

Cat Local Law 2023 - Engagement Plan

PART 1

Purpose of engagement:

Gain feedback, any concerns and recommendations from the community in relation to the proposed Cat Local Law 2023.

Background:

The *Local Government Act 1995* offers the power for Western Australian local governments to make any local laws considered necessary for the good government of their districts.

The proposed Cat Local Law 2023 is a new local law, which seeks to cover the shortfalls of the *Cat Act 2011*.

Summary of project/proposal:

The Local Government Act 1995 offers the power for WA Local Governments to make local laws required to adequately govern the district in relation to community needs.

Currently the Cat Act 2011 does not have legislative requirements of owners that are in line with the community expectations and needs. Additionally, the Act does not facilitate the environmental and health considerations in relation to the detrimental effect that cats can have on the Shire. The Act does, however, allow for the implementation of a Local Law to cover nuisance, health and environmental factors.

The Shire receives ongoing complaints regarding cats wandering, creating a nuisance, cat hoarding (excessive cat numbers), health matters relating to faeces or spraying and attacking wildlife, domestic animals and humans. Currently these matters cannot be actioned effectively by the Shire as there is no legislation requiring the control of cats with these issues.

Unlike with the Dog Act, the Cat Act 2011 does not require cats to be contained or not to trespass on private property. The Shire currently offer customers the option to trap cats (humanely) on their own property and the Shire will impound the cat(s). Once the cat has been registered, desexed and microchipped by the owner there is very little recourse if the cat(s) continue to wander, trespass or continue to be a nuisance. In addition to the lack of legislation power, the likelihood of trapping a cat a second time diminishes substantially.

Similarly, the Cat Act does not have any legislative power in relation to cats defecating or spraying private property or public place. Furthermore, if a cat is to attack a person or animal the only penalty under the Cat Act 2011 is to destroy and dispose of the cat, which is not likely to be enforced on a family pet.

The Cat Act 2011 allows for a Local Law to implement a limit on cat numbers at a property and implement permits for numbers above the specified number, whereby the Local Government can implement containment requirements for the cats on the property.

In conclusion the Cat act falls short of the community's expectations in many ways and the proposed local law seeks to assist the community with the issues surrounding cats within the Shire.

Contact Us

Enquiries

Call: (08) 9526 1111
Fax: (08) 9525 5441
Email: info@sjshire.wa.gov.au

In Person

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)



www.sjshire.wa.gov.au



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What do you want to achieve from the community engagement?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gathering information
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining local knowledge
<input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining feedback on activity/proposal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obtaining feedback on draft plan/document
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identifying need(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Exploring values and trade-offs | <input type="checkbox"/> Validating research/data
<input type="checkbox"/> Seeking guidance/direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Educating community members
<input type="checkbox"/> Other
..... |
|---|---|

What is the relevant legislation to take into account?

Cat Act 2011 and the Serpentine Jarrahdale Kennel and Cattery Local Law

Key messages to the community:

- The new proposed Cat Local Law 2023 will enable the Shire to better assist the community's concerns relating to cat nuisances within the Shire. The proposed Cat Local Law will additionally consolidate the Cattery aspect of the Shire's Kennel and Cattery Local Law
- The key proposed enhancements are:
 - Limiting cats to 2 per property
 - Provisions for applying for more than 2 cats (permits require cats to be contained to property)
 - Provisions for applying for a Cattery- (where cats are to be contained to property)
 - Provisions for nuisance cats
 - Prohibited areas - public places where cats are prohibited entirely

Target/stakeholder groups

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General community/residents/ratepayers
<input type="checkbox"/> Young people
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors
<input type="checkbox"/> Community groups/sporting clubs
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith/religious groups
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/friends' groups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident/ratepayer groups
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents' groups
<input type="checkbox"/> Culturally and linguistically diverse people
<input type="checkbox"/> People with disability
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local businesses
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry groups/peak bodies
<input type="checkbox"/> Local schools/educational institutions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Other local governments
<input type="checkbox"/> State government(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal government
<input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentarians/politicians
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shire Elected Members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shire Executive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shire staff |
|--|---|

Specific stakeholders:

- Cat owners
- Residents of the "Chestnuts Estate" and Beenyup Road where cats are to be restricted
- Local vets

Areas/location are to be targeted as part of the engagement:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Issue specific – not location targeted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole of Shire
<input type="checkbox"/> <Insert number> metres radius | <input type="checkbox"/> Jarrahdale
<input type="checkbox"/> Karrakup
<input type="checkbox"/> Keysbrook |
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<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Byford <input type="checkbox"/> Cardup <input type="checkbox"/> Darling Downs <input type="checkbox"/> Hopeland	<input type="checkbox"/> Mardella <input type="checkbox"/> Mundijong <input type="checkbox"/> Oakford <input type="checkbox"/> Oldbury <input type="checkbox"/> Serpentine <input type="checkbox"/> Whitby
Expected/desired number of participants	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50 – 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 101 – 200	<input type="checkbox"/> 201 – 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 501 -1,000 <input type="checkbox"/> >1,000

Budget for engagement
The budget excludes staff time and operational resources.

Planned start and end dates:
Allow 4 weeks lead in time from approval of engagement activity to commence
Allow 3 weeks for community consultation period.
Start: TBA
End: TBA

Engagement methods	
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus group <input type="checkbox"/> Forums/workshop <input type="checkbox"/> Hardcopy questionnaire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online questionnaire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive display board <input type="checkbox"/> Public open house <input type="checkbox"/> Door knocking	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview <input type="checkbox"/> Popup at venue or event <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Working group <input type="checkbox"/> Feedback form <input type="checkbox"/> Letter box <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Description of above methods:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey on Your Say SJ 	

Valid responses (if relevant)
For a response to be valid, the respondent must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reside in the Shire Own property in the Shire Visit the Shire
The Shire will accept not accept anonymous responses.

Multiple/duplicate responses (if relevant)



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The Shire will only accept:

- 1 submission per person

Communication methods		
<p>Direct communication</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Letter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meeting/face-to-face</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone call</p> <p>Print communication</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brochure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Flyer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FAQs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scarp Voice (monthly newsletter in The Examiner newspaper)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Media Release</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspaper advert</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poster</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Notice</p>	<p>Online communication</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SJ Matters (monthly Shire eNewsletter)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facebook post</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Facebook advertisement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Google advertising</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Twitter post</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LinkedIn post</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your Say SJ project page</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website (homepage banner)</p>	<p>Electronic communication</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Television advertisement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Radio advertisement (Heritage FM)</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bus stop advertising</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On site meeting/listening post</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre pop up</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Special event/launch</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Signage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>.....</p>



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Cat Local Law - Engagement Schedule

Andrew Trosic (AT) Thomas Vassallo (TV) Amanda Bain (AB) Justin Rake (JR) Brian Oliver (BO) Executive Manager Group (EMG)

#	Activity	Outcome / detailed description	Target stakeholder	Key dates	Notes	Responsibility	Output / record
2. Engagement Plan Activities							
2.1	Engagement Plan approved	Approval to implement engagement plan	Thomas			AT/EMG	
2.2	Design assets	Develop design assets (poster/newspaper advert, Social Media graphics and website banner) for promotion	Community			TV + AB	
2.3	Publish Your Say SJ project page	Project page published with survey	All		Refer to Part 2 of this document	JR	
ENGAGEMENT OPENS – DATE TBC							
2.4	Grapevine news story	Inform staff of engagement project and survey	Staff			TV	
2.5	Friday Facts story	Inform EMG + Councillors of engagement	Councillors + EMG			TV	
2.6	Newspaper advert	Advertise engagement project and survey	Examiner Newspaper			AB	
2.7	Social Media post #1	Post #1 about engagement project and survey	Community			JR	
2.8	Your Say SJ eNewsletter	Story in Your Say SJ eNewsletter	Your Say SJ subscribers			JR	
2.9	Social Media post #2	Post #2 about engagement project and survey	Community			JR	
2.10	SJ Matters eNewsletter	Story in SJ Matters eNewsletter	SJ Matters subscribers			JR	
ENGAGEMENT CLOSSES – DATE TBC							
2.11	Outcomes report	Provide survey reports	Thomas			JR	



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2.12	Email people who made submission of report to Council	Advise of report to Council following review of community engagement	People who made submission			TV	
2.13	Council Report	Inform Council of community engagement and recommendation regarding Local Law	Council			TV	
2.14	Finalise project page	Advise of decision and close project page	N/A			JR	
2.15	Email people who made submission of Council decision	Advise of Council decision and next steps	People who made submission			TV	

Evaluation and reporting of engagement outcomes

Outcomes from the engagement will be analysed and reported to the community via a Community Engagement Outcomes Report.

The report will be presented Council and will be uploaded to the project page on your Say SJ.

Approval

Manager <Service Team Name>	Date
Director <Directorate Name> (if applicable)	Date
Chief Executive Officer (if applicable)	Date

**PART 2**

Title of engagement project	Proposed Cat Local Law
Reference number	E22/8054
Engagement dates	<p><i>Allow 4 weeks lead in time from approval of engagement activity to commence</i></p> <p><i>Allow 3 weeks for community consultation period.</i></p> <p>Start: TBA</p> <p>End: TBA</p>
Description of engagement project	<p>The new proposed Cat Local Law 2023 will enable the Shire to better assist the community's concerns relating to cat nuisances within the Shire. The proposed Cat Local Law will additionally consolidate the Cattery aspect of the Shire's Kennel and Cattery Local Law</p> <p>The key proposed enhancements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Limiting cats to 2 per property○ Provisions for applying for more than 2 cats (permits require cats to be contained to property)○ Provisions for applying for a Cattery- (where cats are to be contained to property)○ Provisions for nuisance cats○ Prohibited areas - public places where cats are prohibited entirely <p>View the proposed Cat Local Law 2023</p> <p>The proposed Cat Local Law 2023 is available to view under the documents section of this webpage.</p>
FAQs	Q: Why is the Cat Local Law needed?



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	<p>A: The proposed Local Law will clarify certain aspects of the Cat Act/Regulations and assist in maintaining the community expectations for cat owners to control and contain their cats.</p> <p>Q: What are the key changes in regarding the proposed replacement Local law?</p> <p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limiting cats to 2 per property ○ Provisions for applying for more than 2 cats (permits require cats to be contained to property) ○ Provisions for applying for more than 3 cats (a “Cattery”- where cats are to be contained to property) ○ Provisions for nuisance cats ○ Prohibited areas - public places where cats are prohibited entirely <p>Q: Will cats be allowed to wander / roam?</p> <p>A: Currently Cats are permitted to wander on thoroughfares, streets and private property.</p> <p>The proposed local law will have prohibited public areas, as specified in the last schedule within the document.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed local law will have provisions for cats trespassing on private property under the “Nuisance” section and cat owners would be liable to penalties if the cat was to cause a nuisance.</p> <p>Currently cats are not permitted to enter upon or into any local government property unless authorised under the Public Places and Local Government Local Law.</p> <p>Q: Will I have extra responsibilities as a cat owner?</p> <p>A: Yes, cat owners would be responsible to ensure their cat(s) are not causing a nuisance to the community.</p> <p>Residents will only be permitted to have 2 cats on the property and require a permit for more than 2 cats. Cats subject to a permit are required to be contained to the property.</p> <p>Q: I already have more than 2 cats, how will the limit on two cats affect me?</p> <p>A: Owners with more than two cats <u>registered</u> prior to the proposed local law being implemented will not need to gain a permit for those cats currently registered to the property.</p>
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	<p>For cats not registered or if the registration expires on one or more cats the owner will need to gain a permit. Any new cats brought onto the property will also require a permit where the total number of cats is over 2.</p> <p>Q: If I have a permit to keep more than 2 cats and one is re-homed or dies can I replace it with another cat?</p> <p>A: Any permit issued to keep more than 2 cats is for the cats specified on the permit, different cats would require a new permit to be applied for.</p> <p>Q: Will owners be allowed to breed cats?</p> <p>A: Currently cat owners are required to have a breeder's license to have an unsterilised cat and this will not be affected by the proposed Cat Local Law. All cats over the age of 6 months old are required to be sterilised, additionally where a cat under the age of 6 months is sold or re-homed the owner must provide a pre-paid vet certificate for sterilisation to the new owner.</p> <p>Q: Will owners be required to have suitable enclosures to contain their cats?</p> <p>A: Cats subject to a permit will be required to be contained to the property unless under effective control.</p> <p>All other cats would need to comply with the "Nuisance" section.</p> <p>Q: Why are Prohibited areas being implemented?</p> <p>A: Some areas are environmentally sensitive, and cats have been proven to be detrimental to both flora and fauna. Cats are known to attack wildlife and dig causing damage to flora, additionally cat feces left spreads disease and kills wildlife such as bandicoots.</p> <p>Q: Do other councils have Cat Local Laws?</p> <p>A: Yes, Local Governments have implemented a Cat Local Law, and some councils that have not yet are currently in the drafting process.</p> <p>Q: My neighbours cat is a nuisance, will this proposed law help?</p> <p>A: The proposed Cat local Law will allow for a Cat Control Notice to be issued to the owner requiring the specific nuisance stop. If the owner fails to abide by the notice, they may be issued an infringement notice(s)</p> <p>Currently and continuing with the proposed Cat Local Law, resident may humanely trap trespassing cats on their own property and hand them in to the</p>
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	Shire. Cats impounded do incur a cost to the owner for release and their cat will be required to be sterilised, microchipped and registered prior to release.
Making a submission	<p>Submissions on the Cat Local Law may be lodged by one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing an online form below • Email your feedback to info@sjshire.wa.gov.au stating the following reference number: <insert reference number> • A written submission, submitted by mail or in person to 6 Paterson Street, Mundijong, including the reference number: <insert reference number> <p>Submissions close Date TBC</p>
Who's listening?	<p>Thomas Vassallo</p> <p>Role: Coordinator Community Safety</p> <p>Phone: 9526 1111</p> <p>Email: info@sjshire.wa.gov.au</p>
Document library	<i>Cat Local Law 2023 (required)</i> – E22/8054
Timeline	<p>Consultation open</p> <p>Consultation for this project commenced on <insert date> and closes at 5pm, <not less than 6 weeks >.</p> <p>Under Review</p> <p>Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.</p> <p>Final report</p> <p>The final outcomes of the consultation are documented here. This may include a summary of all contributions collected as well as recommendations for future action.</p>



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Photo*General cat photo***PART 3 - SURVEY**

The new proposed Cat Local Law 2023 will enable the Shire to better assist the community's concerns relating to cat nuisances within the Shire. The proposed Cat Local Law will additionally consolidate the Cattery aspect of the Shire's Kennel and Cattery Local Law

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- Provisions for nuisance cats
- Prohibited areas - public places where cats are prohibited entirely

Q1 After reviewing the new proposed Cat Local Law 2023, do you:

- Support the proposed Cat Local Law 2023
- Object to the proposed Cat Local Law 2023
- Neither support nor object



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Q2 Please provide any other comments regarding the proposed Cat Local Law 2023.

Q3 Please upload a supporting attachment if required. For multiple attachments, please email them to info@sjshire.wa.gov.au citing the reference number.

Q5 Please select the following which best describes you:

- I am a cat owner who lives in the Shire
- I am a cat owner who visits the Shire
- I am not a cat owner but I visit or live in places where there are cats
- I am interested in the Shire's Cat Local Law 2023

Q6 First Name

Q7 Last Name

Q8 Suburb

Q9 How did you find out about this community engagement?

- Email/eNewsletter
- Social media
- Advert in The Examiner Newspaper
- Word of mouth
- Your Say SJ website
- Other