



13 November 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Cat Management Amendment Bill 2019 Tabled

The Hodgman majority Liberal Government delivered Tasmania's first comprehensive Cat Management Plan addressing domestic, stray and feral cats.

Today the Cat Management Amendment Bill 2019 was tabled by the Tasmanian Parliament.

The Amendment Bill strengthens existing provisions, encouraging responsible ownership and improved cat welfare while reducing their impact on the community, agriculture and wildlife.

The Bill delivers on recommendations for legislative change identified in the 'Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022', with the amendments making the Act clearer to interpret, and implement.

The Plan recognises that cats are an important and valued part of people's lives, providing companionship to owners and families.

Sensibly, we need to get the balance right, and recognise that cats, if not cared for in a responsible manner, can have serious impacts on the community, agriculture and wildlife.

The Amendments are the result of extensive consultation with industry, local government, animal welfare groups, environmental and agriculture stakeholders through the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group and other processes.

Key amendments contained within the amendment Bill include:

- Compulsory desexing and microchipping of cats from four months of age;
- Limiting to four, the maximum number of cats allowed to be kept at a property without a permit (breeders will be exempt);
- Improvements to better support landholders to control cats on their property;
- Replacing the State Government-registration of cat breeders with a permit system to breed cats;
- A requirement for all cats to be microchipped and desexed before being reclaimed from a cat management facility; and
- Removal of care agreements.

There will be a 12-month transition period for some of the amendments to allow cat owners time to adjust to the changes.

Local government can also continue to make by-laws relating to cat management if they choose to.

For more information on changes to the Cat Management Act 2009 and the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan, go to <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania/>