



P.O. Box 656
Kalamunda
W.A. 6926
<http://nrpg.org.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/KalamundaNRPG>
<https://www.facebook.com/nrpg.bushcare>

**Nature Reserves Preservation Group
of Kalamunda, Inc.**

25 Feb 2022

TO: Rhonda Hardy, CEO
CC: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

SUBJECT: Submission on Draft of Kalamunda Keeping and Control of Cats Local Law 2022

Dear Rhonda,

The NRPG appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Cats Local Law 2022, as follows:

Excerpts from the draft are 'boxed' for ease of reference.

1.4 Definitions:

nuisance means-

- (a) An activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law;
- (b) An unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of a person of his or her ownership or occupation of land; or
- (c) Interference which causes material damage to land or other property on the land affected by the interference;

The definition of 'nuisance' should specifically include reference to the Environmental nuisance and damage caused by cats in harming native wildlife, as this is a serious issue and relates directly to Kalamunda's Clean and Green strategy and other environmental policies.

NRPG has previously raised the issue of the lack of mention of environmental impacts in the City's current "Responsible Cat Ownership/ "Cat Owner Fact Sheet" pamphlet, in prior correspondence and meetings with the City. As an example, one of the City's prior pamphlets (below) does raise the environmental issue and we believe it is imperative that this information be reinstated.

CHECKLIST FOR RESPONSIBLE CAT OWNERS

- My cat is sterilised.
- My cat has regular flea and worm treatments, health checks and vaccinations.
- My cat wears a tag with its name and address on its collar in case it gets lost.
- My 'microchipped' cat will be easily identified if lost.
- My cat is kept indoors at night.
- I have measures to prevent my cat from climbing fences on my property.
- My cat has a bell and/or a mirror attached to its collar. An additional bell at the back of the cats collar is effective.



OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE

By allowing cats to roam the streets and local bushland areas, places our wildlife at risk.

Wildlife at risk from cats include:

- Brush tailed possums and Pygmy possums
- Marsupial mice
- Bandicoots
- Parrots and Honey Eaters
- Wrens and Robins
- Frogs
- Lizards, Geckos and Skinks

Your property is likely to contain a range of native animals that are rarely seen or heard, as they only come out at night.

Within the Shire of Kalamunda it is estimated that domestic cats kill 250,000 native animals per year.

Bells and mirrors do not protect nesting wildlife.



SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA
• A HOME IN THE FOREST •

2 Railway Road,
KALAMUNDA WA 6926
Tel: (08) 9257 9999
Fax: (08) 9293 2715

This brochure was produced with information sourced from the Shires of Basselton and Mundaring.

how to be a responsible cat owner in the Shire of Kalamunda



SHIRE OF KALAMUNDA
• A HOME IN THE FOREST •

Illustrations by Andrew Dykstra, colour, design & layout by Planet Graphics (08) 9752 1212

The environment we live in is characterised by extensive bush reserves and native vegetation on private land. This vegetation supports a diverse range of fauna under threat from cats.

Wandering Cats:

Cats that are allowed to roam the streets are a hazard to motorists and can be a nuisance to your neighbours.

Domestic cats are continually adding to the stray and feral cat population through unwanted litters and abandonment.

Cats are more active at night and therefore should be with the family. Cats should be kept inside from around 7:30pm through to 6:30am.

Cats that wander have a shorter life span and can be expensive to their owners.

Facts on Cats:

- A female cat can have three litters each year, averaging five kittens per litter.
- A kitten five (5) months old can be a mother.
- Cats do not need to have a litter and are healthier if sterilised at 5 months.

- It is estimated there is nearly 10,000 cats in the Shire of Kalamunda.
- Most people let their cats roam the neighbourhood.
- Domestic cats are effective killers even with bells.
- A domestic cat on average kills 25 native animals per year.¹
- Over 14,000 healthy cats and kittens are destroyed each year.²

¹ Department of Conservation & Land Management estimate.
² RSPCA WA Cat Haven data for 2000.



2.1 Cats not to be a nuisance

(1) An owner shall not allow a cat to be or create a nuisance.

NRPG believes that there should be specific mention of 'environment' or 'harm to native wildlife' in this statement to emphasise the importance of this impact, beyond what most people would intuitively consider by the term 'nuisance'.

2.3 Control of cats in places that are not public

- (1) A cat shall not be in any place that is not a public place unless—
- (a) Consent to its being there has been given —
 - (i) By the occupier or a person authorised to consent on behalf of the occupier; or
 - (ii) If the place is unoccupied, by the owner or a person apparently authorised to consent on behalf of the owner.

This statement implies that cats can be allowed public places without doing damage, however cats can still do much environmental damage in public areas such as bushland or other natural areas (including state and national parks/forests) not specifically noted in Schedule 3 "Cat Prohibited Areas". While state and federal areas may be outside the City boundaries, they are not boundaries for native wildlife, cats, or people and the City has a responsibility to contribute to the surrounding areas. Therefore it is important that Section 2.3 'control of cats' (or other relevant section in the document) addresses this issue, stated clearly and specifically.

Kind regards,

Steve Gates
President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group
smgates@tpg.com.au
0400-870-887