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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Tasmania's first Cat Management Plan

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

Now we are further acting on this plan by bringing forward amendments to the Tasmanian Cat Management Act 2009 that will encourage responsible ownership and improve the welfare of cats, while reducing their impact on the community, agriculture and the environment.

For many Tasmanians, cats are much loved companion pets, however the problems of stray and feral cats also needs to be managed.

We recognise that cat management is a shared responsibility, which is why the Government provided \$1.44 million to employ three regional cat co-ordinators to work with local councils and the community on issues associated with responsible cat ownership.

Proposed amendments to make cat management legislation more workable include:

- Compulsory de-sexing and microchipping of all cats.
- Limiting to four, the maximum number of cats allowed at a property without a permit - separate arrangements would apply for cat breeders.
- A cat breeders permit system registered with the State Government.
- Improvements to better support landholders to control roaming, stray and feral cats. This includes extending the capacity for all farmers to trap, seize or humanely destroy cats on primary production land, whereas it is currently limited to those undertaking livestock grazing.

Under the plan, local government can also continue to make by-laws relating to cat management if they choose to.

The draft Cat Management Amendment Bill 2019 is open for community feedback until 5.00 pm 4 October 2019, before the Bill will be finalised and tabled in Parliament.

For more information on, the Draft Bill and Tasmanian Cat Management Plan, including how to make a submission, go to <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania/cat-management-amendment-bill>