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TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
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## New cat management laws in effect from today

The Tasmanian Government is strengthening Tasmania's cat management with important changes to the Cat Management Act 2009 coming into effect today.

These changes deliver on recommendations for legislative change identified in the 'Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022' which is Tasmania's first comprehensive plan addressing management of domestic, stray and feral cats.

The amendments are the result of extensive consultation with industry, local government, animal welfare groups, environmental and agriculture stakeholders, and I thank them for their important feedback through all stages of this process.

From today:

- A cat that is being cared for at a cat management facility must be microchipped and desexed before being reclaimed from the facility. Exemptions to microchipping will apply where a vet has certified microchipping will affect the health and welfare of the cat; and exemptions to desexing will apply to cats owned by registered breeders for the purpose of breeding or where a vet has certified desexing will affect the health and welfare of the cat. The costs of microchipping, desexing and care of the cat at the facility are the responsibility of the owner of the cat.
- A person will be permitted to trap a cat on their private property, provided the trap is checked at least once within every 24-hour period after the trap is first set; and a trapped cat is either returned to its owner; or taken to a cat management facility or a nominee of a cat management facility, within 24 hours of being trapped. Arrangements should be made with cat management facilities before setting a trap.
- In addition to trapping cats, primary producers will also be able to euthanise a cat on primary production land and production premises. Persons undertaking lethal cat management action would need to comply with other relevant legislation, such as the Animal Welfare Act 1993 and the Firearms Act 1996.

Further changes will be rolled out over the next 12 months to give people time to adjust to the new requirements.

Key amendments commencing in March 2022 are:

- Cats over the age of four months must be microchipped and desexed;
- A person must not keep more than four cats, over the age of four months, on their property without a multiple cat permit;
- The State Government will no longer be registering cat breeders. Anyone wishing to breed a cat in Tasmania will be required to be a member of a cat organisation or will have the option of applying for a conditional permit to breed a cat.
- The option of a Care Agreement on the sale of a cat will be removed.

The amendments are good news for Tasmania, balancing strengthened cat management laws with community education and awareness around responsible cat ownership and management.

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/> or visit the TassieCat website: [www.tassiecat.com](http://www.tassiecat.com)