



King Island Council

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 July 2017

CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

King Island Mayor Duncan McFie welcomed the release earlier this week of the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan. The Plan recognises cats as an integral part of Tasmanian society but also acknowledges the role they play can be complex.

This is as true on King Island as it is in the rest of Tasmania with cats being variously viewed as beloved pets, through to being the scourge of native fauna. The plan recognises the polarising effect of cats in the community which can make cat management a difficult and sometimes emotive issue.

The plan also recognises that limiting the number of cats entering the feral population through a range of community education and awareness programs is the most effective cat management strategy, and is the most achievable.

To assist in addressing implementation and operation of this new legislation, the State Government will locate three regional offices (statewide) to support changed attitudes and behaviours in cat management. Part of their role will be to work with Council's in educating the community about responsible cat ownership, as well as the requirements to desex and microchip domestic cats. These officers will also support councils in managing complaints of nuisance cats, but with a focus on education rather than compliance.

The legislation places an onus on owners to ensure that all domestic animals are de-sexed and microchipped, and that no more than four animals are located at any one property.

Mayor McFie said he was pleased with the practical and realistic objectives outlined, "the plan appears balanced and manageable, and sensibly separates the way we think about domestic cats versus feral cats"

-ends-

Media Contacts:
Mayor Duncan McFie
0428 621 761

David Laughler
GENERAL MANAGER
Phone: 03 6462 9000