lazy owner.	Noted	N

11	Ensure a rat and mice management strategy is in place to correspond with the cat plan. The rats and mice are growing and is a huge problem. It's disgraceful	Addressed in previous comments	N
12	Feral/Stray/Unowned cats are re-homed by Cat Haven and most Vets rather than euthanised, their predatory traits don't change and if not managed by the new owner will kill native wildlife. These cats if they cannot be claimed should be destroyed.	Noted	N
13	Given I believe cats should not be allowed to be in public off a leash, then I believe cats wandering onto or through a person's property should be able to be humanely trapped and surrendered to the shire ranger. Rules should apply to traps being humane and checked every day	Noted	N
14	How is the Council going to ensure the cat related nuisance issues are genuine and not just a complaint from a cat hater?	Noted	N
15	I do not support this as I am surprised that cats would be taken to the Cat Haven and released nearby. Does nobody contact owners? Is that not why cats are microchipped? The reasons provided in the survey, for cats being a nuisance were petty at best. Cats eyes being seen in headlights, damaging garden furniture, going on roof tops, damaging security cameras, making people's dogs bark. Many times dogs run across roads at night, dogs should be trained to not bark at or chase cats and dogs poo all over the place, in public areas and private gardens and their excrement can be harmful and even cause blindness. We have had run away dogs in our garden many times and had escapement on our shoes several times from dogs. Other people's pets can always be a nuisance if asked. Figures quoted for complaint against cats at about 186 for last year and 80 odd this year must be way down on the number of complaints against dogs barking alone. I would like to see the figures. Dogs are allowed in cafes and cause a nuisance there in large numbers in Applecross in particular. The bark, growl at other dogs and can be quite vicious however there is no suggestion that dogs, who can be aggressive not be allowed in these areas. 25,000 people are killed by dogs each year, surely that is a nuisance.	Addressed in previous comments	N
16	I don't know enough in-depth detail	Noted	N
17	I have never heard of any incidences of nuisance cats.	Noted	N
18	I have no way to keep cats out of my property. This is unfair and the onus should be on the owner of the animal to ensure it does not cause nuisance. This can only happen if cats are kept within the property boundaries of the owner.	Noted	N
19	I object to other roaming cats coming into our yards after curfew hours. This indicates that some owners are not following curfew.	Noted	N
20	I support a review of current processes but understanding the actions and changes that result as an outcome of this review is critical and needs to be communicated.	Noted	N
21	I support hefty fines and prosecution for those who trap cats and harm them.	Noted	N

22	I think the plan identified the problems that affect non cat owners by roaming cats but to get the problem solved is not an easy thing for the affected party. You can at the end of your tether get a cat trap but there is no change of behaviour as the cat is generally just released back to the owner. The people affected in many ways by a roaming cat are the forgotten or neglected group.	Noted	N
23	Ideally cats should be kept in the owners property as you would any pet.	Noted	N
24	Licensed and chipped cats should reduce the need for long term facilities for stray animals.	Noted	N
25	No cat to be outside of a house.	Noted	N
26	No objection to the above proposed actions.	Noted	N
27	Outdoor cats can become a nuisance if not properly regulated. At night the roaming of cats can be disruptive to households. As they roam and enter properties that are not theirs they disturb dogs and their owners and intimidate/fight other cats. This can be eliminated if a curfew was enforced.	Noted	N
28	Owners whose cats create nuisance in the community or in natural environment & public parks must be fined heavily & if more incidents happen because there's no responsibility by owner then the cat must be destroyed.	Noted	N
29	Owners will ignore education campaigns unless they see the realistic possibility of their own cat being trapped in regular trapping exercises (i.e. there should be widespread publication of trapping numbers and locations	Noted	N
30	Provide free cat traps to residents who have nuisance cats constantly coming onto their property. I have had my car and house urinated on by people letting their cats roam and I am highly allergic to cats which trigger off my allergies when they are in my yard!	The City Rangers are able to investigate nuisance cats. Although cats are allowed to wander, owners must ensure their cat is sterilised, microchipped, registered and wearing a collar and tags. Rangers are able to set traps on the request of residents to educate owners of their responsibilities under the Cat Act 2011. Should the cat be microchipped and registered, the cat will be returned to its owner. The City has also created a "Cat Card" to allow neighbours to anonymously contact their cat owner neighbours to inform them of the behaviours of their cat.	N
31	Pursue the State Govt to update the Cat Act with urgency	Noted	N
32	Reduce infill in established suburbs so that pets do not roam outside their own property.	Noted	N
33	Rental traps could be provided for residents.	Addressed in previous comments	N
34	Some Cat owners say they have never seen their pets(Cats) come home with a bird in its mouth. That's because they are roaming around our neighbourhoods at night & prey on the native birds in parks & our / other people's back gardens. They kill these lovely birds there & eat them before returning to those owner's property's .	Noted	N
35	Sterilised cats are less likely to be a nuisance from spraying. Keeping cats in at night will prevent the problems associated with sensor light activation.	Noted	N

36	The main concern I have with re-signing the current arrangement with the Cat Haven is that, I believe, the cat is returned to the owner without the Ranger being told who the cat belongs to and the Ranger cannot go and speak to those people about the cat. As someone who has reported a cat killing our birds nesting under our pergola it was frustrating that I was not allowed to be told who the cat belonged to and my understand from the ranger was that they weren't told who the cat belonged to and therefore could do nothing, not even go and have a chat. So effectively the cat gets caught, sent to the cat haven and then returned to the owner. No further outcome apart from a fee from the Cat Haven. I believe that should change and that at least the Ranger should be to told who the cat belongs to so he can at least speak to them, even if at this point he legally can't do anything.	Addressed in previous comments	N
37	There are people in the community who are cat haters and would prefer to ban cat ownership altogether. This extreme attitude should be noted in any surveys, and conversely, the beneficial effect cat ownership can have on the lonely and ill.	Numerous data sources have been used to inform the plan including the impact cats have on the native environment as well as the positive impact cats have on people and the community.	N
38	This could potentially result in a lot of cats impounded - I'm glad the council has sought out Cat Haven's recommendations to guide them with this.	Noted	N
39	This definitely needs to be addressed in my suburb.	Noted	N
40	This needs to be done by people in authority so that we don't have individuals taking "the law into their own hands"	Noted	N
41	Trap animals found "on the loose". Fine owners during collection.	Noted	N
42	very few cat- related nuisance issues in our area	Noted	N
43	We have two rescue cats, both registered, desexed, microchipped, with collars, bells and pounce bib. They are kept indoors at night. We are troubled by unregistered cats (no collars) that roam through our garden and annoy and endanger our cats	Noted	N
44	We need clarification on what people can legally do to prevent, deter and detain nuisance cats within the confines of their property, such as bird owners that have nuisance cats regularly maiming and killing their pet birds.	Noted	N

Objective four: Provide support to Melville residents who choose to have cats in their lives

1	If residents wish to have cats in their lives I respect that but I do not believe they should receive subsidies and I do not agree with residents being encouraged to own a cat as there are other animals they could have as pets. Reducing cat numbers would be my preferred goal.	Noted	N
2	A cat cafe would be great too. Easier & cheaper plans to keep their cats within their yards or home & a list of local tradies that could help.	Noted	N
3	Also provide information to residents who do not have cats regarding the benefits cats can have for them. i.e. catching rats and mice.	Noted	N

4	As a long time cat owner in the past I am a cat lover, however, not to the detriment of native fauna. Further, I don't believe in subsidising people to own a cat and look after it responsibly. It is the responsibility of the cat owner to ensure cats are cared for and don't impact on the environment and others.	Noted	N
5	By getting a rescue cat from the Cat Haven/other rescue organisation owner could get free registration for the 1st year & reduced registration fee for the 2nd year.	Addressed in previous comments	N
6	Cat runs are absurdly expensive and you need permission from homeowners if you are renting. Renters should be able to install cat runs as long as they don't damage property. More government support to subsidise cat runs is needed.	Addressed in previous comments	N
7	Cat runs should be encouraged	Noted	N
8	Cat runs should be mandatory for cat owners and must not be subsidised by rate payers or tax payers.	Noted	N
9	Cats play a vital role as companions for the elderly and children and educate kids on animal care etc. A well fed and nurtured cat does not need to hunt or kill wildlife and usually does not stray far from its home, being quite sedentary. A cat can deter vermin, rats and mice from entering ones property and raiding the vegetable garden etc.	Noted	N
10	Ensure a rat and mice management strategy is in place to correspond with the cat plan. The rats and mice are growing and is a huge problem. It's disgraceful	Addressed in previous comments	N
11	Great to raise awareness of the positive impact of cats as family members, highlighting their low maintenance care as pets and company for the lonely.	Noted	N
12	Happy to support positive interaction with cats if they keep them from roaming. Belling a cat does not work, nor does it make a safe cat.	Noted	N
13	I agree as I believe, from my conversations over the years with many dog owners, that many people do not like cats and do not know cats. It is no surprise that the survey first taken of a small percentage of the Melville population was against cats as twice as many households have cats than dogs in Australia. Over 4000 cats is in line with the national average of 27% of Australian households having a cat. Melville is wanting to reduce the pet experience of cat owners while it has, in recent years increased the pleasure of dog owners. This is prejudicial against cats and cat owners. The Cat Haven do not provide advice to potential cat owners about where they live and how that will impact a cat and an owner, perhaps they should.	Noted	N
14	I agree with community education on most issues raised but that education must include information about the destruction of native wildlife by domestic cats, including research disputing owners' assertions that their cat does not hunt and the lack of evidence re cats' effect on rat population.	Noted	N

15	I am concerned about subsidised cat runs in case they become required - we don't have the space, and I can't see how a cat run would work on our property. While implementations like cat yoga is exciting, I don't think it will change people's wish to have a cat - if you love cats you'll want your own - and so I don't think it will help the issue at hand.	Noted	N
16	I believe that owners should fund their own cat runs and that the City should implement a local cat law to control nuisance cats which are many in my location	Noted	N
17	I do not believe that cat ownership should be encouraged. I believe that the goal should be cat reduction.	Noted	N
18	I do not believe the south west group should be involved with city of Melville community specific matters. I see no reason why the cat act needs to be changed	Noted	N
19	I don't think funding is needed to show how cats benefit owners as this is always their defence of roaming cats and there is enough statistical evidence as shown by the report. I agree on the education for cat runs, to show how they can be beneficial etc. but not funding for owners.	Noted	N
20	I think it is great to promote responsible pet ownership for those who have or would already like to have pets but don't think there is a need to promote further cat ownership as part of this management plan.	Noted	N
21	I think it is important to be careful not to encourage residents to want to own pet cats. I think it is important to engage and educate those people who have pet cats already but certainly wouldn't want the Council to be proactively encouraging people to adopt cats from havens and encourage cat ownership.	Noted	N
22	I would only provide cat run assistance to low income households.	Noted	N
23	If people chose to have a cat they need to understand their responsibilities. This should be part of the licensing process and I would encourage the use of a bond. the bond format could include part bond return after 3-5 years. Bond set at a figure that makes people strongly consider taking on a cat, i.e.: \$500 - \$1000.	Noted	N
24	If residents cannot contain their Cats responsibly on their properties they should be fined & have the cats impounded..	Noted	N
25	If they are responsible cat owners, I can't honestly see why they would need support as they are invested in their pet's welfare. If they dislike cats, there is no obvious point and they wouldn't want to own a cat anyway.	Noted	N
26	Initiatives that support fewer cats should be the priority. I do not support actions that encourage an increase or ongoing cat ownership as cats will inevitably still be poorly managed by some owners and constant policing of good cat management (e.g. night curfews) will be extremely difficult.	Noted	N
27	Many elderly, single persons rely on cats for companionship at night and over the weekend breaks when not working.	Noted	N
28	Maybe come up with other ideas other than "cat yoga". Not just the benefits people have from living with cats, but rather how the cat/s can benefit far more by living in a supportive home and neighbourhood.	Noted	N

29	No funding should be put towards promoting cat ownership they have a negative effect on our environment when there are alternatives, dogs don't roam and kill wildlife.	Noted	N
30	Owners will need educating on how to transition their cats to indoor living. Owners will need advice on appropriate enrichment to ensure their cats can adapt to indoor living and still get their required stimulation and exercise.	Noted	N
31	Please consider the impacts of these objectives on people experiencing disadvantage in the City of Melville. Maybe additional accessibility services or other supports could be offered. Is there any work to ensure these consultations include our diverse community? I know I haven't been asked for demographic data, so I suspect not. A small example - in 2019 I was followed home by a cat who seemed to have been abandoned and was not in good shape. The microchip was registered to an out of date address (an animal shelter in Armadale). In the end, a Facebook post led me to the owner. It turns out this cat belonged to a member of the disability community living in shared group housing and was much loved. One carer hated the cat and would put it outside at every opportunity. The cat had been lost for nearly 2 weeks. What support does that cat owner get to comply with the CoM policies on cat ownership, and what education or penalty would the carer receive if CoM picked up the lost cat? I hope you will make sure the new policies are accessible to everyone living in CoM, not just those of us who are well resourced.	<p>The survey and submission form did not seek age/gender as part of the demographic questions. We however sought location, level of interest (rate payer etc), and cat vs not cat owner. This was to ensure we had mixed representation and view points.. The submission form for the final stage of engagement was not weighted towards any demographic profile, and generally the City does not seek additional information (such as age or gender) in a submission process as the level of community influence is quite low, and we generally try not to ask questions that do not influence an outcome. This stage of the engagement is to identify any final concerns, and level of support (and not weighted by demographic). The communications tactics used when promoting all City engagements is continually reviewed throughout the process. If we noticed a specific suburb (or age / gender) is not responding, steps are taken to increase participation numbers - such as a random sample. Communication methods are unique to each engagement.</p> <p>We are at the early stages of reviewing the City's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for the period 2017-2022, and developing a new plan which will outline what the City will do in the next five years to enhance access and inclusion across a broad range of outcome areas. This will cover things such as our services, the information we provide, our approach to customer service and how we consult. It is anticipated that this new plan may not maintain a sole focus on disability, but will also broadly consider and address other barriers experienced by our diverse community. This will be an ideal opportunity to seek feedback from community and other stakeholders in regards to making it easier for the whole community to navigate and access the City's services, and comply with their responsibilities as pet owners for example. The community engagement to inform the new plan will be designed to optimise the diversity of input achieved.</p>	N
32	Ratepayers should not subsidise people's lifestyle choices e.g. cats any more than other choices e.g. cars. Residents should fully fund their own pets. I strongly oppose any "support" to cat owners. Give support to the needy e.g. aged persons, homeless children etc.	Noted	N
33	Rehomed and adopted cats a great idea however new owners need to take responsibility of retraining their cats	Noted	N
34	Remind Cat owners that native animal death is their responsibility.	Noted	N
35	Responsible cat ownership is a requirement if you desire to have a cat in your life, it's not an option	Noted	N
36	Strongly support subsidies for cat runs - my last simple cat run cost almost \$2,000 - luckily I could fund that but lots of people can't or see it as unnecessary	Noted	N

37	Subsidising cat runs would be a fantastic measure to encourage people to keep cats indoors. Currently it is quite expensive to create a fully enclosed and secure cat run which leads to a lot of people taking more risks and allowing cats to roam free	Noted	N
38	Subsidized cat runs	Noted	N
39	Support cat owners to know and understand that their cat is a predator to all forms of wildlife and a nuisance to neighbours as cats have no boundaries.	Noted	N
40	The city of Melville doesn't provide dog owners with this level of support - so why waste ratepayers' money supporting/helping cat owners "interact" with their cats. this is silly.?	Noted	N
41	There really should be a gradual transition away from cat ownership, not encouragement.	Noted	N
42	There should be no financial subsidy to pay for a cat run when there is no subsidy for any other domestic animal kept within the city. The city shouldn't be responsible for the rehoming of cats, they should be put down or given to another organisation like cat haven not at the expense of rate payers	Noted	N
43	We don't actively promote or encourage dog, bird or reptile ownership so why do this for cats?	Noted	N
44	We have too many cats already in Melville. We should not encourage people to acquire more. I think that one cat per household should be the limit.	Noted	N
45	Why do ratepayers have to pay funding for idiots to subsidise cat runs when they are the owner and should be responsible for their own cat! There is no subsidy for a dog or any other pet for registration, runs, crates etc. so why is it these entitled cat owners get cheaper things for being irresponsible!	Noted	N
46	Will these support system be funded by cat owners or every ratepayer?	Noted	N
47	You need to support cat owners in Melville. We get such bad reputation even though most of us do the right thing. You also need to penalise those who cruelly trap or poison cats. Cats are beloved family members and they can really help promote positive mental health.	Noted	N

Final comments on the draft Cat Management Plan

1	It was an interesting observation by people who own cats that their cats don't kill the wildlife. Our neighbour has a cat who does have a bell and it still manages to silence the bell and continues to kill birds on our property.	Noted	N
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2	My cat brings home 2 rats a week and has a curfew of 8pm, what are you going to do about the rat infestation in Ardross when the cats are no longer allowed out? If my cat is potentially having to stay inside on my property, why am I paying an annual fee to the council? What is that money going to go towards? 3. Cats are wild animals and you will potentially be forcing them inside. Will you have dogs inside who continuously bark at night? What about birds and chickens who make noises at inappropriate times? Where does it stop? 4. If the curfew is 8pm(example) what happens if my cat is outside at 6pm and doesn't come back before the curfew? Will there be a penalty/fine or will there be a number of warnings per year? 5. Will your community 'education' on cat health and stress be actually useful? Will it include examples of what the cat is physically demonstrating having been now forced inside (hair loss, indoor urination, pacing etc.) and strategies of how to manage it? Or will it be wishy washy "pat your cat to reduce its stress". 7. I am in full support of cat runs or devices to reduce cats jumping fences. How will you help a cat owner implement these devices on fences when a neighbour is against them? Or they interfere with the neighbours aesthetic of their home? Thanks	Noted	N
3	A lot of birds within the Melville City which have been killed are actually caused by motor vehicles hitting them not just the poor maligned cats.	Noted	N
4	As mentioned before, the studies referred to in the plan do not seem to relate to Melville's make-up, perhaps further studies should be undertaken before conclusions are made?	Noted	N
5	Brilliant initiative	Noted	N
6	Can the native areas of bush be fenced? More assistance is needed (well, there's none now) to help keep cats within their boundaries. My poor local handyman tried many options & I've spent probably thousands trying different things, to no avail & both my cats have died on the road.	Noted	N
7	Cat ownership should really place no financial burden on the council but unfortunately education and regulation is needed. If you choose to purchase a cat you should have to pre register and be educated prior to ownership. I am for free registration for 2-3 years to encourage uptake.	Noted	N
8	Cats are killing native birds. This is not good. Cat owners are responsible and should financially support the protection of the victims. Cat owners should keep their animals under control as dog owners are.	Noted	N
9	Cats need to be allowed outside. Don't even consider confining all cats inside houses. They bring joy to everyone simply by existing and looking content in the sunshine 🐾	Noted	N
10	Cats should all have bells, not be allowed out at night.	Noted	N
11	CSIRO have already undertaken several studies on the effect cats have on our native fauna so why repeat this study ?	Noted	N

12	Desexing cats should be part of the conversation and advocated for strongly by local vets/sellers. I support a limit of three cats per household with a dusk-dawn curfew. I understand the damage cats can wreak on native areas, but they also control mice, rats, cockroaches when outside. The onus should be on owners to control and manage their pets with warning/fines imposed.	Noted	N
13	Do not agree with night time curfews. This is the time when cats are more active and require outdoor time. Think about all of us humans who complain about being in lockdown for 7 days. You are effectively keeping cats in lockdown permanently by keeping them confined to indoors only. This is animal cruelty! Cats are biologically meant to be outside exploring. As long as responsible owners microchip and sterilise their cats, cats should be allowed access to roam outside. They are so much healthier and happier when not confined to indoors. If the City of Melville is going to implement restrictions on cats then us cat owners should be given outdoor cat runs installed at our property at the City of Melville's full cost.	Noted	N
14	Ensure a rat and mice management strategy is in place to correspond with the cat plan. The rats and mice are growing and is a huge problem. It's disgraceful	Addressed in previous comments	N
15	essential is moving forward to protect wildlife, the cats, and the community.	Noted	N
16	Excessive number of cats is a problem, people letting cats roam everywhere is a problem, but charging people to register cats is also a problem for those who benefit from owning cats and cannot afford annual fees. I also do not see that the tax payer, or rate payer should subsidise cat problem correction where the problem is caused by cat owners and not them. It's like rubbish collection costs, we all pay a lot just because a lot of people have a lot of rubbish to dispose of. Where I came from the rubbish disposal was based on the number of bins we had, not the complete suburb usage of the disposal system, same should be for cats	Noted	N
17	Force the irresponsible cat owners to be responsible. If a cat is trapped 3 times they lose their cat, be harsh on this otherwise they won't take responsibility!	Noted	N
18	Great to see some progress on this issue finally being made and some really positive initiatives - Well Done! However I would like to see a more long term approach with some definite goals. For example in 5 years time all new cats will be required to be kept within property boundaries - this would give people time to plan for cat ownership and the requirements of it (as currently exists for dog owners). In 10 years (average cat life) ALL cats to be kept within owners boundaries. Follow this up with extensive trapping / baiting and elimination of outdoor cats from City of Melville. We all know, ultimately, that is exactly what is needed.	Noted	N
19	Have previously been in touch with Melville council about nuisance cats but have had no support or suggestions.	Noted	N

20	Having experienced a roaming cat making a mess on our outdoor furniture and on a separate occasion seeing one what appeared to be stalking a wild bird something definitely needs to be done. My main concern is the impact on wildlife. I fully support the initiative by the Melville City Council.	Noted	N
21	I am all for implementing plans to protect local fauna, but locking up cats is not the answer. The biggest issue are feral cats and owners who are not responsible.	Noted	N
22	I have lived with cats since I was small and know that a well fed cat, and a mature cat generally cuts down in hunting or stops altogether. To prevent a cat from living a natural life with free access outdoors is cruel. To implement a sudden plan is unrealistic and would. I doubt result in less cat ownership and cats being abandoned. A more realistic plan would be to adopt the same strategy as climate change. To realise that an overnight fix is not realistic or possible as it would cause devastation to many pets and their owners with mental health implications. Western Australia used to be a free society and now it has a very controlling and micromanaged approach to everything. Don't let the opportunity to learn the lessons of freedom, resilience and independence which cats teach our kids and their owners every day be lost to save wildlife numbers which could be saved many times over if Melville council introduced a Tree Preservation Policy. Don't make cat owners suffer in a year which may prove to be another bad pandemic year. Cats are beautiful, loving, living creatures too.	Noted	N
23	I no longer own a cat, but as a long term dedicated cat owner and lover, your initiative is an excellent move for both the community and cat welfare.	Noted	N
24	I think it is critical that cats are prohibited from bush reserves in the City and that cats should be confined to their owners properties at all times. I strongly support advocacy for the change of any State Legislation that would enable the City of Melville to enact these important objectives to enforce cat management strategies to reduce impact on wildlife and prevent nuisance cat behaviour on other private properties.	Noted	N
25	I think offering subsidies for supplies that help people keep their cats contained e.g. Cat runs and support to make implementing cat containment easy for people along with sharing positive stories of owners efforts to contain their cats should be high priority areas.	Noted	N
26	I think the Cat Management Plan is a good initiative to controls cats and support cat owners,	Noted	N
27	I think this draft is a great start to encourage positive and responsible cat ownership which is also needed to protect our native wildlife :)	Noted	N
28	I think we should be promoting "community". Talking and working together with neighbours before something becomes an issue. If an issue arises working together to solve it rather than immediately making a formal complaint. Personally this has worked for us.	The City's Friendly Neighbourhoods initiative helps people take that first step in communicating with their neighbours. It also includes 'dear neighbour' cards which can be downloaded and printed to communicate common concerns or issues with neighbours. The City is produced a cat card for residents to inform neighbours about specific cat related concerns.	N
29	I wish to have less regulation in my life not more.	Noted	N

30	I would like to see compulsory provision to all cat owner and all cats must wear cat bibs. https://catbib.com.au/	Noted	N
31	It is taking way too long to get a reasonable plan in place.	Noted	N
32	It is weak (but with good intention). Cat owners have been given every chance to protect wildlife but have failed. Put ratepayers resources into helping wildlife - not helping cats/cat owners.	Noted	N
33	Keen for further feedback	Noted	N
34	My major concerns relate to (1) the killing of native wildlife by cats, both domestic and wild cats (2) The nuisance issue of having other peoples cats roaming onto my property	Noted	N
35	One only needs to look at community Facebook pages and see the amount of lost cat posts to realise that the same people lose the same cats on regular occasions and they frequently take no responsibility and nothing ever gets done. Even with these proposed changes nothing will happen unless compliance and enforcement are improved.	Noted	N
36	Overall the plan addresses a lot of issues with a lot of research but I think it doesn't have enough emphasis on the effect of the nuisance to others. Pages 13 and 14 identify the top 5 concerns but there is nothing in the plan to get cat owners to accept that these are genuine concerns and areas of stress for others. I would like to see definite move to cat runs as cats should be confined to the owners property. Cat curfews don't work as people I have come across say they keep their cat in at night, but let it out to do its business, then can't get it back or let it out early in the morning when birds are starting to move about, so its ineffective. If there has to be some discretion or leniency re penalties for a defined time that is ok. It should be recognised that it is detrimental to peoples health to have to approach neighbours re their cat or indeed just put up with the cat. I have approached neighbours, one where it was without doubt their cat regularly killing birds in my native garden to be told it wasn't their cat etc. so too bad another that just says that's what cats do. I also have to put netting or other barriers to stop cats coming over my side fence stalk birds etc. at night. I also have the cats defecating in my garden and disturbing seedlings etc. This is stressful and detrimental to my health as well as my amenity. Melville is trying to encourage more trees etc. for climate change it would also attract birds but there is no cat solution. If people say their cat doesn't catch the birds their mere presence means that I don't see or hear the birds for sometime. The ground feeders are particularly vulnerable. This is somewhat rambling feedback as I can't see the whole screen at one time and unless I printed of the draft plan can't refer to specifics. I hope it gives a feel that there should be a balance in the plan that educates cat owners about the nuisance and concern to others. We don't want to deal with a cat that is unavoidably run over or with the dead bird that is left in our property. I also hope that with this review Melville will not just accept that present cat legislation means nothing can be done but actively pursues a solution i.e. a change to the legislation. I notice that one of the major fears of cat owners is possible penalties. This is probably the only way people will change their behaviour re cats. Penalties shouldn't be avoided but there can be some recognition of people needing some time to come to terms with changes. After the work on the plan and the feedback people have taken the time to give I hope we see some action and some ongoing report about what the latest stage is. Give the same time and emphasis to the group that has concerns as the plan gives to showing how beneficial cats are to people. Thanks	Noted	N
37	Owners should have a choice whether their cat is indoor or outdoors. However a cat curfew at night 10 or 11pm is a good idea.	Noted	N

38	Please be sure to read my previous notes. Restrictions should be based around the age and temperament of the cat/s. Seniors prefer to spend more time in the backyard rather than explore other areas. Male cats [usually unsterilised or sterilized later in their life] are more prone to fighting. Only the younger cats are more likely to kill native animals. Maybe research this more in-depth to come up with a more reasonable plan than 'all cats must remain indoors'. Lastly, non-animal owners should not get a say since they would be bias against animals in the neighbourhood and usually don't give a crap about animals.	Noted	N
39	Please ensure this is effective in stopping cats from roaming and decimating wildlife. I am surrounded by cats who use my garden as a toilet and lie in wait amongst the bushes in my garden to kill the birdlife.	Noted	N
40	Proof of cat sterilisation on registration should offer a substantial discount.	Noted	N
41	Really am sad to see cat owners being persecuted in this way. What you have to remember is that a lot of cats are fundamentally outdoor creatures and confining them indoors is in my opinion cruel. Having night time curfews is also not practical - you don't simply open the door and call their name to get them into the house. They are very independent creatures and are not always easy to control. This is neither the cat's or the owner's fault. Whilst I understand the concerns around other wildlife I do not think that creating local laws that cannot be easily obeyed is the way forward. I cannot stress how much I thoroughly disagree with these proposals.	Noted	N
42	Stop wasting any more time. Curfew all cats 24/7 : fine cat owners when the curfew hours are breached : or when their cats are being a nuisance or when their hunting cats have killed our native wildlife : SAVE OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE. - they're more important than cats which are not native to Australia?	Noted	N
43	Thanks for doing it in the first place. Not an easy topic to tackle considering the strong opinions.	Noted	N
44	The best cat management practices that will directly result in a reduction of predation of native wildlife by cats are the implementation, and constant enforcement, of the direct measures of limiting cat movements (i.e. night curfews and exclusion zones) and numbers (i.e. limits per household) and trapping/baiting programs. I strongly support the introduction of such measures and the City needs to advocate the State Government to strengthen the Cat Act 2011 to enable these to be fully enforceable through legislation.	Noted	N
45	The data presented states suburban cats kill more native animals than feral cats in the outer regions. The timelines proposed for city dwellers to be educated is too long. Protection of our native fauna is urgent and must take priority over exotic animals. Educating the public in observing our native creatures like joining bird walks in local parks can give health benefits too. Libraries and joining friends groups to create habitats can give improved health outcomes to folk and fauna.	Noted	N

46	The draft looks ok at this point but I have reservations about implementing it effectively. There will need to be more than one or two people operating it. I would suggest that the licensing fee is increased to help cover the cost.	Noted	N
47	The only thing I'm worried about is how keeping cats within their resident boundaries will be implemented. I'm worried this will encourage disputes between neighbours if my cat is simply up on the neighbours roof or on our shared fence. She mostly does not leave our residence but is of course sometimes seen by neighbours on the boundary. This isn't an issue currently but I'm worried it may become one with the law changes, and unnecessarily so as she stays in our yard 99% of the time and does not interact with local wildlife apart from insects.	Noted	N
48	This is crucial for the preservation of native species as soon there will be one survivor and that will be cats.	Noted	N
49	Tougher stance on irresponsible cat ownership must be taken by the State Government and City of Melville. Penalties for roaming cats are not a deterrent to cat owners who do not care. It is depressing to witness the Bandicoot population decimated in Wal Hughes Reserve by new residents with cats that are allowed to roam in the Reserve.	Noted	N
50	Very important to force cat owners to take more responsibility for cats by banning them from roaming outdoors 24 hrs a day. If found outdoors cats must be impounded & owners fined heavily - if not collected then the cats must be put down. Law must be that max number of cats per household is 2. Registration, sterilization & microchipping must be compulsory. It must be compulsory for an owner to build a secure cat run outdoors if they want cat/cats to go outdoors. This should be of a design designated by the council to ensure it's done correctly & the cat cannot escape. Owners who say their cats do not hunt just because they do not see the dead wildlife are very irresponsible. Too many cat owners are highly ignorant & slack at taking no responsibility for their cats' habits. I am not against cat ownership but feel strongly that laws etc. must be very stringent to stop the ongoing decimation of wildlife.	Noted	N
51	We do our best to keep our cat indoors at night. Sometimes we cannot find him before bed and he stays out. If a curfew is introduced there should be a certain number of warning before fines or penalties are introduced.	Noted	N
52	We have 3 Burmese cats who all sleep in doors at night, and spend a couple of hours a day in a secure backyard where they can't get out. Owners need to be encouraged to protect their cats by not allowing them to roam, which has the added benefit of protecting wildlife from being harmed. A microchip and collar with bell should also be promoted. I strongly oppose charging registration fees for cats, especially when they are solely indoor pets as they are not using city of Melville facilities and their owners already pay rates for their property. However, I would support owners being fined for letting their pets roam, including dogs.	Noted	N

53	We must prevent cats from predating wildlife. Owners should sign a pledge to do this when their cat is registered. If they fail to cooperate, their cats should be impounded.	Noted	N
54	With reference to the feedback regarding pest control, if the Council plans to mandate confining cats to indoor setting and cat runs, the Council should implement a Pest Management Plan which includes rats, mice and rabbits in order to control the City's rodent populations. This could include the introduction of another predatory species, baiting programs conducted by the Council, or subsidies for residents to conduct baiting. This should be implemented so that the pest populations do not explode with the loss of cats from the ecosystem.	Addressed in previous comments	N