

Media Release



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Council leads way on cat management

Adelaide Hills Council will consult on a new By-law requiring cats be confined to their owner's property from 1 January 2022.

The management of cats is an issue for many Councils and Mayor Bill Spragg believes the Adelaide Hills Council is the first metro Council to propose implementing cat confinement.

"We listened to our community in formulating this proposal. 80 per cent of respondents to our Animal Management Plan survey last year favoured cat confinement," said Mayor Spragg.

"Apart from the obvious benefits of confinement to our wildlife, it also means domestic cats aren't at risk on our roads or in danger of contracting disease from feral cats.

"Council is conscious that cats used to roaming free may not enjoy being confined and that some properties may require modifications to confine cats, so the three year phasing period provides owners with time to make an orderly transition.

"However, we would encourage new cat owners or new residents with cats to confine them right from the start.

"We are aware that people need to take cats off their premises at times, for example companion cats who are on a lead or to transport cats to the vet or a new home. The proposed By-law allows for these circumstances," says Mayor Spragg.

The proposed Cat By-law will go to community consultation in May with a final decision expected to be made in August 2018. It is presented as part of a review encompassing all Council By-laws due to expire in January 2019.

The proposed new Cat By-law is informed by a comprehensive review and extensive community consultation to support the recently adopted Dog and Cat Animal Management Plan 2018 - 2022. Recent amendments to the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* that come into effect on 1 July 2018 were also considered.

For more information on pets and animals in the Adelaide Hills visit ahc.sa.gov.au

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