
MINUTES
of the
SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING
Draft Cat Management Bylaw
held
9.30 am, Tuesday, 24 September 2024
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

The [video recording](#) of this meeting is available on the Council's YouTube channel.

Present: Councillor C Hill (Chair), Deputy Mayor S Bryant, Councillors J Ellis, C Mackenzie, and B Maru

In Attendance: Group Manager – Environmental Assurance (K Drummond), Acting Group Manager – Information, Science and Technology (R Smith), Group Manager – Service and Strategy (J Ridd), Community Policy Advisor (C Budai), Governance Manager (E Stephenson), Team Leader – Biosecurity and Biodiversity (G Coleman), Executive Assistant and Advisor to the Mayor (R Scherer) and Strategic Policy Manager (D Fletcher)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

Councillor Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Group Manager – Environmental Assurance, Kim Drummond to offer the opening karakia.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3 REPORTS

Supporting material supplied by speaking and non-speaking submitters, together with tabled supporting information and presentations is available on the Council's website in the Minutes Attachment document.

3.1 Draft Cat Management Bylaw Submissions

Moved Councillor Maru/Councillor Ellis

SH24-09-1

That the Draft Cat Management Bylaw Submissions Hearing and Deliberations Panel

1. receives the Draft Cat Management Bylaw Submissions report, RSH24-09-4; and
2. receives and considers all [152 submissions](#) on the Draft Cat Management Bylaw received by 27 August 2024; and
3. notes that there were no late submissions on the Draft Cat Management Bylaw received after 5.00 pm on 3 September 2024.

CARRIED

Attachment 1 Supporting information - non-speakers

Attachment 2 Supporting information - speakers

Attachment 3 Supporting information - speakers - tabled

4 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

4.1 **Submitter:** Les Cook (33422)

Topic: Mr Cook tabled his submission.

- Support for the proposed bylaw
- Cats had been a long term issue at his property
- The Council should consider a maximum of two cats per household in the draft Bylaw.

Questions and Responses: There were no questions.

4.2 **Submitter:** LV Faulkner (33433) – the submission was presented by Deputy Mayor Bryant, as Mr Faulkner was unable to attend. Supporting information was tabled.

Topic:

- All cats in Tasman District should be micro-chipped and desexed
- There should be a limit of two cats per household
- Cats should also be collared for identification.

Questions and Responses: There were no questions.

4.3 **Submitter:** Linda Jenkins (33445)

Topic:

- The importance of protecting New Zealand's native species
- Support for microchipping and desexing of cats
- The transition period of the bylaw taking effect should be shortened to 2026
- There should be a limit of three cats maximum on any property and mandatory containment within the landowners property with enforcement.

Questions and Responses:

- Reduction of the transition period - this would result in the benefits of the bylaw being felt sooner.
- Current cat number rules – currently unlimited

- How could cat containment be achieved - parts of Australia had cat management bylaws where “catios” (cat enclosures) were mandatory to ensure that cats could not leave the owner’s property. She also suggested that the Council could look at the option of cat ‘curfews’.

4.4 **Submitter:** Susan Cook (33566) – did not attend

4.5 **Submitter:** Anna Naygrow (33669) – did not attend

4.6 **Submitter:** Carol Dayman (33826) – did not attend

4.7 **Submitter:** Mathias Schaeffner (34005) Tasman Democracy

Topic: Mr Schaffner suggested that the bylaw was not legal as he believed the Council had not fulfilled the requirements of S155 of the Local Government Act in preparing the draft bylaw.

Questions and Responses: There were no questions.

4.8 **Submitter:** Jessi Morgan on behalf of Predator Free New Zealand Trust (33918) – via Zoom

Topic:

- While cats were an important companion animal, they were a huge danger to native wildlife
- The problem of stray cat colonies where people were feeding cats on public land
- Microchipping and desexing of cats were widely accepted measures for responsible cat ownership, and were well supported throughout New Zealand.

Questions and Responses:

Where was the Predator Free Strategy 2050 heading in terms of the inclusion of cats –

- A discussion document was due to be released for consultation next year, which would include feral cats and the possibility of a nationwide Cat Act
- Phasing in the cat management bylaw was important especially for older cats.

4.9 **Submitter:** Elaine Asquith (33960) Tasman Environmental Trust – did not attend

4.10 **Submitter:** Scott Burnett on behalf of Forest and Bird (33973)

Topic:

- Forest and Bird supported the proposed Cat Management Bylaw which would help to stem the number of cats in the community
- A majority of the public supported better management of cats, particularly through microchipping, registration and desexing
- The transition period for the introduction of the Cat Management Bylaw could be shortened
- A limit should be imposed on the number of cats in each household
- The feeding of stray cats on public land should be discouraged.

Questions and Responses:

- How to enforce a limit on the number of cats per household – this would need to be managed and enforced only in circumstances where there was an obvious problem.
- The issue of people feeding cats on public land - an example was a cat colony at the Blenheim refuse station where people were feeding the cats.

4.11 **Submitter:** Gillian Pollock (33411)

Topic:

- As well as mandatory desexing and microchipping, the Council should look at options for cat containment to be included in the bylaw
- Enact the bylaw by the end of 2025.

Questions and Responses:

Cat containment just at night or during the day too - cats should be contained for 24 hours per day.

4.12 **Submitter:** Cynthia Anne McConville (33441)

Topic:

- The Council should educate people about the benefit of keeping cats indoors at night and the introduction of cat bibs
- Support for desexing and microchipping of cats
- Cat containment should be a long term goal for the Council
- The bylaw should come into effect from 1 June 2026.

Questions and Responses: There were no questions.

4.13 **Submitter:** Cynthia McConville on behalf of Forest and Bird Golden Bay Branch (33574)

Topic:

- The importance of a public education campaign focused on responsible cat management
- Forest and Bird requested support for compulsory desexing and microchipping
- The bylaw should come into effect on 1 June 2026
- The use of kill traps.

A video was presented of cat predation on birds nesting near Rototai.

Questions and Responses:

Do cats eat eggs – yes they eat eggs, chicks and adult birds.

All kill traps –

- Were approved by animal ethics groups
- Could be set up to identify predators, including non-microchipped cats and to kill them
- The traps cost around \$750.

4.14 **Submitter:** Sophie Davies on behalf of Chris Rowse (33929) Project De-Vine Environmental Trust

Topic: The Trust asked that the Cat Management Bylaw be effective from 1 June 2026 and include all feral and non-microchipped cats.

Questions and Responses: There were no questions.

4.15 **Submitter:** Abbie Langford on behalf of Golden Bay Community Board (33982) – did not attend

4.16 **Submitter:** Dr Christine Sumner (33983) SPCA New Zealand

Topic:

- Support for the bylaw and the microchipping and desexing of cats
- The age to desex cats should be lowered to four months, not six months
- Would like more targeted support to encourage people to desex their cats
- Support for cats to be registered on the national companion animal register.

Questions and Responses:

The intent of the SPCA to continue with the snip and chip partnership following the introduction of the bylaw –

- The SPCA saw the microchipping and desexing of cats as a community problem and were there to provide help
- The programme had limited funding
- the SPCA was helping to get stray and feral cats desexed and then returning them to where they came from, but not to areas where there was sensitive wildlife
- While this solution was not ideal, it did work
- Some stray cats were lost companion cats
- There could be more options for humane management of stray cats.

4.17 **Submitter:** Mr Kevin Fourie (Kevenergy) (33985) – did not attend

5 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil

Councillor Hill offered the closing karakia and the meeting concluded at 10.46am.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings by resolution on Enter date .