Let's Protect Our Environment

WRITTEN FEEDBACK
Volume Eight

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Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3837

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Not Specified

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)

All of Auckland Support

Tell us why

Cats are a predator species and cause devastation for our native species

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	
Kawau Island	
Rakino Island	
Waiheke Island	
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats are a predator species and cause devastation for our native species

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	
Kawau Island	
Rakino Island	
Waiheke Island	
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats are a predator species and cause devastation for our native species

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Do not support
Kawau Island	Do not support
Rakino Island	Do not support
Waiheke Island	Do not support

Tell us why

All these islands could be cat predator free and this is particularly important in the quest to eradicate pest predators

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

This is an excellent first step in the prevention of predator species proliferating

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Bans and fines enabled by microchipping data on where cats roam could be obtained from suitable technology in the microchips

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Keep working at what is currently being done and work to enabling all offshore islands in the Hauraki Gulf to be predator free

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

We need to actively work to prevent the spread of the caulerpa seaweed pest. Our marine ecosystems in the Hauraki Gulf are at risk

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

We need to protect all of our marine environment and this would contribute to enhancing the cultural value of marine ecosystems

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

We have a responsibility to restore more damaged lake ecosystems

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Good idea, especially with the threat of "rot snot" algae

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #13

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Anecdotally, the majority of our resident companion cats have all 'turned up', i.e. they were unwanted, unowned, or dumped, but have had human handling. The current owners did not choose to own the cat. Please do everything in your power to close this loop - mandatory desexing is a step towards that.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Mandatory microchipping and registration empowers all interested parties to untangle the cat problem. We need clarity and clear lines of responsibility when taking on a cat and or dealing with cats found in our possession.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats should not be free to roam. It is totally disrespectful of all the hard effort put in by communities to protect our biodiversity. Further, cats digging up gardens and leave their disease 'gifts' is not acceptable.

We have tried to feed a family off an urban garden while living next to a four cat household. We were left to create ineffectual cat defences of every type while living in fear of upsetting the neighbours (actually good friends, but naive.)

We should encourage healthy gardens and the sharing of vegetables over the fence, not the sharing of cat faeces.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

It surprises me that cats are allowed on the islands at all.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Do not support

Tell us why

I am not if favour of the council using public money to subsidise and normalise cat ownership. Cats, fixed or otherwise are a biodiversity disaster. If we treasure and respect our Maui dolphin, how can we justify subsidising cat ownership. Every fixed kitten represents another 10 to 15 years of toxoplasmosis in our waterways, and another generation of cat owners.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Please on our behalf, strongly advocate the use of cat collars so that trapping communities can operate responsibly without facing kickback from cat groups, or irresponsible cat owners.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

I would like to see an increase in the support for Predator Free 2050, particularly in our rural areas. We have peninsulas that are increasingly defendable, we have fantastic collaboration tools such as Trap.nz, and monitoring equipment to make the job easier. Given all of the plantings that have happened over the last few years, there will be a need for community pest control operations to keep these from simply becoming pest habitats.

We need to be careful not to lose the momentum, but we also need to be sensible in our approach - not just hand out equipment as a token effort. I would like to see greater use of technology to bring about active monitored networks of pest control. Possums, and ferrets, are relatively easy to remove by communities armed with appropriate equipment. It would be great to see the council support this community enablement.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

As long as it doesn't increase costs of boat ownership.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Other

Tell us why

I support the council supporting communities to do the mahi.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Unsure

Tell us why

Powered planing vessels (including jet-skis) should be banned from many lakes, and waterways - unless these are support vessels for events such as sailing, swimming, or waka ama, where they are likely to be used respectfully.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Please support cycle ways, and paths connecting communities - but please do it sensibly without wasting resources. These make great pest control boundaries and access points.

Yes, please support more EV roll out and support (more charging facilities, and incentives.)

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #28

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

With an exception for responsible pure bred breeders

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

All cats in New Zealand should be microchipped and registered as a general rule/policy

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Unsure

Tell us why

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Other

Tell us why

I support till we are at a stage of nearly all cats been microchipped and registered, then leave it to responsible breeders

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #29

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

To protect our endangered/threatened species

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

To make owners responsible and to protect our threatened species

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Although more difficult to achieve with effort there are ways to make this happen.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

For vet purposes only?

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Again, if we want to protect our endangered wild life we should be prepared to support this happening

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Maybe having a licence to own a cafe the same as owning a dog to make owners more responsible

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Cat licences

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

Having seen the impact of this seaweed and how quickly if has spread we need to do something more urgently.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

They need to set the example to everyone else to highlight the importance of taking such measures

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

Our waterways are in dire need of intervention to stop the contamination

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Our environment is more important than recreational activities otherwise there will be nowhere for any recreational activities

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Absolutely

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

I think if the above points were prioritised in the first instance and implemented then is the time for next steps

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #313

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

The time for unneutered cats having lots of litters is over. They spread Toxoplasmosis and owners need to take responsibility.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Compulsory microchipping is essential to delineate owned cats from unowned. This will pave the way for the clearing out of strays across the city like they are doing in Wellington.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

There are plenty of technological options available to make containment possible. ACT in Australia requires this.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Unsure
Kawau Island	Unsure
Rakino Island	Unsure
Waiheke Island	Unsure

Tell us why

If this is to be allowed, then the cats must be desexed and microchipped.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Subsidizing desexing is for the greater good. It's good outcome for the cat and a good outcome for the city.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

There are cage traps available that have sensors to detect microchips. There is no reason for owned cats to not be returned home to responsible owners. If people choose to not microchip then the unintended consequences are theirs to bear and not the responsibility of council or community groups wanting to protect wildlife in the city.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

It would be amazing if Auckland tried rolling out intensive pest control like they have done in Miramar in Wellington and which is now spreading to the central city. Probably the first hurdle is social licence so maybe investing in an education programme and funding a few pest-free communities to spread the message would be a good place to start.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

Great idea but now sure how practical it is? Not saying don't try though.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

This is essential.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

The lakes in the Waitakeres are ruined by pest fish. I've always thought it'll need a scorched earth approach, rotenone the whole lake and destroy everything, then reintroduce the native species to restore the ecosystem.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

This is necessary.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #962

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

It reduces the risk of them threatening our wildlife, its a no-brainer

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

So that live trapped cats can be returned to owners. Will also help with problematic domestic cats that return on multiple occasions to protected areas.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats should be bound by the same rules as dogs and not be given free license to roam. It also benefits the welfare of the cat not to be exposed to the risks of road, dog and other cat encounters.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

Eliminate the risk.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

I think this should be offered at first to ease the transition into the new rules but should be put back onto cat owners after a grace period of 3-5 years.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

It would be good to ensure breeders and animal shelters are desexing and microchipping to create a greater base level of compliance.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Once control on islands is established then focus on mainland peninsulas and mainland islands.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Unsure

Tell us why

Much harder to control the spread of these species. Would need to see proof that this can be achieved effectively.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Unsure

Tell us why

Would be interested to know more about what the increased cost would be in doing this. Great idea in principle but sounds like it could be expensive to implement.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Unsure

Tell us why

This is a tricky one. I think if there was an adequate alternative site nearby that might be achievable but as there is a clear and present threat it could be worth it? I'd suggest consulting with those most impacted by this decision.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes, provided that its backed by good evidence and examples of what those impacts are.

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #1003

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

There's already an overabundance of kittens that spca struggles with, and the more cats that go uneuetered will continue the cycle of strays

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

This is a good idea. It helps people that lose their beloved pets or have had them stolen, you can also identify owners if a cat has been spotted in an area pestering birds.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Unsure

Tell us why

All of auckland would be difficult, a lot of people still are against keeping their cats inside their property. On islands where we have threatened species, it should be a must. Or the native animals will disappear like on the mainland. Letting your cat roam on an island like this is irresponsible. I'd consider it a privilege to live somewhere and have so many rare native species on your doorstep.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Unsure
Kawau Island	Unsure

Rakino Island	Unsure
Waiheke Island	Unsure

Tell us why

I'm not sure I agree with the encouragement of bringing cats to the island. Best case would be no cats at all.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Hard times befall everyone, and having this option will definately encourage more people to desex their pets.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Keeping cats to your own property is safer for wildlife and cats themselves.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

I believe it's a privilege to be and interact with our native ecosystems, and people should do their part to ensure they aren't contributing to its destruction.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

It's a good start, and gives native species a chance to repopulate somewhere safe.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

Our native freshwater wildlife gets such little attention it makes me sad. Controlling pets would help them flourish, at least as much as they can with trout in the way.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

There's plenty of other lakes people can boat on. To have atleast one protected freshwater site would be amazing for the wildlife.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes, climate change isn't going to stop. These sorts of extreme weather events are going to become more frequent and we have to be prepared.

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

I think some more education to the general public or at schools would really go a long way.

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #1011

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Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

It's important for the cats health (especially females) for this as well as all the other benefits. It's what's best for all animals involved.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Why would you not want to be able to get your cat back if they go walkies? Not getting a microchip directly communicates that you don't care for the animal and whether or not it gets lost. That there directly communicates that that person should not have pets and should be on a list somewhere warning people of this fact.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

This only really matters in regards to the cats safety so is affected on a case by case basis.

If it's rural, it's different than being in a city or suburbia. But also if your neighbours don't like cats then them roaming puts your cat's at risk of being shot on site.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Unsure
Kawau Island	Unsure

Rakino Island	Unsure
Waiheke Island	Unsure

Tell us why

What does that mean for the well trained harness wearing cats that live with people in vehicles? Usually they're more well behaved than house cats.

Nomads are the lifeblood of NZ. They are the workforce of many of these places. Do they count as a resident?

Because saying they don't is very against the culture of NZ. Plus they usually are more responsible pet owners than most due to the niche situations their animals end up in.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

You can't put a law or a rule in place without providing an option to lesser fortunate people to do what is being asked of them.

Not offering this is insane. If you are going to enforce this, it needs to be available to everyone. Which means the government should be footing the bill for all of it. That's just common sense.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Better education (with kindness! Nobody responds positively to being told off).

More regular education as well. Just like how dog safety used to be taught in schools (that should also come back), cat safety should be as well.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

The possum population in northland is out of control.

To the point that possum man is a highly successful business.

Double edged sword as this provides a lot of protein for animals all over the north island, but only when the roadkill/animals actually make it to possum man.

More traps to be available for locals maybe? More education and training around how each local can help?

I lived on a property where the possum traps would be filled twice a day every day. that was in mangapai. They're a huge issue for road safety up there as well.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

This is just common sense. Clean your shit before tracking poisons everywhere!

More education to the youth on this should help I reckon.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

Just common sense obviously

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Unsure

Tell us why

I don't use boats on any lake in NZ so I have no right to an opinion on this subject.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

1000% yes this should have already been prioritized 10+ years ago. Why is this question on here? You should be doing it regardless of what the people think.

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #1270

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Too many new Zealanders have no idea how to keep a cat as a pet (i.e. leaving the cat outside to fend for itself instead of treating the cat as a part of the family) instead of having many unwanted cats decimating the wild life, we should educate people on how to keep cats as pets and lower wild outside cat numbers by desexing.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

To keep track who is mistreating their cats. Or to keep track of cats in general.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats need to be kept inside, instead of being pets kept outside. Not fair for cats, and our wild life. Also, this will prevent from the simpletons in rural Canterbury shooting someone's pet cat in a hunting event.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support

Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

Speaks for itself.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Do not support

Tell us why

Educate people before they get a cat as a pet. Tell them what is required before getting a cat. I don't need to indirectly pay for someone's refusal to take responsibility.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

This program should be rolled out throughout the South Island too.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

No.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

People who use the waterways needs to be held accountable for the damage that they do. Some people may not know the dept of damage.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

This speaks for itself. One government organization needs to step up.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

See my answer at question 3b

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Motorised boats cause more damage and people using these vehicles may not aware of the damage they cause.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

I think the council can come up that protects both.

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2324

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Do not support
Kawau Island	Do not support
Rakino Island	Do not support
Waiheke Island	Do not support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Do not support

Tell us why

I submit that microchipping is essential in returning a lost cat to its owner. However, this should be promoted by education rather than enforced by law. If it is enforced by law, it gives those who want to harm unowned cats the ability to legally distinguish between those who are owned and those who are unowned, for the purpose of euthanising the unowned cats if these are seen as 'pests'.

A very high percentage of cat owners are opposed to the removal of unowned cats by lethal means, as we hold views that these cats are innocent of any wrongdoing and that the vast majority of them are offspring of cats who were once 'dumped'.

The current consultation document fails to discuss or disclose this drawback of making microchipping compulsory or any Council agenda to remove unowned cats by lethal means, which the vast majority of people making submissions will be unaware of. This will make it subject to Judicial Review.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Do not support
Kawau Island	Do not support
Rakino Island	Do not support
Waiheke Island	Do not support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Do not support

Tell us why

With regard to confining one's cat indoors, this will be unacceptably stressful for cats who already go outdoors. It is also unhealthy for a cat to not get exercise. If this must be done, I suggest that instead of all cats being confined indoors, this should apply only to cats who do

not already go outdoors. This would then apply, for example to a young kitten who has never been outdoors, for the rest of its life.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Tell us why

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Initiate more trap-neuter-return programmes and provide funding to cat shelters/rescue groups.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

I very strongly oppose the inclusion of unowned cats in pest control programmes or their classification as 'pests', and I believe the vast majority of cat owners will also oppose this.

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

#2324

Every ecosystem has 'predators'. They keep the ecosystem in balance. We need predators. For example, cats control numbers of rodents. We need to be very careful before we remove large numbers of predators from the ecosystem, as this will put the ecosystem out of balance and has the potential to bring about unwanted consequences. For example, if we remove feral cats, then our rat population would thrive and would then hunt threatened species we are trying to protect. We must have input from ecologists before we make such changes, otherwise this will backfire on us with a chain of unwanted events as the different species interact while the ecosystem attempts to restore balance.

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2362

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Desexing is the key to controlling cat numbers. People who allow their cats to breed are solely responsible for the stray cat problem we have today. Every single stray cat colony originated from a cat owner who didn't desex their cat and then either dumped her offspring or left them outside to continue to breed. Every single feral cat colony originated from someone dumping their pet in a rural area.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Other
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

I have mixed feelings about this. In a perfect world all cats would be microchipped, but if this is introduced it needs to be ‘ after a certain date’ to allow people to do it. Funding also needs to be provided for cat rescuers if they are expected to chip every cat. There are community cats living in industrial and urban areas who are not chipped simply because the cost involved, yet they pose no risk to native birds . It has be proved many times that cat haters using the label ‘conservationists’ will kill any cat they catch without scanning for a microchip . A pet cat will also panic in a trap and their behaviour is no indication of whether they are domesticated or not. A panicking cat is almost impossible to scan in a trap and very few people will pay for a vet to sedate the cat. I support compulsory microchipping as long as having no microchip is not a death sentence for the cat.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner’s property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Do not support
Kawau Island	Do not support
Rakino Island	Do not support
Waiheke Island	Do not support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Do not support

Tell us why

Quite simply because this is a ridiculous suggestion for cats in the city or urban areas as they are no threat to native birds . It would also be impossible to Police. Owners would just deny the cat belongs to them. The council already struggle to deal with roaming dogs, how would

they deal with thousands of cats?Trying to dictate how people's pets should live just creates resentment. The key is to support owners, and the key to supporting owners is to make it affordable for their cats to be desexed. I support containment for cats within 1 km of a known threatened species area to a certain extent if this is introduced only for new residents moving there after a set date. People already living in the zone who are renting may not be allowed to build a catio, and not everyone can afford it. By having the rule apply only to residents who move there after a certain date, allows them the choice of deciding if they want to live there or not.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

Again I support this if enough time is given for people become aware and can make the choice of holidaying thete or not. I know very few people who take cats on holiday. I don't think this is big risk.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Although I believe people who cannot afford vet bills should not get a cat, in reality many donâ€™t think about it, or they donâ€™t care. If free community desexing was available, more would do it. Funding should be given to rescuers who desex cats too. I am an independent rescuer who has been desexing stray and domestic cats for 20 years. I have spent tens of thousands of dollars of my own money doing this, and have desexed thousands of cats, but I have now got to the stage where it has almost financially ruined me, and I need to drastically reduce what I am doing. Although I get support from the Cat Coalition towards the costs (which is a godsend), they canâ€™t afford to cover the whole cost and every single cat I desex costs me between $50- $100 (which includes flea/worm treatment). I desexed 5 this week, but because of that cost I will be unable to do any more for a couple of weeks, even though I have traps, cages and a long list of people waiting for help. In that time the pregnant cats will have birthed producing more kittens. If I had funding I could do several every week. Most rescuers who desex stray cats are independent and cannot get any funding themselves

because they are not a registered charity. If funding was provided we could make a huge dent in the problem. We are a valuable resource and could make a huge difference if given the support. I understand you canâ€™t just hand out cash to anyone who claims to be a rescue, but it could be allocated through the vet clinics, or the rescuer could be assessed by the Council to ensure they are doing what they claim to be doing, and maybe given some kind of approval if they are assessed to be doing the job professionally. Some of the most proactive people are independent rescuers, who fly under the radar and do the majority of the desexing, yet all the financial support goes to larger groups, some who do very little, but are very good at marketing themselves. Being a registered charity means nothing and should not automatically mean more credibility is given to them. Most independent people choose not to register themselves as they simply donâ€™t have the time to do the admin that goes with it, and they are so overwhelmed with requests for help, they donâ€™t want a public profile which will increase their workload. Funding also needs to be given to rescuers out of Auckland who cannot access Cat Coalition funding, and have to pay full price for desexing. This is obviously unaffordable to most people, so they are either forced to rehome kittens undesexed or limit the amount of cats they can take off the street to very small numbers.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

In my experience I can categorically say that 90% of stray cats come from Housing New Zealand tenants who donâ€™t desex their cats, and just chuck litter after litter of kittens outside. No government organisation has the balls to admit this as they are too worried about being PC, so they donâ€™t to do anything about it. The council need to work hand in hand with Housing NZ and get rules in place for pet owners. They need to assess their tenants for suitability to own a cat. They recently changed the rules to allow anyone to get a cat which saw a population explosion of stray cats that is now out of control. The first rule HNZ should introduce is that a certificate of desexing must be produced if you want to own a cat. I am making these comments from what I see on a daily basis, not as a person judging HNZ tenants. Some of the best owners Iâ€™ve met are HNZ tenants and some do rescue themselves. The simple fact is that if you donâ€™t deal with this problem you will be completely wasting your time trying to get on top of the stray cat problem.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Do not support

Tell us why

This can be controlled with stricter rules in boat maintenance

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2414

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats undo all the sincere work that goes into regeneration of the forest canopy and bird life including lizards and skinks.

Dogs have to be chipped, licensed and on a lead where as cats are a greater threat to wildlife and a free to roam and trespass at will.

Because they are cute they get away with much more destruction of the average suburban bird and more so with feral cats devastating the rural wildlife. Time to face the fact these creatures kill, not out of hunger but by their very nature.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Because if you find a stray cat and take it to the vet they can source the owner. Same goes for dogs and should be for deer and pigs.

People release their cats after a car ride when the novelty wears off and think they are doing the right thing instead of putting them down.

Sadly the cats become feral and put down a lot more wildlife and a serious threat to our endangered species.

Pet ownership goes with responsibility.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Why should the birds in my backyard fall prey to a neighbours cat.

Also they are a traffic hazard when one cat chases another across the road in front of toy.

They also pee in your backyard if you don't own a cat which I'm sure most people would prefer to go without such visits

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Do not support
Kawau Island	Do not support
Rakino Island	Do not support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

Waiheke Island has too large a population to exclude cats as pets but if they do not leave the owners property and they are chipped and de sexed it shouldn't be a problem

Same by law as proposed by Auckland Council.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Because those who canâ€™t afford to desex their cats are the very people who compound the problem.

Desexing is the ambulance at the TOP of the cliff, not at the BOTTOM

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Cats to stay inside when the owner is away, at work or left the premise and property to be self contained.No more simply letting the cat out the door when you go to bed and and welcome it back home in the morning. Dirty deeds done real cheap happens to be a song lyric

Cats dirty deeds means no more bird cheap !!!

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Please help in anyway you can

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

Freedom to roam comes with responsibility,

The sea is everyoneâ€™s back yard according to boaties but really the sea is a place where you are a guest and hence should act accordingly.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

We depend on the environment, it is not a luxury to look after it,

it is a necessity.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region’s lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

Same as above

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Same as above

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

YES, YES and YES

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2440

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

It is the most humane way to reduce the over population of cats and take pressure off rescues. Cats need to be easily identified as desexed via ear tattoo or similar as can't tell with females and microchips can fail at times.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

It helps reunite lost cats and deceased cats. Councils and SPCAs systems must also support this by notifying NZCAR if a deceased cat is picked up so they can register the info against the chip, even if they can't get hold of the owner.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

Unless cats are indoor only, the cost and permissions required from a landlord may be prohibitive for tenants to invest in catios or fencing systems. Council messaging and all animal welfare acts also need to make it clear that killing someone else's pet is illegal and punishable. Vigilantes are targeting cats and killing them, some in very cruel and heinous ways, in the interests of wild life. This includes desexed, microchipped, well cared for pets that do not live by habitats of any endangered species. Conversation organizations need to get behind this messaging that it's not what they are about and is not supported. The level of cat hate and very worrying comments online is extremely concerning, particularly when you consider the very strong link between animal abuse and domestic abuse with cats.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other

Tell us why

I would limit it to permanent residents only, and only with proof of desexing and microchipping. If they live within risk distance of endangered wild life then must be contained with owners property

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

I think humans have repeatedly proven that they will not prioritize funds for this and they continue to make the problem worse. Spending money on prevention will reduce animal suffering significantly and reduce costs of having to manage them as pests

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2680

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Prevents dumping and subsequent feral cat population increase.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Allows cats to be better recorded tracked and for irresponsible owners to face the consequences of ignoring rules and regulations

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Allows owners to keep track of their cats and prevents the cats from wandering into protected areas and killing native wildlife

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

Prevents non-residents from bringing cats onto islands and leaving them there, and prevents illegal dumping of cats.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

we need to desex not all can afford this

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

It will prevent marine invasions that are difficult if not impossible to fix once they have started.

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

It will protect New Zealandâ€™s unique marine environment and the history surrounding it.

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

It will protect the remaining freshwater ecosystems that are in and around the lake, while also enhancing the health of the streams and rivers that run out of, into, and through these lakes.

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Prevents the introduction of new pest into the lake and also prevents additional disturbance in the lake by boats and other water vessels.

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #2886

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Companion Animals New Zealand

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)

All of Auckland

Tell us why

See attached

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)

All of Auckland

Tell us why

See attached

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)

All of Auckland

Tell us why

See attached

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Kawau Island

Rakino Island

Waiheke Island

Tell us why

See attached

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Tell us why

See attached

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

2886

Companion Animals NZ
A Good Life for Animals

4 December 2024

Auckland council
Attention: Let's protect our environment
Private Bag 92300 Victoria Street
West Auckland 1142

To whom it may concern.

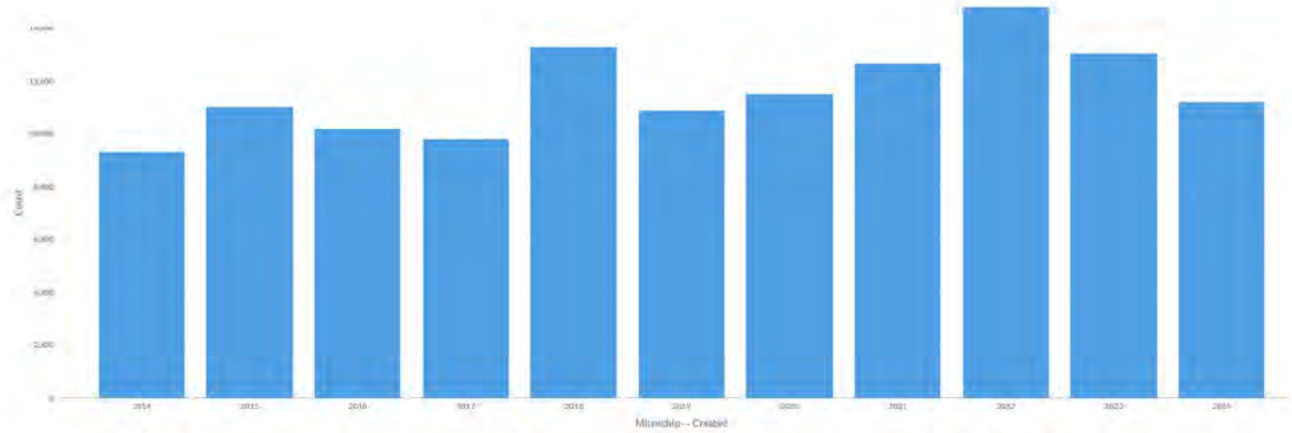
Companion Animals New Zealand's position on mandatory microchipping, registering and desexing of owned cats by 4 months of age, and our feedback on the 'Let's Protect Our Environment' open consultation regarding cat management for Auckland's long-term plan.

Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ), formerly the New Zealand Companion Animal Council, is a respected animal welfare organisation committed to advancing A Good Life for companion animals. We own and manage the New Zealand Companion Animal Register and actively promote the importance of permanent identification and traceability through microchipping, and registration. Through our 'Good Life for Animals' research and education work we promote improved standards for welfare and responsible companion animal guardianship in New Zealand. Our hope is that all companion cats in New Zealand can enjoy A Good Life.

CANZ welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to Auckland Council regarding their long-term plan to protect the natural environment in New Zealand from the negative impacts of species introduced from other countries. Our submission relates specifically to the management of cats.

According to data from our New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR), there are currently **138,632** live cats registered with microchip numbers in the Auckland region.

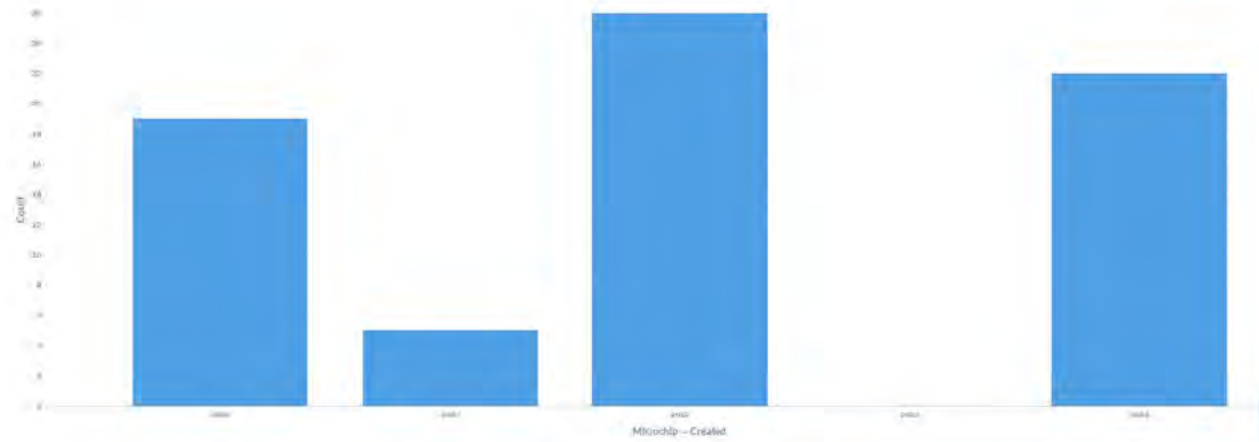
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Auckland cat registrations over the last 10 years (data for 2024 incomplete as per end Nov 2024)

The graph above shows that over 10,000 cats are registered annually in the Auckland region.

Currently, we have **48 microchip numbers related to live cats** registered in Aotea/Great Barrier Island on NZCAR. NZCAR data for Waiheke Island shows **1,355** cat microchip registrations, for Kawau Island there are **13** and for Rakino Island **none**.



Aotea/Great Barrier Island cat registrations over the last 4 years (data for 2024 incomplete as per end Nov 2024)

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Companion Animals NZ
A Good Life for Animals

Companion Animals New Zealand supports the mandatory microchipping and registration of microchips on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) for all cats by four months of age in the Auckland Council. Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted. CANZ has previously supported various NZ District Council's proposals regarding mandatory microchipping and registration on the NZCAR (https://www.animalregister.co.nz/. This includes the recent consultation on the 'Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2024' in the Far North District Council and the recent lowering of age of desexing of cats from 6 months to 4 months of age in the Palmerston North District Council's 'Draft Animals and Bees Bylaw' 2024.

CANZ considers the early desexing of cats to be an essential part of responsible cat guardianship providing health and welfare benefits to the individual cat and reducing unmanaged breeding. The overpopulation of cats in New Zealand is a well-known and recognised issue not just here but throughout the world.

Rationale:

Domestic cats can reach reproductive maturity as early as 3.5 months of age (Farnworth, 2013a). Research conducted in Australia has shown that only 70% of cats are desexed prior to the age of 6 months, allowing opportunity for sexually mature cats to produce litters before they are desexed (Toukhsati, 2005).

The exact number of stray cats in New Zealand is not definitively known, however one study has estimated it to be around 196,000 (Farnworth, 2013b). With most companion cats in New Zealand being free roaming (Farnworth, 2010) the likelihood of interaction between owned and stray cats is extremely high. Consequently, there is huge potential for non-desexed owned cats to mate with stray cats and produce unwanted litters contributing towards the overall cat overpopulation issue in New Zealand.

Each year thousands of cats and kittens are taken to animal shelters, many of which are either unsuitable for adoption or are unable to find homes and are subsequently euthanized. There is a lack of national statistics relating to cat numbers in animal shelters, however the total number of

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incoming kittens and cats arriving at SPCA centres across New Zealand in 2019 was more than 27,131 (SPCA, 2020), and incoming cats and kittens into SPCA Shelters through 2022/23 were reported to be up by 8% (SPCA Annual Report, 2022-2023). This increase in cats and kittens is representative of the issue New Zealand wide and should be pro-actively addressed through implementing **mandatory desexing of owned cats at an early age to prevent unwanted litters and breeding with the stray/feral cat population.**

As well as the benefit of reducing unwanted litters and associated euthanasia as described above, there are additional benefits to the early desexing of cats (Berg, n.d.; Cupp, 2014). Desexed cats engage in less nuisance behaviour e.g. roaming, fighting, spraying. Desexing has important disease prevention benefits, such as reduced mammary, uterine and ovarian tumours and pyometra (uterine infection) in females, reduced risk of testicular tumours and prostate disorders including cancer in males, and an increased lifespan in both males and females.

The traditional age of desexing of cats has to date been 6 months. However, research suggests there is no significant behavioural and physical advantages of desexing at the traditional age of 6 months (Joyce, 2011). Early-age desexing (EAD), or prepubertal desexing, is usually performed when kittens reach 1 kg body weight, which is typically by 4 months old. EAD has been practiced routinely at animal shelters in the USA for over 30 years and has been supported by other organisations such as the International Society of Feline Medicine, the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Australia and The Cat Group, UK. Concerns that EAD might increase anaesthetic risk or cause orthopaedic, behavioural and lower urinary tract diseases, have now been addressed by an evidence-base that supports that EAD is not only safe, but offers advantages over traditional age desexing, including more rapid recovery times and earlier socialisation (Mazeau et al., 2021).

The New Zealand Veterinary Association supports pre-pubertal desexing of cats from 8 weeks of age and cites benefits of early age desexing including improved population control, faster surgical procedure with less trauma and stress for the individual cat, and reduced recovery times (NZVA, 2018).

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In addition:

CANZ proposes that a cat should be exempt from desexing only if:

- The cat is owned, for the purposes of breeding, by a cat breeder **registered** with the New Zealand Cat Fancy or Catz Incorporated.
- The owner provides a **certificate from a veterinarian** stating that the desexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

Our views on the potential cat management interventions for the locations proposed in the Auckland Council Long-Term Plan:

CANZ **supports** the Auckland Council's proposal to mandate desexing of all domestic/pet cats in Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Kawau Island, Rakino Island, Waiheke Island, within 1 km of known threatened species habitat and all of Auckland. Further to this, we propose that the mandate stipulates **Early-Age Desexing, i.e. 4 months of age**, as a requirement. This is in line with the latest research and expert opinion regarding animal welfare benefits. As described on page 4, age of desexing plays an important role in preventing unwanted litters and so more effectively managing the cat overpopulation problem.

CANZ also **supports** the Auckland Council's proposal to mandate microchipping and registration on the NZ Companion Animal Register of all domestic/pet cats in Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Kawau Island, Rakino Island, Waiheke Island, within 1 km of known threatened species habitat and all of Auckland. Microchipping and registration of cats are important steps in ensuring that a lost or injured cat can be identified and reunited with its owner. We believe that microchipping and registration are essential components of responsible cat guardianship and recommend this is done by **4 months of age**.

CANZ is committed to ensuring a Good Welfare for all owned cats, recognising that they each have their own unique needs, personality, and preferences. We are currently undertaking research to identify the key concerns of cat owners regarding the indoor/outdoor access question, and preliminary results show that whilst some cats and their owners cope well with transitioning to an indoor lifestyle, others find it more difficult. While keeping cats confined to their owner's property offers certain benefits, such as protection from accidents, diseases, and

preventing them from becoming nuisances to neighbours, we recognise that there may be different welfare experiences for different individual cats. The National Cat Management Strategy Group (NCMSG) has conducted an extensive review of cat management in New Zealand and recommends that all companion cats be desexed, microchipped (with registered details), and kept on their owner's property. This, along with a review of the Predator Free 2050 (2018) strategy, indicates that the "cat conversation" is ongoing and any decisions that are made must be research informed taking into account the interests of pet cats and their owners.

That said, cats can thrive and lead happy lives in controlled environments if their needs are met. A successful transition to confinement—whether on a property or indoors—requires responsible guardianship. With proper care, attention, training and environmental enrichment, some cats may cope well with an indoor lifestyle, especially where they have been brought up in an indoor environment, but it's important to make use of research evidence to consider if this is the case for every cat.

Considering the above, CANZ remains cautious about enforcing indoor confinement for cats as a blanket rule across all regions, including Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Kawau Island, Rakino Island, Waiheke Island, and areas within 1 km of known threatened species habitats in Auckland.

CANZ **supports** that only residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands such as Aotea/Great Barrier island, Kawau Island, Rakino Island and Waiheke Island. Allowing only island-resident domestic cats on the island helps protect the island's fragile ecosystem by minimising the risk to native wildlife and preventing the spread of disease. This approach ensures a controlled cat population, reduces ecological disruption, and supports sustainable conservation efforts, while allowing the cats to live in a safe, managed environment. However, to ensure accountability and responsible ownership, it is **essential that all domestic cats on these islands are desexed, microchipped and registered on the NZCAR by 4 months of age**. This enables clear identification and accountability, ensuring that owners are easily traceable should their cats pose any risk to the environment. Microchipping and registration is the most effective means of linking a cat to its owner and is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the island's conservation efforts and the wellbeing of its wildlife.

Companion Animals NZ
A Good Life for Animals

Supporting Affordable Desexing for Cats

We **support** the council's decision to provide increased financial assistance for those who cannot afford to desex their cats. This initiative is a vital step in helping to control the cat population and reduce the number of unwanted kittens. At Companion Animals NZ, we are proud to have contributed $180,000 last year (and more than 1 million dollars over the past few years) towards supporting desexing and microchipping efforts. This is just one part of our ongoing commitment to improving the welfare of companion animals. We encourage others to join us in supporting this cause and back the Auckland Council's initiative to make desexing more accessible for all.

Many thanks for enabling us to provide our feedback. We've attached our booklet '*Let's Talk About Cats: Our Position On Local Authority Bylaws'* for your information.

Ngā mihi

[redacted]

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Companion Animals NZ

A Good Life for Animals

LET'S TALK ABOUT CATS:

OUR POSITION ON LOCAL AUTHORITY BYLAWS

Updated November 2024



companionanimals.nz

This document outlines our position on local authority cat management & how we can support stakeholders should bylaws be introduced.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

animalregister.co.nz

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Developed by:

Companion Animals NZ
A Good Life for Animals

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About Companion Animals NZ

Companion Animals New Zealand is a charity passionate about transforming New Zealand into a global leader in companion animal welfare. We envision a world where every pet thrives and experiences the Good Life they deserve.



Our key stakeholders and trustees which include the SPCA, New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), Dogs NZ, New Zealand Cat Fancy, the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association (NZVNA) and the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management (NZIAM). While we have a strong relationship with these organisations, we are an independent charitable trust with our own objectives.

Our relationships are extensive across:

- Veterinary clinics
- SPCA and rescues/shelters
- Certified animal trainers and animal behaviourists
- Registered pedigree dog and cat breeders
- Animal welfare science experts
- Animal welfare advisory groups and committees (eg NAWAC)
- Local Government stakeholders (e.g. Local Authorities and animal control)
- Central Government stakeholders (e.g. Ministry for Primary Industries)
- International science-based organisations

Companion Animals NZ
A Good Life for Animals

About the New Zealand Companion Animal Register

In 2007, we established the NZ Companion Animal Register (NZCAR), Aotearoa's microchip database for all pets. The NZCAR has more than 1.3million animals registered and roughly 1000 Approved Users (see below) who can access the database to reunite lost pets with their registered guardian. The primary aim of the NZCAR is to quickly repatriate animals as a guardianship database.

Who can implant microchips?
In New Zealand, anyone is legally able to implant microchips to any animals. However, without appropriate knowledge and training, Companion Animals NZ considers microchipping a risk to the human and the animal.

Therefore, NZCAR will only allow Approved Users Implanter status if they meet the following criteria:

1. A veterinary clinic or a qualified veterinarian.
2. A diploma (or higher) qualified veterinary nurse.
3. An implanter who has completed a recognised microchipping course.
4. An organisation whose member of staff meets the above criteria.

It is possible for a layperson to become a CANZ certified implanter (for cats, dogs and rabbits). However, for the safety of the animal, we require a layperson to complete online learning and demonstrate proof of proficiency to a veterinarian.

- **50% of our registrations are created by vet clinics**
- **25% from RNZSPCA**
- **10% from pet guardians registering their own pet**
- **The remaining 15% come from local councils, breeders and other Approved Users**

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER | LostPet

Our Position - Cats

Companion Animals New Zealand supports the mandatory microchipping and registration of microchips on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) for all cats by four months of age.

Microchipping and microchip registration can help ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be identified and contacted. CANZ supports local authority proposals regarding mandatory microchipping and registration on the NZCAR. CANZ considers desexing of cats to be an essential part of responsible cat guardianship providing health and welfare benefits to the individual cat, and reducing unmanaged breeding.

The overpopulation of cats is a well-known and recognised issue not only in New Zealand but throughout the world. Using our own Companion Animals NZ data combined with accepted breeding science, we are able to illustrate the potential cat population growth in local areas around the country. Projections often reveal a stark reality: without prioritising desexing, many regions face exponential increases in unowned cat populations, which can strain animal welfare resources and impact local ecosystems.



Facts and references

- **Research suggests there is no significant behavioural and physical advantages of desexing at the traditional age of 6 months.**
  - Joyce, A.; Yates, D.: Help stop teenage pregnancy! Early-age neutering in cats. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 2011, 13(1), 3-10.
- **The New Zealand Veterinary Association supports pre-pubertal desexing of cats from 8 weeks of age and cites benefits of early age desexing including improved population control, faster surgical procedure with less trauma and stress for the individual cat, and reduced recovery times (NZVA, 2018).**
  - NZVA (The New Zealand Veterinary Association) (2018). Pre-pubertal desexing of dogs and cats. Retrieved from https://nzva.org.nz/positions-advocacy/position-statements/desexing
- **Concerns that Early Age Desexing (EAD) might increase anaesthetic risk or cause orthopaedic, behavioural and lower urinary tract diseases, have now been addressed by an evidence-base that supports that EAD is not only safe, but offers advantages over traditional age desexing, including more rapid recovery times and earlier socialisation (Mazeau et al., 2021).**
  - Mazeau, L., Wylie, C., Boland, L. et al.: A shift towards early-age desexing of cats under veterinary care in Australia. 2021, Sci Rep 11, 811.

Why we microchip companion animals

Microchipping

Under current legislation it is mandatory to microchip dogs. Microchipped dogs must also have their microchip number registered with their local council and on the National Dog Database (NDD). In some areas it is also mandatory to microchip cats and register them on the NZ Companion Animal Register, as part of the bylaws we discuss in this document. It is possible to microchip and register a range of companion animal species.

The advantages of microchipping companion animals:

- Assists in repatriation of lost animals when a microchipped animal is also registered on a microchip database, such as the New Zealand Companion Animal Register or the National Dog Database.
- When injured and presented to a relevant authority for care, owners of pets that are microchipped, can be promptly identified and can be consulted as to the pet's treatment.
- Pets that are straying or causing nuisance can be identified and owners can be contacted and educated about their responsibility.
- Reduces the strain on animal organisations to hold and care for animals, such as vets, animal rescues and animal control officers, as animals can be quickly identified and returned home.
- Can help decrease the number of animal thefts. If all pets are microchipped and registered, then whenever a pet is scanned it can be quickly identified and returned to the owner.
- Gives owners peace of mind knowing that when their pet goes missing, there is a proven network for getting animals home.
- Microchipping allows use of a microchip cat or dog door. This allows home access to specific pets, and keeps out unwanted visitors like strays. Some models also allow curfews to be preprogrammed.
- Some microchips can be used to non-invasively measure an animal's body temperature.
- Results in fewer animals being euthanased as pets can be identified and returned to their owner.



Microchipping and chip registration are ONE step.

Microchipping without chip registration serves no purpose.

How much does it cost?

The registration requires a microchip to have been implanted in an animal. This is very safe and common place when completed by a trained person. However, costs for microchipping vary between implanters.

Animals adopted from SPCA have microchip implantation and registration built into their adoption fee. Veterinarians may charge between $30 and $80 to implant a microchip and register to the NZCAR.

The NZCAR registration incurs a fee to cover the lifetime support costs of our database and 24/7 support office.

If the registration is completed by a NZCAR Approved User, the Approved User will receive a monthly invoice from us for all the registrations they have created that month. In the case of veterinary clinics, they will have already charged the pet guardian (usually at the same time as implantation).

If not already registered, pet guardians can register their own pet's microchip online for a $15 fee (inc. GST).

As a not-for-profit charity, each year, revenue from the NZCAR is returned to local groups undertaking community desexing and microchipping campaigns.

NOTE:
The NZCAR is not an ownership database but is the best solution while we continue to lobby central government for a national Cat Management Act. We encourage local authorities to show leadership in responsible cat management in the meantime.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER | LostPet

What is recorded?

Primary Contact details (* indicates compulsory) :

- Name*
- Email*
- Contact Phone* (and alternative phone)
- Residential address* (google verified)
- Secondary contact name and phone number x2

Microchip details:

- Microchip number*
- Date of implantation*
- Implanting clinic/organisation
- Any additional microchip numbers

Animal details

- Name*
- Species*
- Gender
- Desex status
- Breed
- Date of birth
- Colour description
- Preferred vet clinic
- Behavioural & Medical notes
- Breeder/Rescue Notes
- Local Authority (dropdown list)

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER | LostPet

How we support bylaws

When a new bylaw is announced, Companion Animals NZ:

1. Support local councils with communications via our social media channels, including:
- Promoting the new bylaw
- Explaining the difference between local council dog registration/National Dog Database and the NZCAR
2. Communicate with local NZCAR Approved Users
3. Collaborate with local veterinary clinics to encourage NEW clients to bring their un-microchipped cats in
4. Communicate with local pet owners to check their cats' registration status



Summary of NZCAR

- **New Zealand's lost and found microchip database**
- **Low, one-off registration fee**
- **Registration lasts for the lifetime of the animal**
- **Registration on the NZCAR is part of responsible pet ownership**
- **All species are welcome**
- **1000+ Approved Users across New Zealand, including veterinary clinics, SPCA and other organisations**
- **Almost all councils already have existing Approved User accounts**
- **24-hour phone support**
- **Funds returned to community desexing and microchipping initiatives**
- **Marketing support available for bylaws**

Legislation background

Dogs

The Dog Control (Microchip Transponder) Regulations 2005. Legislation which came into force in 2006 defines those dogs which must be microchipped by law. They are:

- All dogs first registered from 1st July, 2006 (except working farm dogs and dogs deemed unfit by a veterinarian).
- All dogs classified as dangerous or menacing since 1 December 2003.
- Unregistered dogs that are impounded then released.
- Registered dogs that are impounded for a second time and released.

The National Dog Database (NDD)

Owners have a legal requirement to ensure that their dog's microchip number is registered with their local council.

Once a dog's microchip number is registered with the council it will automatically be transferred onto the National Dog Database (NDD).

Until the dog's microchip number is recorded by the council, owners have not met their legal obligation.

Legally, all dogs must have their microchip number registered with their local council

Cats

Some regional councils have bylaws mandating that cats are microchipped and registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. It is important that you understand what the bylaws for microchipping cats are in your region.

There is no legislative requirement to microchip cats in other locations in New Zealand at present. However, cats are commonly microchipped as this facilitates repatriation of lost cats.

Other companion animals

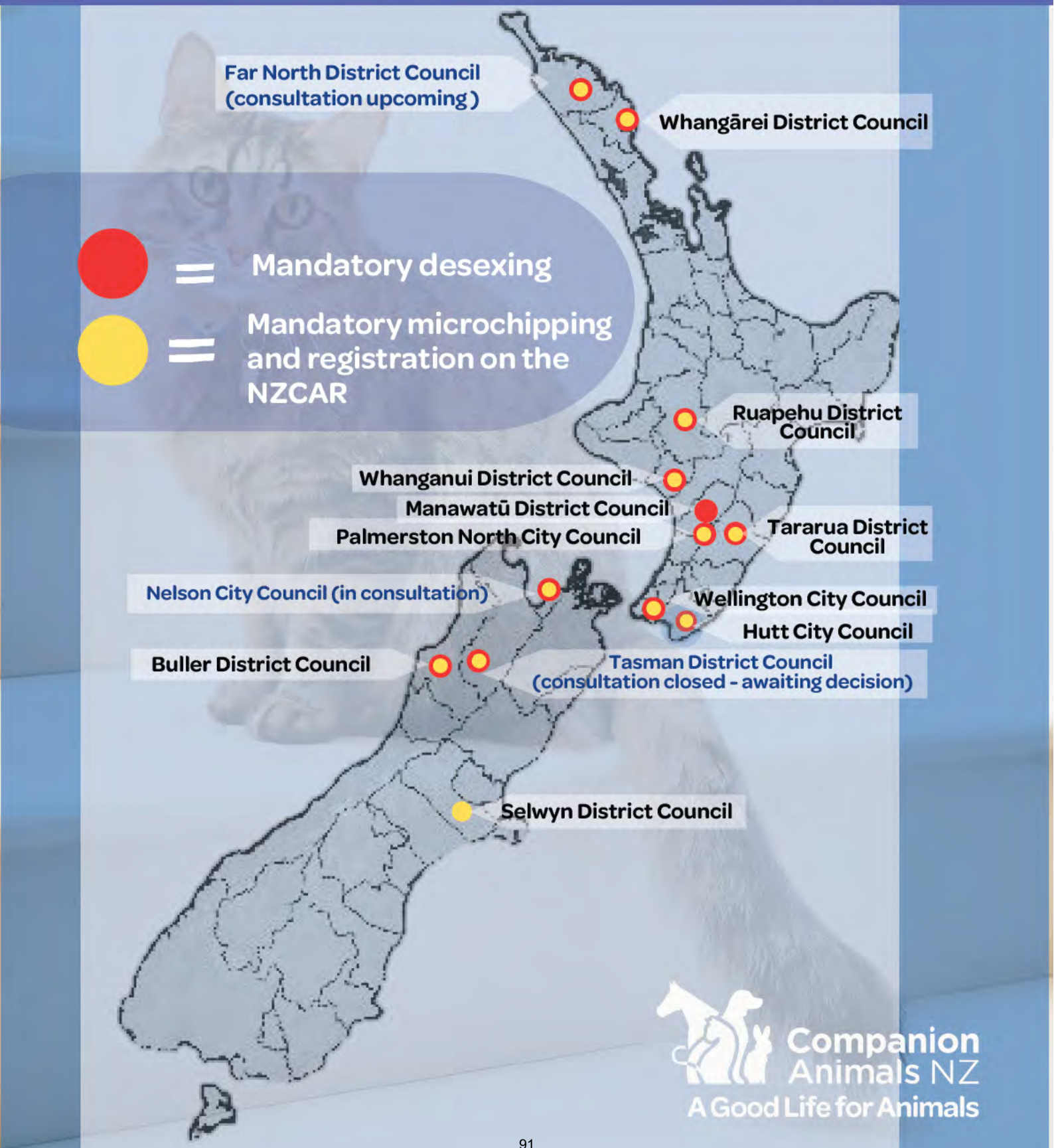
It is optional to microchip other animals such as fish, birds, reptiles and small animals. For example, Arowana (large exotic fish) are all microchipped as they are on the CITES endangered list and may be sold for up to NZ$10,000.

Unusual or exotic animals should only be microchipped by a veterinary surgeon. The Companion Animals New Zealand 'Animal Microchip Implantation Best Practice Guide' only pertains to the microchipping of dogs, cats and rabbits.

2886

Cat Management Bylaws

Areas of NZ with local cat bylaws in place as at October 2024



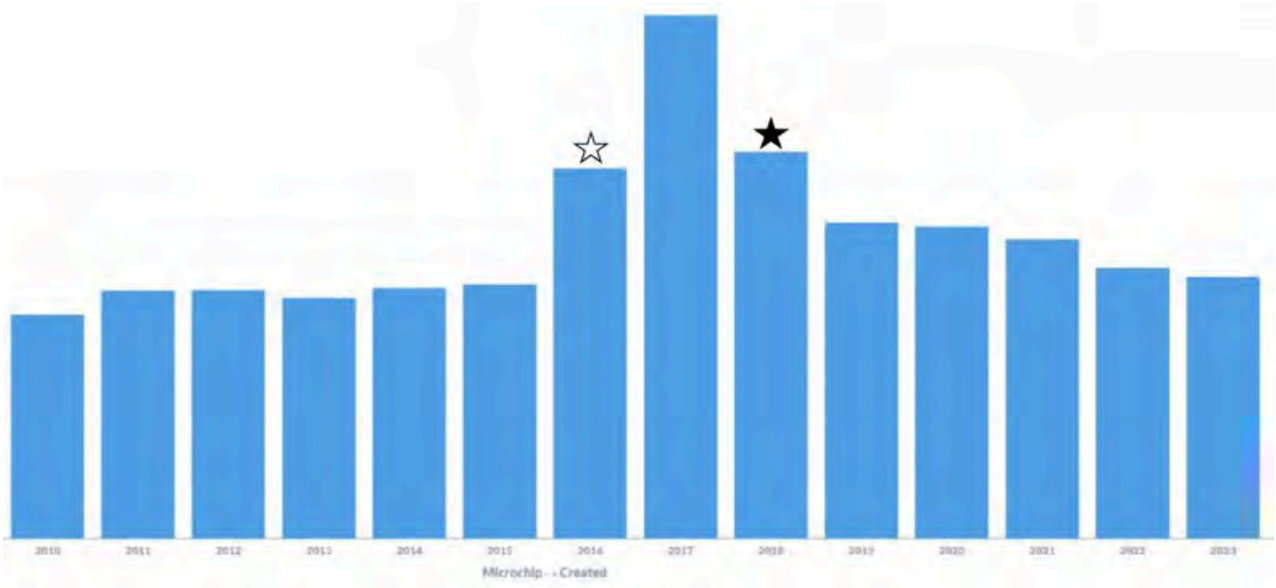
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2886

Wellington City

Bylaw announced 2016, enforced 2018

CANZ supports various NZ Local Authority's proposals regarding mandatory microchipping and registration on the NZCAR (https://www.animalregister.co.nz).
Engaging in this discussion enhances community awareness around responsible cat guardianship, and our evidence indicates that simply introducing a proposal can result in higher rates of cat microchipping and registration in an area, ultimately benefitting cat welfare.



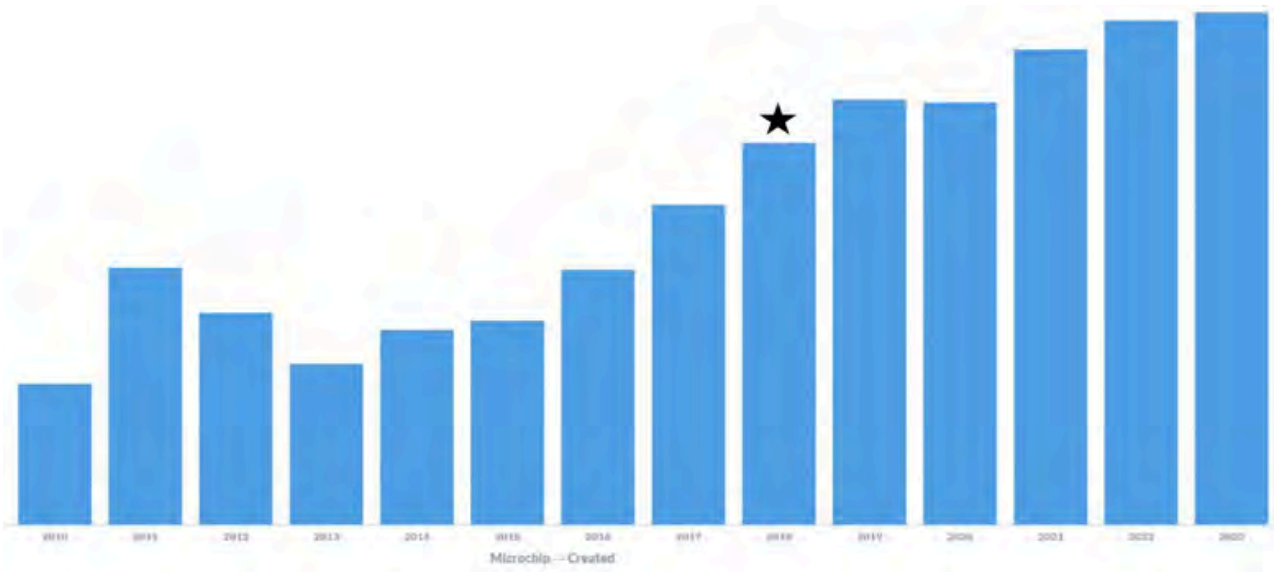
Commentary:
Wellington City was the first NZ council to enact microchipping and registration for cats. The bylaw change was highly publicised, with a long notice period (announced in 2016 and enacted in 2018) . This graph shows the immediate effect the bylaw announcement had on NZCAR cat registrations in Wellington City, indicating willingness to comply with the bylaw.
The declining registrations numbers since 2018 may reflect a declining cat population in the city, or less council promotion of the bylaw to cat owners and veterinary clinics.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

2886

Palmerston North City

Bylaw enforced 2018



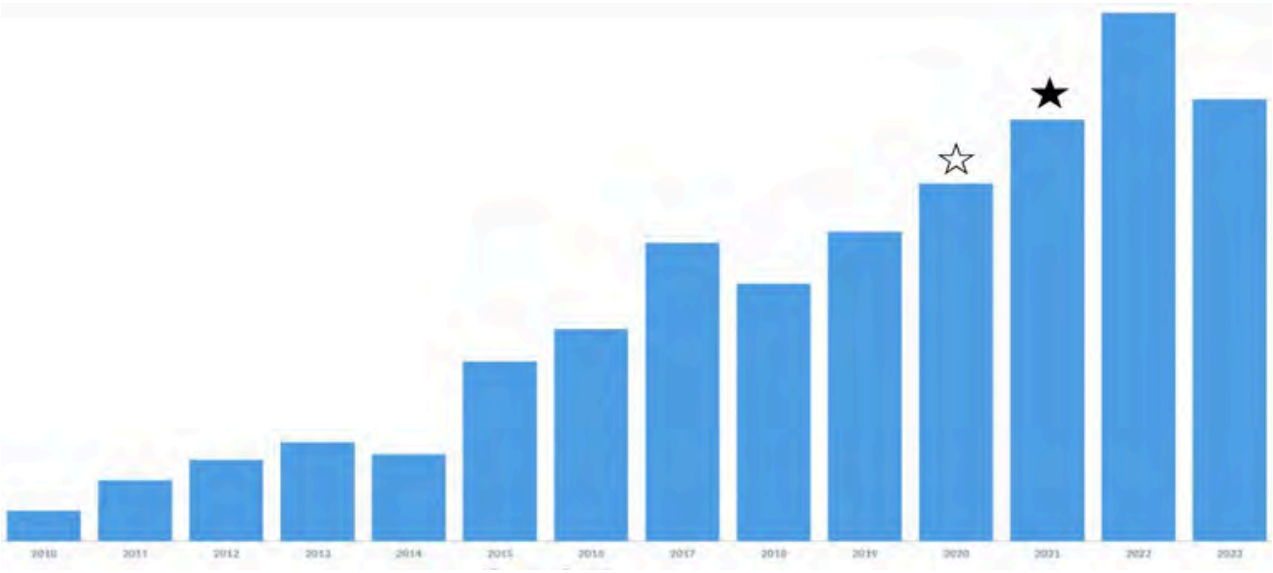
Commentary:
Palmerston North City Council enacted changes to cat management in their bylaws in 2018. This graph shows a steady compliance with the bylaw.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

2886

Whanganui District

Bylaw announced 2020, enforced 2021



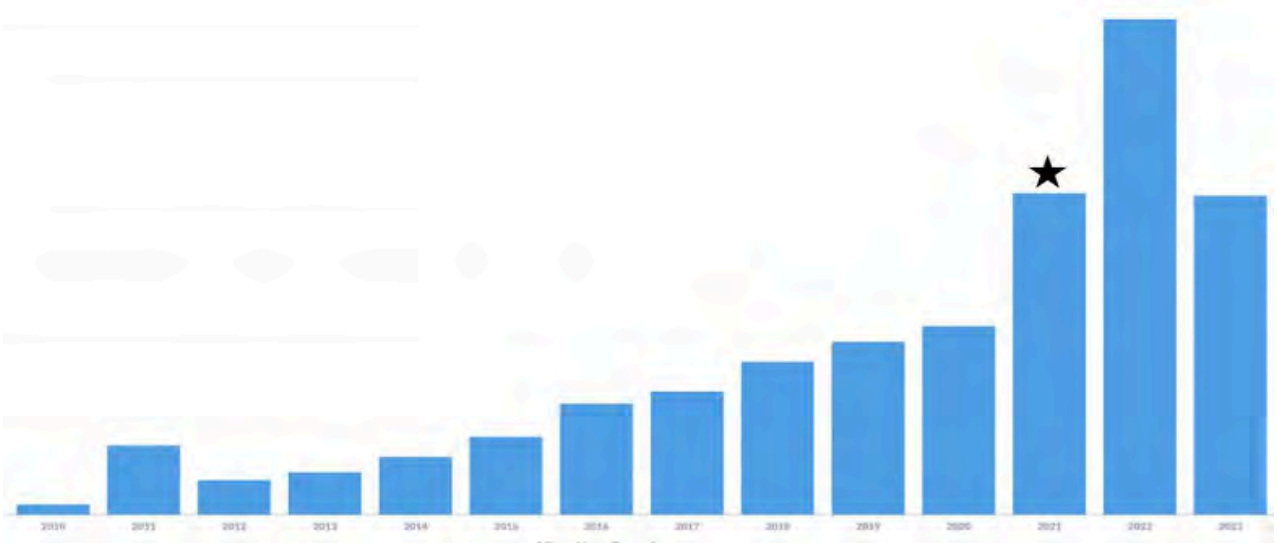
Commentary:
Whanganui District Council enacted cat management changes into their bylaws in 2021 after announcing in 2020. This graph shows a significant increase in cat NZCAR registrations in 2021 and 2022. Total population data is unavailable to analyse 2023, but it may be that registrations out paced cat population growth.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

2886

Selwyn District

Bylaw enforced 2021



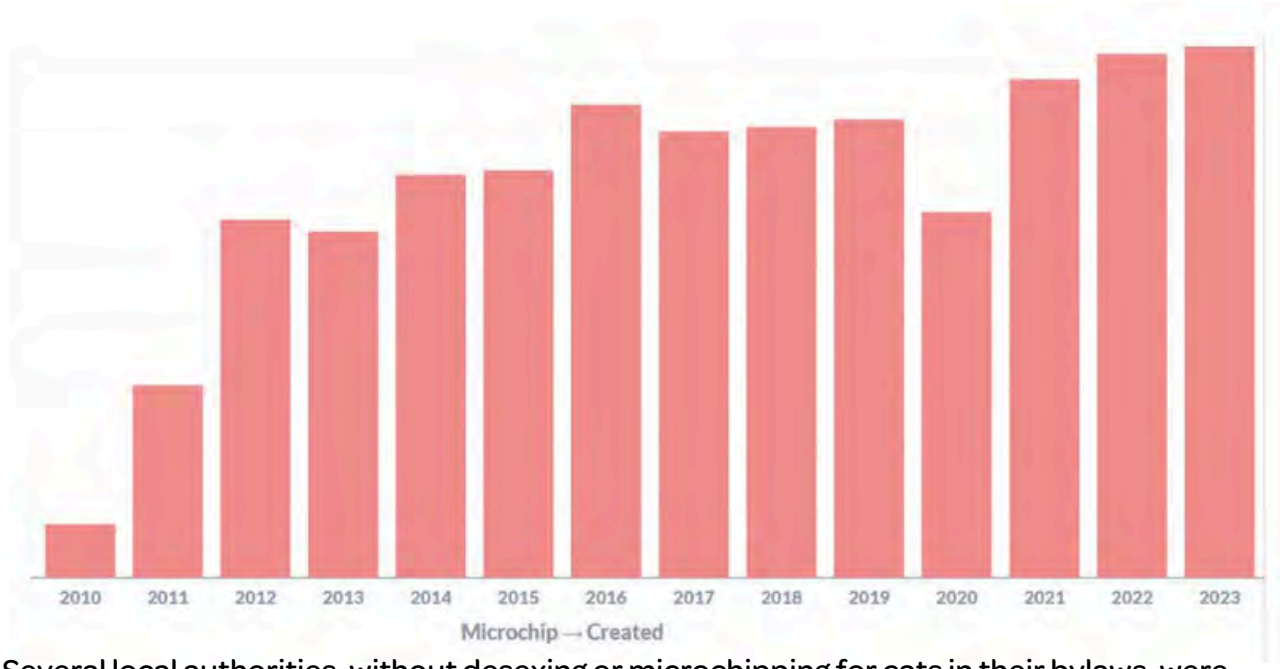
Commentary:
Similarly to Whanganui, Selwyn District Council enacted more stringent cat management in their bylaws in 2021. This resulted in a significant increase in cat NZCAR registrations in 2021 and 2022.

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2886

Dunedin City

No cat microchipping and registration bylaws



Several local authorities, without desexing or microchipping for cats in their bylaws, were selected at random to provide a baseline of cat registrations.

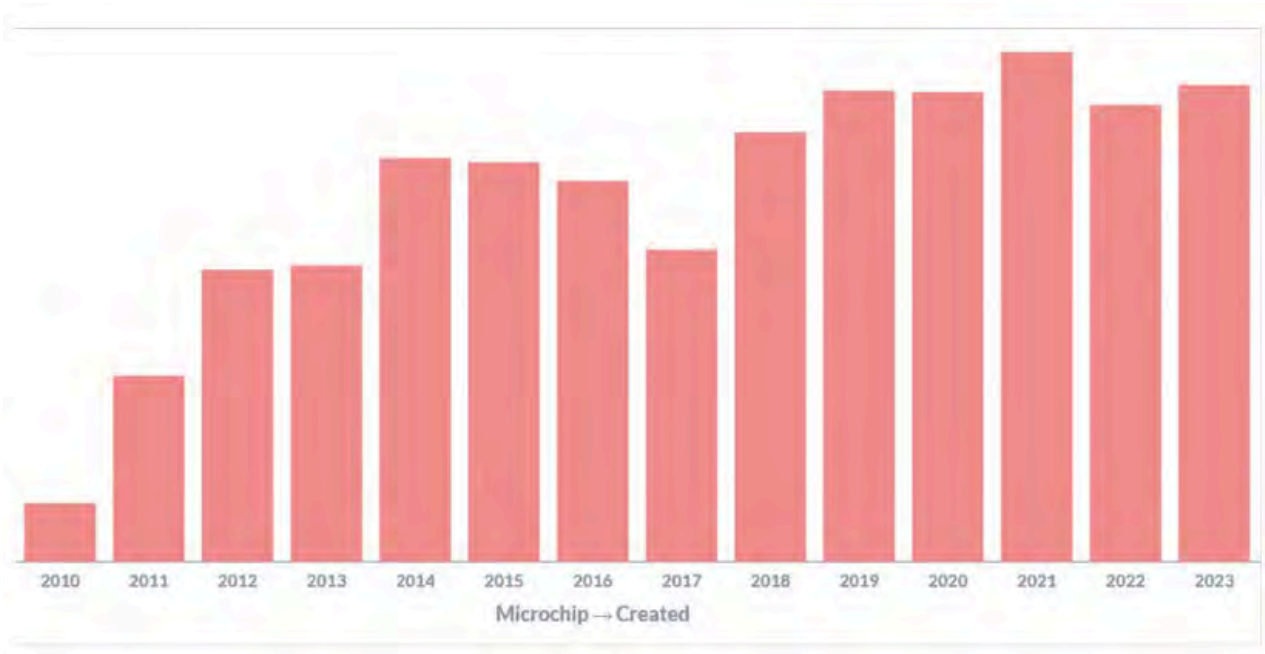
Commentary:
Dunedin City Council has not legislated any desexing or microchipping for their cat population. This graph shows a steady rate of cat NZCAR registrations with a post COVID increase in 2021 and 2022.

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2886

Hamilton City

No cat microchipping and registration bylaws



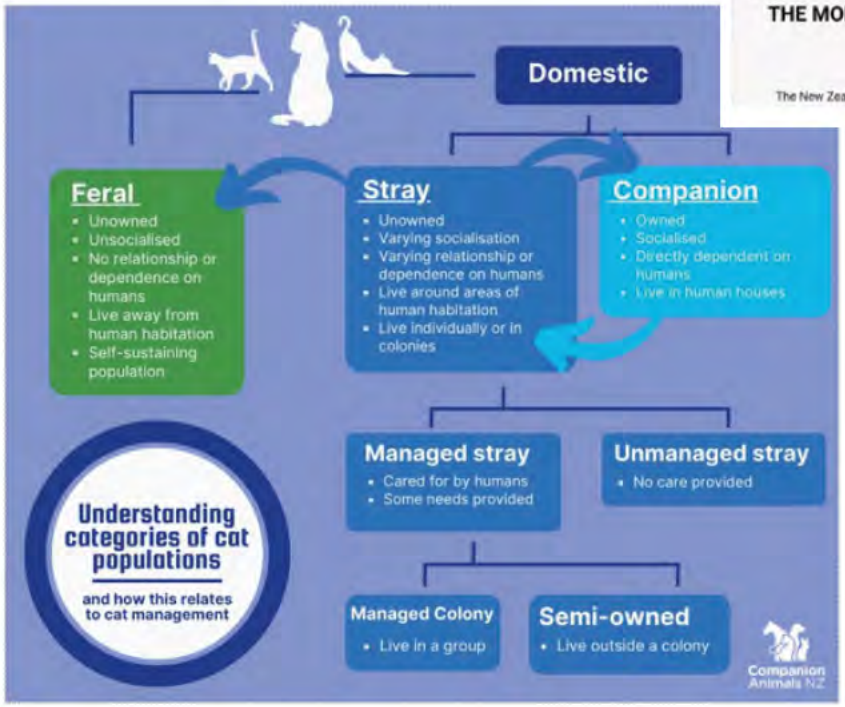
Commentary:
Like Dunedin, Hamilton City Council has not legislated any desexing or microchipping for their cat population. Growth in NZCAR cat registrations remains questionable.

Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

Resources

We have a range of posters, social media resources and checklists - among other material - which can be helpful to inform pet owners on a number of topics.





For enquiries about these, please contact welfare@companionanimals.nz

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Resources

www.animalregister.co.nz/marketing-resources/



Companion Animals NZ REGISTER

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Are there any dangers to the animal in having a microchip implanted?**
   Answer: There should be no danger to the animal as long as the correct implantation technique is used.

   The electronic chip, contained inside the microchip, is passive and doesn't have a source of power. It only becomes active when the reader (scanner) is used.

2. **Is a microchip a GPS tracker?**
   Answer: No. The electronic chip, contained inside the microchip, is passive and doesn't have a source of power. It only becomes active when the reader (scanner) is used.

3. **Will the microchip migrate?**
   Answer: This was purportedly a problem in the past, but the risk of this has now decreased due to the new composition of the glass helping keep it in place.

4. **Is the same type of microchip used on all species?**
   Answer: These microchips can be used on all species and usually range in size from 8mm to 12mm long. However, there are larger ones available for livestock.

5. **Is there a minimum age when an animal can be microchipped?**
   Answer: No. Puppies and kittens are often microchipped when they receive their vaccinations.

6. **Who has access to the NZCAR database?**
   Answer: Veterinarians, SPCAs and other approved agencies using a login system.

7. **Are microchip and registration proof of ownership?**
   Answer: No, in a legal context they provide strong evidence of ownership but not sole proof.

8. **Can pet owners register themselves online?**
   Answer: Yes, they can set up their own NZCAR account and register an animal using a credit card. They can add and manage many animals from one dashboard after they have created their account.

2886

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THANK YOU

www.companionanimals.nz

Contact:
welfare@companionanimals.nz

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3090

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Fewer unwanted kittens that may then end up as feral cats

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Supports responsible ownership

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Protects native species and brings us in line with 1/3 of Councils in Australia doing the same for the same reasons

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other

Tell us why

Yes but with a sinking lid policy ie only residents can bring their registered cats, but no new cats are allowed even for residents so that no cats will be on the islands over time allowing for greater potential for native biodiversity and greater return on investment in eradicating other predatory mammal species.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Other

Tell us why

Possibly at certain times of year if cost is proven to be a barrier. Otherwise the uptake may be just from those who could afford to desex their cat anyway. Those who â€˜cannot afford toâ€™ desex may also not want to desex. Will those who otherwise wouldnâ€™t be their cat, be able to register, contain and pay for veterinary bills for their cat? If it promotes responsible ownership yes, but may need to couple with a fine for not desexing/registering your cat..

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Keep cats on ownersâ€™ properties

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Work towards all islands being free of key mammalian predators and improve predator control programmes and outcomes in i.e. Waitakere ranges

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Unsure

Tell us why

Not well enough informed regarding this issue

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Revise pest plant list, educate and/or disincentivise people from purchasing and planting bamboo, ivy etc.

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3100

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable): Companion Animal Veterinarians Branch (CAV) of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA)

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) strongly advocates for responsible cat ownership, emphasising the importance of desexing cats not intended for breeding, with a specific recommendation for pre-pubertal desexing by removal of ovaries in females and testicles in males. Desexing is an effective strategy to minimise overpopulation and has been shown to reduce numbers of animals being relinquished to shelters while simultaneously overall improving an individual cat's welfare. It is crucial that desexing is actively promoted and made accessible to all groups involved with cats.

Desexing offers significant individual welfare advantages for cats such as :

- Desexing before one year of age provides protection against mammary carcinoma, with a 91% risk reduction if performed before six months and an 86% reduction if done before one year (Overley et al., 25).

- Desexed male cats live, on average, 62% longer than undesexed males, while desexed female cats live 39% longer than their undesexed counterparts (Banfield Pet Hospital, 213).

- Roaming, along with associated behaviors like fighting and spraying, is reduced or eliminated in 8–9% of cats (Hart & Cooper, 1984).

- Desexing reduces activity related to territorial behavior, such as roaming, making cats less active overall (Cafazzo et al., 219).

On a broader population scale, desexing companion cats plays a critical role in reducing unplanned litters that burden animal welfare and rescue organisations. It also helps break the cycle of unplanned breeding, thereby preventing further contributions to stray cat populations. Through its individual welfare and population-level impacts, desexing is a cornerstone of responsible cat ownership, contributing to healthier lives for individual cats and addressing the challenges of overpopulation.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

The NZVA policy emphasises the importance of permanent identification for cats, recommending both registration and microchipping by their owners. Microchipping a cat and registering it's details on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR) provides a reliable and effective method of identification.

Benefits of Effective Identification (Microchipping):

- Microchipping and registration ensure that a lost cat's owner can be identified and contacted, allowing the cat to be reclaimed quickly.

- If an injured cat is found, its owner can be identified promptly, enabling timely medical decisions and treatment.

- Cats without microchips may be assumed to be unmanaged strays. In such cases, appropriate decisions can be made in accordance with relevant legislation, especially if the cat is injured or displaced.

- Microchipping facilitates the identification of cats during natural disasters or disease outbreaks, aiding in their safe return or appropriate management.

Permanent identification through microchipping and registration is a vital aspect of responsible cat ownership, ensuring both the welfare of the cat and responsibility of the owner in various scenarios.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

To ensure companion cats do not negatively impact people, other animals, or the environment, responsible cat owners should:

- Prevent their cats from straying beyond their property.

- Minimise predation on vulnerable native wildlife through measures such as deterrent collars, curfews, confinement, or cat aviaries.

Keeping cats at home is beneficial to the cat's health for a range of reasons, including:

- Preventing roaming and unwanted reproduction.

- Reducing predation on wildlife and minimising nuisance to the community.

- Lowering the risk of disease transmission, injuries, or fatalities from traffic accidents, fights, dogs, or human cruelty (Loyd et al., 213b; Toukhsati et al., 212b).

Cats that live an indoor or contained lifestyle have behavioural needs that must be addressed to ensure that the cat has an opportunity to express normal feline behaviour and live a fulfilled life. While New Zealand has one of the highest rates of unrestricted outdoor access for cats, the transition to living indoors requires careful planning and consideration by the owner to address the cat's needs.

It is however possible for cats whose behavioural needs to are met to live "a good life" while contained, and we recognise that this outcome ensures a positive welfare impact for the cat, reduced nuisance behaviours to the community and minimises the impact on vulnerable native wildlife.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other

Tell us why

We felt this question was a little oblique and unclear, hence have responded "other".

In the context of population control and responsible cat management, it is essential to ensure that any cats being taken offshore meet specific criteria to prevent unintended consequences for both the animals and the environments they may enter. Only cats that are responsibly owned, desexed, and permanently identified with a registered microchip should be transported offshore.

We assume that this would allow people residing in Auckland to take their cats with them to their holiday homes. This would then rely on them taking their cats back with them.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

The high intake of cats into animal shelters and welfare organisations is largely influenced by low desexing rates among cats in low-income households and stray cats with human caregivers (Marsh, 2010; Toukhsati et al., 2007; Zito, 2015). In New Zealand, 93.2% of cats are reportedly desexed, with cost being the primary barrier for those that are not (Gates et al., 2019). Similar trends are seen in the US and Australia, where 90% of desexed cats belong to higher-income households (Marsh, 2010; Toukhsati et al., 2007). Lower socio-economic status

is associated with higher cat surrender rates and lower desexing rates among surrendered cats (Zito et al., 2016a; Alberthsen, 2014; Marston & Bennett, 2009). These findings underscore the urgent need for accessible, affordable desexing programmes (Gates et al., 2019).

Important considerations with funded desexing initiatives include:

- Programmes prioritise carers with genuine needs using criteria such as income, geographic location, or senior citizen status.

- Services must be easy to access, with options like mobile surgical units, partnerships with private veterinary clinics, or transportation services to fixed-site clinics. Ancillary support, such as cat transport to and from appointments, is crucial for low-income owners (Target Zero, 2016).

- Programmes need consistent funding to desex a significant number of animals annually in lower socio-economic areas. Desexing five pets per 1,000 residents annually can substantially reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates, but this progress requires sustained effort (Marsh, 2012).

- Broad-scale, high-profile promotions and short-term incentives are effective in increasing uptake across all cat owners (pers comm Mandy Paterson, RSPCA QLD, 2016).

By addressing affordability, accessibility, and sustainability, these initiatives can significantly reduce shelter intake, improve welfare outcomes, and promote responsible cat ownership.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

Efforts to manage cats in New Zealand must be carefully monitored and evaluated to assess their effectiveness in controlling cat populations and supporting local wildlife. Robust evaluations of cat management programs are essential to provide valuable insights for governments, cat advocates, and environmental organisations worldwide as they address similar challenges with cat overpopulation.

Cat management is inherently complex, requiring careful consideration of the needs of cats, the value they have in New Zealand society, their recognised and real impact on vulnerable native species, and the diverse views of all stakeholders. There is no universal solution for achieving humane cat management and environmental protection; instead, strategies must be tailored to suit specific contexts. Effective and compassionate cat management depends on collaboration among all stakeholders to balance the diverse values associated with cats.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Auckland Council
Let's protect our environment
Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street
Wast Auckland, 1142

5 December 2024

By Email

Submission on behalf of the New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe regarding Auckland Council Let's Protect Our Environment early consultation

The New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe (NZVA) is the largest membership organisation representing veterinarians in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our mission is to support our members through leadership, education, guidance and advocacy.

This submission is made on behalf of our members in response to Auckland Council's 'Let's Protect Our Environment' early consultation. In preparing this response, we have consulted with our Companion Animal Veterinarians Branch.

The NZVA supports principles of responsible cat ownership and management that foster a harmonious relationship between people, cats and the environment.

As a key stakeholder in the National Cat Management Strategy Group (NCMSG), we recognise the need to balance the interests of cats, cat owners, and semi-owners/stray care providers with the potential negative impacts of cats on communities, other species and ecosystems.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation process and thank you for considering our feedback during its early stages.

Nāku iti noa, nā,

[redacted]

New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe
A Level 2, 44 Victoria Street, PO Box 11212, Wellington 6142, New Zealand
P +64 4 471 0484 | **F** +64 4 471 0494 | **E** nzva@vets.org.nz | **W** www.nzva.org.nz

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3168

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Control measures in species habitats are going to continue to be under pressure if the population of cats that hunt within these spaces is being replenished by the offspring of domestic/pet cats. Desexing these cats will permit owners to continue to have them as pets while improving chances of meaningful success in wild cat control measures.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Microchipping and registration will allow for stray cats to be more readily reunited with owners and wild cats to be rapidly euthanised as part of wild cat population control.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Other
Kawau Island	Other
Rakino Island	Other
Waiheke Island	Other
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Other
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

While there is definite benefit to be realised in making such a control measure a mandatory requirement, the likely push-back from pet owners is likely to be counter-productive to the overall mission at this stage. Better to encourage owners to voluntarily keep cats indoors to keep them and native species populations safe.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support

Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

There is no justifiable reason for non-residents to bring cats to these islands with respect to the risk they pose to native wildlife populations.

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

There will definitely be a lot of families without the financial means of desexing their pets, and this is to me a necessary component in making meaningful progress towards protecting native wildlife populations from cats.

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

I would suggest that consideration also be given to the establishment of permanent and temporary pest-control areas (that include cats as a pest species), with active hunting and trapping of pest species undertaken in these areas. Residents in a reasonable geographic proximity to these areas could be kept informed and encouraged to keep their pets indoors or at least microchipped and registered to prevent unintentional harm to pets while pest control operations are being conducted in those areas.

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Perhaps consider mapping and promoting progress in pest control throughout the region - i.e. sectorise the Auckland region, display what pest species we are aware of in particular areas and any levels of concentration that we are aware of, run and support citizen science/action in tracking pest species and undertaking eradication efforts in those areas, and then promote successes in reduction efforts (or at least where more information about pest species populations is gained). While some members of the public may be opposed to this sort of approach, we might also derive more buy-in by also reporting on incidents where native

species have been found to have been attacked by pest species
https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/360511055/feral-cat-destroys-endangered-tern-nests

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Yes

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3251

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats are a danger to all birds

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Cats kill millions of native birds every year

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

Financial issues mean many households cannot afford to desex their cats

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

There are good examples in some Australian states

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

Trapping and training for the general public

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

Motorized boats are causing more and more harm to the shoreline and have the potential to spread fresh water pests

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Absolutely

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

Create protect and monitor more SEAâ€™s

Let's protect our environment: early consultation #3289

Note: this version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation (if applicable):

Local Board: Outside Auckland

Your feedback

1. Responsible cat ownership

1A. All domestic/pet cats must be desexed

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

Part of managing the impact of cats on native wildlife is reducing the number of feral cats and of cats in general. We need to work towards no 'unmanaged' cat breeding.

1B. All domestic/pet cats must be microchipped and registered on the Companion Animal Register

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Support

Tell us why

In order to check that cats are desexed and to be able to humanely trap domestic cats if they stray into conservation areas we need to know where they belong.

1C. All domestic/pet cats must be contained to their owner's property

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support
Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support
Within 1km of known threatened species habitat (see map 1)	Support
All of Auckland	Other

Tell us why

Ideally all pet cats should be confined to their owners property at all times but I think culturally we are a long way from having that be a norm so it's not the right place to set the bar currently. It's also a significant expense for some cat owners to set up a situation where the cat can be confined. A compromise might be that all domestic cats must be confined at night and must not enter wildlife areas including beaches Managers of those areas should have the right to humanely trap cats and contact owners with the support of council. Council should be able to issue penalties for not confining as required.

1D. Only island residents' domestic/pet cats can be taken to offshore islands

Location	
Aotea/Great Barrier Island	Support

Kawau Island	Support
Rakino Island	Support
Waiheke Island	Support

Tell us why

It’s a total mystery why this is not already a policy!

1E. What is your opinion on council providing increased financial support for those who cannot afford to desex their cats?

Support

Tell us why

1F. Do you have comments or suggestions for managing cats to protect both wildlife and cats in Auckland?

As above, people managing wildlife areas should be able to remove cats from those areas and work with council to issue notices/penalties/fines. This includes beaches

2. Pest-free islands

Do you have any priorities or suggestions for our region's contribution towards being predator-free by 2050?

3. Protecting our moana from Caulerpa seaweed and other marine pests

3A. What is your opinion on introducing a rule to require all anchor chains and other marine gear to be free of pests, visible dirt, seaweed and animals before moving to a new location?

Support

Tell us why

3B. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling invasive species in high ecological and/or cultural value marine ecosystems?

Support

Tell us why

4. Our freshwater bodies (including lakes Tomarata and Rototoa)

4A. What is your opinion on Auckland Council controlling pests in more of the region's lakes (beyond Tomarata and Rototoa)?

Support

Tell us why

4B. What is your opinion on banning motorised boats from Lake Tomorata to help prevent the spread of freshwater pests and to protect shoreline vegetation?

Support

Tell us why

5. Climate resilience

Do you think we should prioritise increased climate change resilience in our management of the natural environment?

Definitely

6. Other feedback

Do you have any other priorities or suggestions for how we should protect our natural environment from the impacts of exotic species now and into the future?

No