

SOUTHERN TASMANIA

**REGIONAL CAT
MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY**

(2021-2026)



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Prepared by the Southern Cat Management Coordinator in collaboration with:

- ▶ Brighton Council,
- ▶ Central Highlands Council,
- ▶ Clarence City Council,
- ▶ Derwent Valley Council,
- ▶ Glamorgan Spring Bay Council,
- ▶ Glenorchy City Council,
- ▶ Hobart City Council,
- ▶ Huon Valley Council,
- ▶ Kingborough Council,
- ▶ Southern Midlands Council,
- ▶ Sorell Council,
- ▶ Tasman Council,
- ▶ Australian Veterinary Association,
- ▶ RSPCA Tasmania,
- ▶ Ten Lives Cat Centre,
- ▶ Biosecurity Tasmania- Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, and
- ▶ Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service - Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

1. Introduction	04
How to use this Regional Cat Management Strategy	04
Why do we need to manage cats better?	05
Background	05
2. Vision and guiding principles	07
Vision	07
Guiding principles	07
3. Scope	08
Categories of cats	08
Legislation	08
Tasmanian Cat Management Plan	09
Region	09
4. Governance	10
5. Areas of focus	11
5.1 Increasing education and awareness of responsible cat ownership	12
5.2 Protecting significant conservation, commercial and community assets	16
5.3 Reducing the stray cat population	19
5.4 Uncontrolled cat breeding and welfare concerns	21
5.5 Increasing cat management capacity and accessibility to cat management services throughout the region	23
5.6 Compliance in relation to the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i>	26
5.7 Improved knowledge to better inform cat management	28
5.8 Strategic governance and resourcing	30
6. Resources and References	32
TassieCat resources available for Strategy participants	32
Other resources	32
References	33

1. Introduction

The Southern Tasmanian Cat Management Strategy 2021-2026 (the Strategy) has been developed to provide an aspirational and long-term framework within which partner organisations can voluntarily contribute, collaborate and align cat management efforts within the southern region, towards agreed and shared outcomes.

The Strategy has sought collaboration from a range of partner organisations including the Tasmanian Government (Biosecurity Tasmania and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service), Brighton Council, Central Highlands Council, Clarence City Council, Derwent Valley Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Glenorchy City Council, Hobart City Council, Huon Valley Council, Kingborough Council, Southern Midlands Council, Sorell Council, Tasman Council, the Australian Veterinary Association, RSPCA Tasmania and Ten Lives Cat Centre.

Cats are an integral part of Tasmanian society as beloved pets; they are highly valued companions and studies have shown that owning a cat can be good for the health of the owner. However, cats also pose a threat to Tasmanian native wildlife, agriculture and communities through predation, spread of disease and creation of nuisance. Cats and their impacts will continue to be an issue which require management. Tasmanians are increasingly recognising the negative impacts that cats can have and there is growing community expectation that all levels of Government will participate in cat management.

How to use this Regional Cat Management Strategy

The Strategy recognises that the twelve councils and other key stakeholders of the southern region will have different priorities, capabilities, and resources for cat management. The Strategy adopts an opt-in approach which enables all councils and other stakeholders to participate in cat management to the extent that they require and are able to resource, while keeping them aligned with the actions of the other partners in the region.

The Strategy sets out eight areas of focus for Southern Tasmania, and highlights actions that can be undertaken by individual organisations, as well as collaborative region wide initiatives. Collaboration across the region will improve efficiency, consistency and reduce costs of cat management.

The actions identified in the Strategy largely consist of three approaches: information sharing, information gathering and active cat management. The majority of the actions relate to information sharing and information gathering. This includes key actions such as providing educational information to the public on responsible cat ownership and collecting data so that organisations involved in cat management have access to essential information which will help inform management decisions and approaches.

The three key focuses emerging from the Strategy which relate to active cat management include: identification and use of best practice cat management techniques when undertaking cat management programs, increasing accessibility to cat management facility services across the region and progress on a collaborative and proactive approach to addressing cat hoarding situations. The Strategy is a high-level document which identifies actions which need to be taken, however,

several of the actions are significant projects which will require further scoping and planning outside of this Strategy.

The Strategy is designed to help participants to identify their chosen priority actions, and consideration will need to be given to the resourcing required to deliver those actions.

Support for the Strategy's implementation exists from the Regional Cat Management Coordinator and many of the actions are already underway in some councils with resources and support available from the Regional Cat Management Coordinator through TassieCat.

Why do we need to manage cats better?

A paper released in 2020 estimates that in Australia 390 million animals are killed by domestic cats annually, of which, 241 million are native. A roaming pet cat kills an average of 186 animals a year, of which, 115 are native, and because of their unnaturally high densities in urban areas, they exert a predation pressure that is 30-50 times higher per square kilometre than that of feral cats (Legge *et al.* 2020). The result is that millions of native animals are killed in Tasmania each year by pet cats, in addition to the impacts of stray and feral cats.

These numbers do not include the death of native animals through the transmission of toxoplasmosis, a disease for which cats are the primary host. Toxoplasmosis also impacts livestock and can cause miscarriage and still-births, particularly in sheep. The cost of toxoplasmosis to the agricultural industry in Tasmania is estimated to be \$1.7 million annually (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment 2015). Toxoplasmosis can also cause miscarriage in pregnant women and severe illness for those with low immunity. It is estimated that around 40% of domestic cats carry toxoplasmosis (Sumner & Ackland 1999). A roaming domestic cat is much more likely to contract and spread the disease, than a contained cat.

Roaming pet cats can cause discord in the community. Many property owners feel frustrated at neighbours' cats being allowed to visit their property uninvited, harass their pets, defecate in sandpits and vegetable gardens, hunt wildlife, create noise disturbances at night and spray on their doorstep. Domestic cats in Australia have been found to roam significant distances, with an average home-range of 1 hectare, and in some cases up to 31 hectares (Roetman *et al.* 2017).

However, cats also bring a lot of joy and companionship to their owners, and this role they play in the community is highly valued. For all of these reasons, the topic of cats and cat management can be a difficult and emotive one.

Cat management is complicated further by the ecological characteristics of the cat. Cats are highly adaptable, widespread, can reproduce at an early age and are a cautious species making them difficult to trap and manage. To ensure cat management is successful and sustainable over the long-term many on-ground actions are required to be ongoing and this can become expensive. Despite these challenges, this Strategy provides participants with practical actions they can take to achieve the goals of responsible cat ownership and best practice cat management.

Background

In 2018 the State Government funded three Regional Cat Management Coordinators to help progress cat management in Tasmania; the Southern Regional Cat Management Coordinator works across the twelve southern Tasmanian council areas. The Regional Coordinators developed TassieCat

which is a state-wide community focused education initiative, designed to educate cat owners about responsible cat ownership.

The Southern Cat Management Working Group which includes representatives from the majority of southern councils and other key stakeholders such as the Australian Veterinary Association, cat management facilities and the State Government was formed to develop a collective view on better ways to manage cats. The Working Group works to identify shared cat management challenges, possible solutions and priorities across the region. Information and discussions from the Working Group meetings have informed the development of this Strategy. The Working Group has also acted as distribution point for key educational materials produced by TassieCat including the TassieCat website, booklets, social media, and videos which promote responsible cat ownership.

2. Vision and guiding principles

Vision

To see Southern Tasmania collectively and responsibly managing cats for the benefit of native wildlife, cat welfare, cat owners' wellbeing, community relations, human health, and agriculture.

Guiding principles

- ▶ The best outcomes result from working in collaboration; everyone has a role to play in responsible cat ownership and management.
- ▶ Responsible cat ownership is highly valued.
- ▶ Cat management and education should be proactive.
- ▶ Animal welfare is a primary management consideration.
- ▶ Domestic pet cats can contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of their owners.
- ▶ The needs of cat owners must be balanced against the impacts of cats.
- ▶ Management actions should be based on best practice.
- ▶ Significant assets must be protected from the impacts of cats.
- ▶ Cat management will require continued resourcing and assessment at all levels.
- ▶ Ongoing research is needed to best inform management.

Managing cats is a shared responsibility across many parts of the community including individual cat owners, breeders and sellers, State and Local Government, businesses, the not-for-profit animal welfare sector and others. Everyone has a role to play and by working together in a planned way, cats can continue to contribute to our quality of life with minimal impact on the environment, commercial enterprises, and others in the community.

3. Scope

Categories of cats

All cats in Tasmania are the same species (*Felis catus*) and are often conveniently categorised as domestic, stray or feral. In this Strategy the definitions from the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan apply:

- ▶ Domestic cats (or pet cats) are those which are identifiable as owned; most of their needs are supplied by their owners. They may roam beyond their owner's property, including into bush and park land, but they spend most of their time with a specific person/family/property.
- ▶ Stray cats are those found in and around cities, towns and rural properties; they may depend on some resources provided by humans but have no identifiable owner.
- ▶ Feral cats are those that live and reproduce in the wild, largely or entirely removed from humans, and survive by hunting or scavenging; none of their needs are satisfied intentionally by humans.

This Strategy focuses on domestic and stray cats in and near settled areas which are managed under the *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act). Feral cat management sits outside the scope of the Strategy which is focused primarily on domestic cat management working with councils.

The Strategy recognises the significant role feral cat management plays in broader cat management, including efforts by primary producers and conservation land managers. There is overlap and a strong connection between the different categories of cats (domestic, stray and feral); domestic cats can move in to the stray cat population when they become lost or are abandoned, stray cats can become domestic if they are taken in by people and their needs are provided for, stray cats can become feral cats when a litter of kittens is born away from humans and they are unsocialised. Undoubtedly there is scope for stakeholders to collaborate on projects which cross into feral cat management, however, domestic and stray cats are the primary focus of this Strategy.

There is no reliable data on the number of domestic or stray cats in Southern Tasmania but national data from research by Animal Medicines Australia found that around 27% of households have cats, with an average of 1.4 cats kept per household (Animal Medicines Australia 2019). With an estimated 106,000 households, this equates to approximately 40,000 pet cats living in the southern region.

Legislation

The *Cat Management Act 2009*, *Biosecurity Act 2019*, *Animal Welfare Act 1993* and the *Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022* provide the legislative and policy framework to achieve the broad goal of responsible cat ownership and management in Tasmania.

The *Cat Management Act 2009* is the principal legislation for managing domestic and stray cats in Tasmania. The Act aims to improve levels of responsible cat ownership and welfare, provide for effective cat management and reduce the potential negative impacts of cats on the community, agriculture and environment in Tasmania.

Feral cats are managed under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* as a biosecurity risk or impact, and industry, landowners, community or government can develop an approved biosecurity program for their control.

The *Animal Welfare Act 1993* protects the welfare of all animals, and any person who has the care or charge of an animal is bound by this Act and has a duty of care in relation to the welfare of the animal.

Both Local and State Government employ staff who are authorised under the *Cat Management Act 2009*. Authorised officers under the *Dog Control Act 2000* are automatically deemed an authorised person under the *Cat Management Act 2009*, as are those authorised under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, such as RSPCA inspectors.

Tasmanian Cat Management Plan

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), with the support of the Cat Management Reference Group developed the *Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022*, which is a comprehensive and collaborative state-wide approach to managing cats. It is built around seven objectives including increasing responsible pet cat ownership practices and community awareness around cat management, use of best practice techniques in relation to cat management, research and minimising the impact of cats on important conservation and agricultural assets. This Strategy is working towards contributing to many of the objectives outlined in the Plan.

Region

The southern region, for the purposes of this Strategy, covers 12 municipalities: Brighton, Central Highlands, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Glenorchy, Hobart, Huon Valley, Kingborough, Southern Midlands, Sorell and Tasman. More than 275,000 people live in the southern region in major urban areas in Hobart and surrounds and many smaller towns servicing a diversity of rural and coastal communities.



4. Governance

This Strategy has been developed in the recognition that each participating organisation has different skills, knowledge, resources, priorities and responsibilities and that implementation roles need to be voluntary and flexible at the local level, while still achieving the vision and desired outcomes of the Strategy.

Ideally the Southern Regional Cat Management Coordinator will work with the Southern Cat Management Working Group to deliver the Strategy. The Cat Management Working Group meets several times a year and can act as a key mechanism in the delivery of the Strategy, including allowing for further detailed planning and implementation. However, if the Coordinator or Working Group are not operating, the Strategy provides direction for each stakeholder to be able to focus their cat management actions.

The Strategy is divided up into region-wide initiatives, and initiatives which individual organisations can implement. The individual initiatives allow participants to prioritise and plan for their own organisations and municipalities, while the region wide initiatives will require collaboration and resource sharing to deliver.

Progress of the Strategy should be reviewed jointly by Strategy participants annually and the Strategy updated every five years or if the *Cat Management Act 2009* is amended.

5. Areas of focus

The primary cat management issues for Southern Tasmania to be addressed by this Strategy include:

- 1) Increasing education and awareness of responsible cat ownership
- 2) Protecting significant conservation, commercial and community assets
- 3) Reducing the stray cat population
- 4) Uncontrolled cat breeding and welfare concerns
- 5) Increasing cat management capacity and accessibility to cat management services throughout the region
- 6) Compliance in relation to the *Cat Management Act 2009*
- 7) Improved knowledge to better inform cat management
- 8) Strategic governance and resourcing

For each of the primary cat management areas of focus the Strategy identifies:

- ▶ essential background information (where are we now?)
- ▶ long-term desired outcome (where do we want to be?)
- ▶ an action plan to work towards achieving the desired outcome including:
 - proposed timeframe— short term [first year], medium term [2-3 years] and long term [4-5 years]
 - priority - including high, medium and low
 - and which of the key participant/s can deliver the action.

The Action Plan is divided into two sections, one for initiatives which individual organisations can implement, and one for region wide initiatives (how are we going to get there?), and

- ▶ performance indicators including targets and performance measures where possible (how will we know we are on track?)

There is little Tasmanian baseline data in relation to cat ownership practices, cat numbers and management, consequently, a focus of this Strategy is on gathering data before significant goals can be set. A report will need to be developed compiling the baseline data this Strategy will use to measure its performance indicators.

5.1 Increasing education and awareness of responsible cat ownership

Background

A vital part of successfully managing cats relies on responsible cat ownership. More education needs to be undertaken to promote the benefits of desexing and microchipping to the general public. Desexing is essential to reduce the number of unexpected and unwanted kittens which often overwhelm cat management facilities and shelters during summer. In 2019 over 6,250 cats passed through cat management facilities and shelters in Tasmania. Promoting microchipping is also key as it significantly increases the chances of a lost pet cat being reunited with their owner.

Containment of pet cats to the owner's property prevents cats from roaming and improves their wellbeing, whilst preventing them from killing Tasmania's native wildlife or becoming a nuisance to their neighbours. One of the most regular complaints that Local and State Government receive in relation to cats is about nuisance caused by roaming cats.

The types of nuisance reported:

- ▶ Trespassing on property
- ▶ Defecating and urinating on property
- ▶ Attacking other pets including cats, rabbits, birds, dogs, chickens, and ducks
- ▶ Killing native wildlife
- ▶ Fighting at night and the noise affecting sleep of household members
- ▶ A dog defending its property against a visiting cat, resulting in the cat being injured or killed
- ▶ Dog barking as a result of visiting cat's presence
- ▶ Risk of spreading toxoplasmosis through cat faeces in vegetable gardens and sandpits

Complaints about nuisance caused by pet cats can be complicated and very difficult to resolve. Containment to private property is expected for other domestic pets and is considered best practice when keeping cats, however it is not required under the *Cat Management Act 2009*. The Act does however provide for the protection of private property from stray and roaming cats. The Act permits landholders to trap a cat found on their private property providing the cat is either returned to its owner or taken to a cat management facility.

The most common reasons that cat owners cite for not practicing containment centre around ideas that cats need to wander to be happy and healthy; that there is a low risk of harm to cats when they roam; and that it is difficult to contain cats. However, vets and cat behaviourists agree that roaming increases the risk of injuries and disease transmission, and that cats can live happily at home if their needs are provided for. Education is needed to assist people in setting up containment solutions, transitioning roaming pet cats to staying safe at home, as well as how to best provide for their cat's needs, including environmental enrichment and identifying and managing behaviour issues.

Key components of responsible cat ownership include:

- ▶ Desexing cats by four months of age. 'Early-age desexing', which is the desexing of kittens between two to three months of age, should be encouraged because cats can become pregnant as early as

four months of age. Early-age desexing is practiced by most large Australian animal shelters and an increasing number of veterinarians.

- ▶ Microchipping cats by four months of age and ensuring contact details are always kept current with the microchip registry, as well as visible identification through collar and tag.
- ▶ Keeping cats safe at home (containment).
- ▶ Ensuring the mental and physical wellbeing of each cat.
- ▶ Not keeping more than four cats without a permit (once legislation comes into effect early in 2022).
- ▶ Routine health checks and vaccinations by a veterinarian.
- ▶ Emergency planning for a pet cat in the event of an emergency, such as a natural disaster.
- ▶ Surrendering unwanted cats and kittens to a cat management facility (not dumping them).
- ▶ Not feeding stray cats or making food available for them.

Desired outcome

For all cat owners to understand and practice responsible cat ownership.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.1.1 Provide educational information and promote responsible cat ownership to the public, using consistent messages, via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Social media • Booklets • Video • Print media (newsletters/articles) • Presentations 	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Veterinary clinics • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat materials available online and hardcopy-factsheets, booklets, videos, social media, posters, magnets, stickers, postcards, website
5.1.2 Use available materials when responding to public enquiries and providing advice about cat related queries (e.g. legislation, nuisance, responsible ownership, stray cats etc.).	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat factsheets and <i>FAQ guide to handling cat-related queries from the public</i> available
5.1.3 Promote legislation and requirements of the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> on website and front counter.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	TassieCat brochure available DPIPWE website
5.1.4 Keep cat related enquiry register.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Register to include number and nature of enquiries/complaints, including nuisance, stray cats, legislation, hoarding etc. This information can then be used to conduct targeted education programs in the future. Action linked to 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.7.1

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.1.5 Educate people about the problems of feeding stray cats, having un-desexed cats and abandonment of unwanted cats and advocate the use of cat management facilities.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Information available from TassieCat and cat management facilities
5.1.6 Promote EduCat to schools.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Existing education program delivered in schools by Ten Lives Cat Centre
5.1.7 Remind veterinary surgeons that from 1 March 2022, all cats over the age of four months must be microchipped and desexed, unless a vet certified that it would adversely affect the health or welfare of the cat.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Veterinary Association • State Government 	
5.1.8 Disseminate humane trapping advice to members of the public who are considering trapping.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	<p>Cat trapping guidelines available from TassieCat and Ten Lives Cat Centre</p> <p>Action linked to 5.6.4</p>
5.1.9 Work with and encourage relevant stakeholders to participate in the promotion of responsible cat ownership.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	<p>E.g. veterinarians, breeders, shelters, wildlife & landcare organisations, community groups, online pet sales platforms, pet shops and local media.</p> <p>Materials available from TassieCat online and hardcopy-factsheets, booklets, videos, social media, posters, magnets, stickers, postcards, website</p>
5.1.10 Identify barriers to responsible cat ownership in the community and explore strategies to overcome these (e.g. affordability, awareness, geographic isolation).	Medium term	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat can provide some information, Ten Lives Cat Centre may provide additional information, and localised surveys could be conducted
5.1.11 Undertake localised community consultation on cat management to determine what issues the community perceive there to be in relation to cats (e.g. presence of stray cats, nuisance, feeding of stray cats etc.) and what steps the community would like to see undertaken.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils 	
5.1.12 Investigate the feasibility of subsidised desexing and/or microchipping program in targeted areas.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.1.13 Organise local community engagement event/s (e.g. cat expo promoting responsible cat ownership showcasing cat enclosure designs/ options) and participate in existing community events (e.g. school fairs, local festivals).	Medium term Ongoing	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	
5.1.14 Educate residents about steps to take in relation to their pet cat in the event of an emergency, such as natural disaster.	Medium term Ongoing	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	
5.1.15 Work with local agencies to refine a process for handling the care of pets in emergency situations.	Medium term Ongoing	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.1.16 Assess the potential success and viability of mandatory cat registration (region or state-wide).	Medium term	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government 	Refer to Dogs and Cats Online (Government of South Australia) for information

Performance indicators

- ▶ Increase in responsible cat ownership behaviours (desexing, microchipping, containment) by cat owners.
- ▶ Responsible cat ownership information available on all Strategy participants' websites and in foyers.
- ▶ Visitation to the TassieCat and relevant stakeholder webpages (e.g. council).
- ▶ Data collection undertaken by Strategy participants.
- ▶ Appropriate information on trapping provided by Strategy participants to the general public.
- ▶ Number of events organised or attended by Strategy participants with information available on responsible cat ownership.
- ▶ Levels of community engagement and consultation by Strategy participants in relation to cat ownership and management.
- ▶ Number of programs supporting microchipping and/or desexing.
- ▶ Number of councils with processes in place for managing pet cats in case of emergency.

5.2 Protecting significant conservation, commercial and community assets

Background

Southern Tasmania contains many significant conservation, commercial and community assets that are impacted by domestic and stray roaming cats and may require specific cat management attention. These assets include:

- ▶ Areas of high environmental significance such as national parks, conservation reserves and other natural wildlife habitat areas that are home to native animals which are at risk from predation by cats and the spread of toxoplasmosis from cats.
- ▶ Valuable commercial assets such as agricultural areas with livestock, and aquaculture and abattoir operations. Livestock (particularly sheep) are susceptible to cat-borne disease, and operations such as aquaculture and abattoirs can be impacted by hygiene issues when cats congregate in an area.
- ▶ Community assets such as entertainment precincts (playgrounds, parks, BBQ areas), shops and built up areas, waste management facilities, and primary tourist attractions, which are at risk of nuisance and hygiene impacts from cats.

The *Cat Management Act 2009* permits a person to trap a cat on their private property provided any cat trapped is returned to its owner; or taken to a cat management facility.

A cat found on private land that is more than 1 km from a place of residence; or on land used for primary production or a production premises such as an abattoir or aquaculture business, may be returned to its owner; taken to a cat management facility; or humanely destroyed.

The Act allows for cat management action (includes trap; seize, detain) to be undertaken by an authorised officer in a prohibited area which includes:

- ▶ any area of land that is managed by a public authority, or Agency within the meaning of the *State Service Act 2000*, and is reserved land¹ ; and
- ▶ private land that is reserved land.

A cat trapped in a prohibited area by an authorised person may be returned to its owner; or taken to a cat management facility; or humanely destroyed.

The Act provides for Local Government, after consulting with its local community, to declare an area of council-controlled land as a prohibited area; or land within the municipal area of the council to be a cat management area. Cat management action and other measures may be undertaken by persons authorised to act in these areas.

Identifying which areas are a priority for protection from cats in municipalities is a key first step, which can then be followed by cat management activities in these priority areas. Activities could include

¹ Reserved land includes reserved land under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*; land subject to a conservation covenant under part 5 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*; public reserves under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*; permanent timber production zone land under the *Forest Management Act 2013*; and private timber reserves under the *Forestry Practices Act 1985*.

data collection and monitoring to understand cat presence and impacts, community education, designation of prohibited areas or cat management areas, assisted desexing and microchipping events, and, depending on the area, trapping, seizing and humane destruction of cats.

Desired outcome

To have significant conservation, commercial and community assets identified with appropriate strategies developed to mitigate cat related impacts at priority sites.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.2.1 Provide educational information on cat impacts to the community.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat
5.2.2 Use best practice cat management techniques.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat trapping guidelines available Action linked to 5.3.4
5.2.3 Identify significant conservation, commercial and community assets susceptible to impacts from roaming cats.	Medium term	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Regional asset classification and prioritisation guidelines can be developed to assist this process
5.2.4 Participate in collaborative cat management programs (council, community, Ten Lives), where there are issues with cats around priority areas.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Support landowners and managers, community and conservation organisations to actively manage cats within identified priority areas
5.2.5 Establish cat management areas and cat prohibited areas where appropriate. Promote these areas and the reason for their designation (as appropriate) and use as demonstration case studies that promote best practice.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils 	Factsheet and declaration template available from TassieCat
5.2.6 Promote, protect and create habitat for native wildlife as this helps reduce their susceptibility to predation by cats.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government 	Work with NRM groups, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Landcare Tasmania etc.
5.2.7 Consider council planning options for developments such as new subdivisions adjacent to high value conservation areas	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils 	E.g. covenants negotiated with developers to create cat management conditions on properties

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.2.8 Develop regional guidelines for the classification of conservation, commercial and community assets that are susceptible to impacts from roaming cats.	Short term	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councils• State Government• Cat management facilities	Consider development of guidelines at a state-wide level to ensure consistency

Performance indicators

- ▶ Regional guidelines for the classification and prioritisation of priority assets created.
- ▶ Asset protection planning undertaken by Strategy participants and maps of priority assets created for municipalities.
- ▶ Number of partnerships between Strategy participants and other stakeholders working on cat management programs in priority areas.
- ▶ Number of programs underway by Strategy participants to manage cats in relation to priority assets.

5.3 Reducing the stray cat population

Background

Stray cats, found in and around cities, towns and rural properties may depend on some resources provided by humans but have no identifiable owner. Generally undesexed, the stray cat population can breed quickly and while potentially well-intended, members of the community feed these unowned cats which can increase their numbers rapidly and significantly, and compound impacts on wildlife and neighbours. Pet cats can also become stray cats when they are abandoned by their owners. Stray cats can interact with and ultimately, add to, the feral cat population.

Stray cat populations are difficult to manage. Sporadic and non-targeted trapping will not have a long-term beneficial effect because more stray cats are likely to repopulate the area (Lazenby *et al.* 2014) and continue breeding. For this reason, stray cat management should be ongoing, strategic and multi-faceted.

Desired outcome

To reduce the stray cat population and maintain it at a low level, using best practice cat management techniques.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.3.1 Provide educational information to the community to reduce feeding of stray cats.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat
5.3.2 Keep cat-related enquiry register to identify stray cat hotspots.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • Cat management facilities 	Action linked to 5.1.4, 5.4.2, 5.7.1
5.3.3 Use council, cat management facility and cat shelter data to identify stray cat problem areas locally.	Medium term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Focus on these areas for education and targeted programs
5.3.4 Use best practice cat management techniques.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat trapping guidelines available Action linked to 5.2.2
5.3.5 Encourage people to use cat management facilities when they have an unwanted cat or a cat they can no longer care for, to reduce abandonment.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat and cat management facilities

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.3.6 Provide advice on dealing with cat behavioural issues to reduce the need for surrender of cats.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat
5.3.7 Inform the public about the requirements of the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> and <i>Animal Welfare Act 1993</i> ; it is illegal to abandon cats.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Materials available from TassieCat
5.3.8 Participate in collaborative cat management programs (council, community, Ten Lives Cat Centre), where there are issues with stray cats.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.3.9 Work collaboratively to identify potential partners, locations and arrangements for increased access to cat management services across the region to facilitate cat management programs.	Medium term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Linked to action 5.5.5
5.3.10 Develop best practice stray cat management guidelines.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	In consultation with experts, investigate options to address the stray cat population and identify when trapping or other management techniques could be used effectively and sustainably

Performance indicators

- ▶ Data collection undertaken by Strategy participants in relation to stray cat complaints and feeding of stray cats.
- ▶ Identify stray cat hotspot areas in the southern region.
- ▶ Number of cat management programs undertaken by Strategy participants in stray cat hotspot areas.
- ▶ A reduction in stray cat issues in hot spot areas where cat management programs have been undertaken.

5.4 Uncontrolled cat breeding and welfare concerns

Background

The breeding of cats by unregistered breeders is an offence under the *Cat Management Act 2009*. From early 2022 the Act requires a person who wishes to breed a cat to be either a member of a cat organisation or hold a permit to breed a cat. From early 2022 there will also be a limit of four cats allowed to be kept on a property without a permit (exclusions will apply to registered cat breeders; holders of a cat breeding permit; vet practices; cat boarding facilities; cat management facilities and their foster carers).

Without suitable management, keeping a large number of cats on a single property can compromise cat welfare, impact on native wildlife and create nuisances, leading to community conflict. Cat hoarding is where individuals keep a large number of cats as pets without the ability to properly house or care for them, while at the same time denying this inability and inadvertently compromising the cats' welfare. Extreme situations of cat hoarding require careful management to ensure the welfare of both the cats and people involved. Animal hoarding is a mental health issue. In cases in Southern Tasmania more than 100 cats have been removed from properties, however without appropriate cross-agency support, cat hoarding behaviour is highly likely to reoccur. The cats from these cases are often in poor health and many require euthanasia.

Currently there is no coordinated response to hoarding cases in Southern Tasmania. A collaborative cross agency approach is essential in increasing the effectiveness of any approach, this includes participation by Ten Lives Cat Centre, RSPCA, Local Government, community support services and mental health support.

Desired outcome

For all cat breeding in the region to be only undertaken by registered or permitted breeders and animal welfare standards maintained, including by addressing cat hoarding cases with a coordinated response.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.4.1 Promote the legislative requirement that only registered breeders are permitted to breed cats.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat
5.4.2 Keep cat-related enquiry register to identify unregistered cat breeding and hoarding.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government 	Action linked to 5.1.4, 5.3.2, 5.7.1

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.4.3 Liaise with RSPCA on suspected animal cruelty cases where necessary.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • RSPCA • Veterinary clinics 	
5.4.4 Work collaboratively with other key stakeholders in identified cat hoarding situations (RSPCA, Ten Lives, council, community services and mental health services).	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • RSPCA 	

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.4.5 Establish a Hoarding and Squalor Working Group. Develop a process for managing cat hoarding and feeding situations involving key stakeholders that is proactive and integrated.	Medium term	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • RSPCA 	

Performance indicators

- ▶ Data collection undertaken by Strategy participants in relation to unregistered cat breeding and hoarding complaints.
- ▶ Establish a Hoarding and Squalor Working Group with participation from key stakeholders.
- ▶ Regional process established by Strategy participants in relation to cat hoarding cases.
- ▶ Documented case studies of successful approaches to cat hoarding situations.
- ▶ An increase in a collaborative approach undertaken by Strategy participants and other stakeholders for cat hoarding cases.

5.5 Increasing cat management capacity and accessibility to cat management services throughout the region

Background

Responsibility for cat management in Southern Tasmania is shared across many organisations and is often undertaken as part of a broader range of responsibilities. Currently, resources for cat management in each individual organisation and State and Local Government area can be limited and a collaborative approach that makes best use of existing resources and expertise is considered essential. Staff working in animal management, such as council Animal Management Officers, will need additional training over time in relation to cat management.

Currently there is only one cat management facility in Southern Tasmania, Ten Lives Cat Centre, located in Hobart's northern suburbs. Several of the southern council areas are over one hours' drive to Ten Lives Cat Centre, which makes movement of unowned or unwanted cats and kittens challenging for the public, veterinary clinics, and councils.

Cat management facilities can be established to receive stray, lost and surrendered cats. Cat management facilities are approved by the State Government and must meet certain requirements. The *Cat Management Act 2009* provides for cat management facilities to nominate a person, business, or organisation to hold and care for cats on their behalf.

Currently there are also several cat shelters in Southern Tasmania who take in unwanted or unowned cats, however they often reach capacity during kitten season. Southern shelters need to be supported to ensure they are reaching acceptable standards of care for the cats they take in, which will make partnerships between councils and shelters low risk and more appealing.

There are several models which may be used to increase accessibility to cat management services through the region. These options need to be further explored but could utilise short-term cat holding facilities, voluntary carers and transporters, local veterinary clinics or a mobile cat facility which could enable rural and remote communities to access cat management facility services more easily. Potential collaborative cost-sharing arrangements across the region could make such an approach sustainable.

Many veterinary practices currently receive healthy lost or stray cats from the community which they temporarily house and attempt to find the owners. The preferred practice is for these animals to be presented directly to a cat management facility as soon as practicable, as veterinarian clinics are not set up to adopt out or foster cats.

Desired outcome

To increase cat management capacity and access to cat management services across the region, ensuring rural and remote communities have access to services.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.5.1 Promote the use of cat management facilities (and their nominees) to the community.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Materials available from TassieCat and cat management facilities
5.5.2 Relevant staff (animal management officers etc.) participate in training to support implementation of the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> .	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Training provided by DPIPWE Action linked to 5.6.2
5.5.3 Prior to any trapping activities occurring, establish an agreed and planned approach for trapping and dealing with cats, using best practice trapping & cat management techniques.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	TassieCat trapping guidelines available
5.5.4 Establish a Memorandum of Understanding that delivers an agreed and clear process for managing stray, lost or surrendered cats.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • Cat management facilities 	

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.5.5 Identify potential partners, locations and arrangements for increased access to cat management services for municipalities that aren't located near a cat management facility.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Options to explore include a temporary cat holding facility, cat drop off points, volunteer provided cat transportation services and a mobile cat facility
5.5.6 Where appropriate promote the Standards of Care required for cat management facilities.	Medium term	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government • Cat management facilities • Councils 	Standards of Care developed by cat management facilities and DPIPWE This document could be used by shelters as a cat welfare guide
5.5.7 Support progress towards an accreditation process for cat shelters to meet the Standards of Care.	Medium term	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government • Cat management facilities • Councils 	
5.5.8 Consider employing a Cat Management Officer shared between several councils, sharing vehicles and equipment as appropriate.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Use a collaborative approach across the region to make best use of available resources and expertise

Performance indicators

- ▶ Feasibility assessed of proposed options to increase accessibility of cat management services in regional areas.
- ▶ Preferred option to increase access to cat management services for regional areas identified and commenced.
- ▶ Number of partnerships between Strategy participants and other stakeholders working on cat management in the region.
- ▶ Participation by Strategy participants at *Cat Management Act 2009* training sessions.

5.6 Compliance in relation to the *Cat Management Act 2009*

Background

The purpose of the *Cat Management Act 2009* is to provide for the control and management of cats in Tasmania. Councils may establish additional requirements for their municipality in relation to cat management through by-laws or the creation of cat prohibited areas or cat management areas.

Key aspects of the Act include:

- ▶ Compulsory de-sexing of cats from four months of age from early 2022.
- ▶ Compulsory microchipping from four months of age from early 2022.
- ▶ Limiting to four, the maximum number of cats to be kept at a property without a permit from early 2022.
- ▶ Cats cannot be sold or given away unless they are at least eight weeks of age, desexed, microchipped, wormed and vaccinated.
- ▶ Only registered or permitted breeders may breed cats.
- ▶ It is an offence to abandon a cat.

Enforcement may be performed by persons authorised under the Act. This includes persons authorised under the *Dog Control Act 2000*; officers appointed under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*; DPIPW officers authorised by the Secretary; non-State Service officers authorised by the Secretary of DPIPW; and police officers.

Each council determines how much compliance they will undertake within their municipality in relation to the *Cat Management Act 2009*; this will depend on what each municipality can resource and sustain.

Desired outcome

For all cat owners and community members to comply with their legal obligations for responsible cat ownership and management.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.6.1 Inform the public about the requirements of the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> .	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government • Councils • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	Use clear and consistent communications across multiple channels to promote cat ownership responsibilities. Materials available from TassieCat

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.6.2 Participate in relevant training to support implementation of the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> including for animal management officers and other relevant staff.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government • Councils • Cat management facilities 	DPIPWE to provide training sessions. Broader compliance training is an important component of this action. Action linked to 5.5.2
5.6.3 Undertake standardised data collection in relation to compliance actions under the <i>Cat Management Act 2009</i> .	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	
5.6.4 Disseminate humane trapping advice to members of the public who are considering trapping.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Cat trapping guidelines available from TassieCat and Ten Lives Cat Centre Action linked to 5.1.8
5.6.5 Consider the development of a Cat Management Policy, compliance program, and by-laws as appropriate.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils 	Materials available from TassieCat Action linked to 5.6.6 and 5.8.5

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.6.6 Work on region wide consistency where possible in compliance approaches, policies and bylaws.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government 	Action linked to 5.6.5 and 5.8.5

Performance indicators

- ▶ Data collection undertaken by Strategy participants in relation to compliance undertaken under the *Cat Management Act 2009*.
- ▶ *Cat Management Act 2009* information available on all Strategy participants' websites and in foyers.
- ▶ Participation by Strategy participants at *Cat Management Act 2009* training sessions.
- ▶ Number of Strategy participants undertaking cat compliance activities.
- ▶ Number of councils that have introduced cat management policies or by-laws.

5.7 Improved knowledge to better inform cat management

Background

Improved knowledge about the number, distribution and behaviour of cats and the success of different management approaches is essential to designing effective programs to manage and minimise their impact on highly valued conservation, commercial and community assets in the region and generally achieve responsible cat ownership and management.

Existing research about cats and cat ownership in Tasmania is limited. Filling these gaps in knowledge will be a continuing challenge to ensure that available resources are directed towards the highest priorities using the most cost-effective management actions. Consistent approaches to collecting basic information across all parts of the region will be an important first step to better understand the scale of existing problems and to identify practical long-term solutions.

Desired outcome

To have cat management in the region guided by best available science and regionally-relevant data to support evidence-based decision making.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.7.1 Keep cat-related enquiry register to track number and nature of enquiries and complaints.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	Register to include number and nature of enquiries/complaints, including nuisance, stray cats, legislation, hoarding, breeding etc. Action linked to 5.1.4, 5.3.2, 5.4.2
5.7.2 Where possible identify and implement monitoring strategies before, during and after interventions (e.g. subsidised desexing/microchipping & education) to measure impact and effectiveness.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	
5.7.3 Participate in research projects (including citizen science projects such as cat tracker projects) concerning cat ecology, behaviour and management where possible.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	
5.7.4 Better understand community views and expectations relating to cat management via local community survey and events.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.7.5 Work towards standard data collection and reporting systems so that organisations involved in cat management have access to essential information. Create baseline data to inform and integrate into future Strategy revisions.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	E.g. intake numbers in cat management facilities & shelters, stray cat hotspots areas, number and nature of cat complaints/queries
5.7.6 Keep abreast of state-wide and national developments and continually improve evidence-based decision making for cat management.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	
5.7.7 Identify priority knowledge gaps and pragmatic options to fill these gaps with research and monitoring (e.g. facilitating university projects).	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	E.g. presence and impact of stray and pet cats in region and cases of cat hoarding
5.7.8 Disseminate information and case studies about cat management activities that have been undertaken, to share effective approaches and learnings.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	

Performance indicators

- ▶ Strategy participants undertaking data collection and reporting in relation to number and nature of cat related enquiries, complaints and interactions to help create baseline cat management data.
- ▶ Participation in monitoring and research projects by Strategy participants in relation to cat management.
- ▶ Levels of community consultation/survey by Strategy participants in relation to community views on cat ownership and management.

5.8 Strategic governance and resourcing

Background

This Strategy recognises that the twelve councils of the southern region and other key stakeholders will have different priorities, capabilities, and resources for cat management. This Strategy adopts an opt-in approach which enables all councils and other stakeholders to participate in cat management to the extent that they require and are able to resource, while keeping them aligned with the actions of the others in the region.

The Strategy identifies initiatives which individual councils and other stakeholders can implement for their own area or organisation, as well as region-wide initiatives which will require collaboration. Cat management will be most successful in the southern region if there is regional collaboration on the issue.

Desired outcome

For the Southern Cat Management Strategy to be successfully delivered across the region by Strategy participants.

Action Plan

Individual council and organisation action plan

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.8.1 Seek ongoing funding for the Regional Cat Management Coordinator.	Short term (currently funded until 30 June 2021)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	
5.8.2 Consider and prioritise resourcing for cat management.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government 	Resourcing will be required to deliver this Strategy
5.8.3 Ongoing commitment to regional collaboration in relation to cat management.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	
5.8.4 Continue providing a representative for the Southern Cat Management Working Group.	Short term Ongoing	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities • Veterinary clinics 	
5.8.5 Consider development and adoption of a council Cat Management Policy.	Short term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils 	<p>Policy template available from TassieCat</p> <p>Action linked to 5.6.5 and 5.6.6</p>

Region-wide initiatives

Action	Timeframe	Priority	Participants	Notes
5.8.6 Review and report on the implementation of this Cat Management Strategy to the southern councils' General Managers.	Medium term Ongoing	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils • State Government • Cat management facilities 	General Manager review should occur in the third and fifth years of the Strategy

Performance indicators

- ▶ Southern Cat Management Working Group continued with active participation by Strategy participants.
- ▶ Number of councils that have introduced cat management policies.
- ▶ Increased commitment to resourcing by Strategy participants for cat management in the region.

6. Resources and References

TassieCat resources available for Strategy participants

- ▶ TassieCat website www.tassiecat.com
- ▶ FAQ guide to handling cat-related queries from the public
- ▶ Cat Management Policy template
- ▶ Cat Prohibited Areas and Cat Management Areas factsheet and declaration template
- ▶ TassieCat social media content (Facebook and Instagram)
- ▶ Posters and postcards
- ▶ Stickers and magnets
- ▶ *That's Cats* adverts and videos
- ▶ Tassiecat booklets, factsheets and fliers
- ▶ Keeping your cat healthy and happy at home
- ▶ Desexing and microchipping your cat
- ▶ Nuisance Cats
- ▶ Roaming Cats: common questions and misbeliefs
- ▶ Legislation for Cat Owners in Tasmania
- ▶ Guidelines for cat trapping
- ▶ Home, Sweet Home: How to keep your cat happy at home
- ▶ For the love of cats: important information you need to know as a cat owner in Tasmania
- ▶ 5 Common Cat Behavioural Issues and how to solve them
- ▶ Keeping your cat healthy: vaccinating your cat and information on feline immunodeficiency virus and feline leukemia virus
- ▶ Cat-Borne Disease: the impacts of toxoplasmosis on wildlife and human health
- ▶ Cat-Borne Diseases and Agriculture
- ▶ Surrendering a pet cat
- ▶ Stray cats
- ▶ Introducing a new cat into the household: tips and tricks
- ▶ How to train your cat to walk on a leash and harness
- ▶ Enrichment: Make staying at home fun for your cat

Other resources

- ▶ [Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment](#)
- ▶ [Ten Lives](#) - website and Educat school program
- ▶ [RSPCA Tasmania](#) and [RSCPA Australia](#)
- ▶ [Kingborough Council](#) - *Inside with Cats* and *At Home with Cats* educational videos
- ▶ [Safe and Happy Cats](#)
- ▶ [Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife](#)

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