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Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

More support for our feline friends

The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government promotes responsible cat ownership and has provided \$1.44 million over four years for three regional cat coordinators to support local government and the community to implement the Tasmanian Cat Management Plan.

Tasmania's three privately-funded operators of Government-approved cat management facilities Just Cats, RSPCA and Ten Lives, work closely with the community and State and local governments to support and promote responsible cat ownership.

Key messages for responsible cat ownership were recently promoted in the light-hearted TassieCat videos following the adventures of Scruffy the Cat, focusing on the importance of microchipping, desexing, cats being happy indoors, and working to reduce the number of stray cats.

In an important step forward for the delivery for cat management in Tasmania, Just Cats has today announced their intention to have a fully owned veterinary surgery at their Mowbray site with the launch of their fundraising campaign.

The new veterinary surgery will allow Just Cats to perform their own desexing, microchipping, health checks and vaccinations onsite through a contracted vet

The proposed surgery is expected to save Just Cats up to \$50,000 a year on veterinary services, and improve the wellbeing of cats.

I was fortunate to recently visit Just Cats adoption centre at Longford and see firsthand some of the important services that Just Cats provide for our community.

This new surgery will improve the capacity to deliver cat management services and highlights the important work being done by cat management facilities in Tasmania. Congratulations and best wishes to Just Cats on their plans for this important new facility.

This work also supports the Cat Management Amendment Bill, which was introduced into Parliament late last year. The Bill contains a number of proposed amendments to the Cat Management Act, including compulsory de-sexing and microchipping, and improvements to better support landholders to control roaming, stray and feral cats.

For further information on Just Cats visit www.justcats.org.au