



Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029

Community Consultation Summary Report – September 2025



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Consultation Overview

Introduction

Frankston City Council has developed a new draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). This is a document all Victorian Councils must produce every four years. The draft DAMP outlines Council's approach to our animal management (dogs and cats) for the next four years.

Council recognises the importance of the balance between the value of pet ownership and the benefits they bring to our health and wellbeing, and the need for protection of the community and the local environment from nuisance dogs and cats.

In conjunction with extensive internal stakeholder engagement and benchmarking activities, research for the 2026–2029 draft Plan has also taken into account the consultation findings of other strategic plans, policies and strategies.

Between **28 July and 7 September 2025**, we asked our community to let us know their thoughts on dogs and cats in Frankston City, to help us better understand views in relation to issues that affect the community.

We heard from 1,320 people. The feedback will be used to help refine the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029, to ensure that it is aligned with community needs.

Engagement Approach

The following consultation activities were undertaken **28 July to 7 September 2025**.

Council's Online Portal – Engage Frankston

- Online survey – provide feedback and suggestions to help refine the draft DAMP.
- Email a response or submission to DAMP@frankston.vic.gov.au

Hard copy options

- Hard copy survey – available upon request.
- Write to Frankston City Council, PO Box 490, Frankston 3199.

In-person engagement

- In-person community outreach through events at 9 locations.
 - National Tree Planting Day – Lloyd Park, Langwarrin – Sunday 27 July 2025.
 - RSPCA Education Session – Youth Central, Frankston – Wednesday 30 July 2025.
 - Frankston Neighbourhood Watch – Mechanics Hall, Frankston – Wednesday 6 August 2025.
 - Monterey Reserve, Frankston North – Sunday 10 Aug 2025.

- Frankston Environmental Friends Network Meeting – Civic Centre, Frankston – Wednesday 13 August 2025.
- Ballam Park Dog Off Leash Area and Fenced Agility Park, Frankston – Saturday 16 August 2025.
- Sandfield Reserve, Carrum Downs – Wednesday 20 August 2025.
- Tailwaggers Dog Walking Group – McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin – Thursday 21 August 2025.
- Foreshore Advisory Committee – Civic Centre, Frankston – Civic Centre, Frankston – Thursday 4 September 2025.

Internal Council stakeholder and Councillor consultation

- Meetings with internal Council departments.
- Councillor briefings.

Communications

Communications activities were developed and coordinated by Council's Communications team to develop awareness and promote the consultation opportunities via:

- Engage Frankston page.
- Social media posts (Facebook and Instagram).
- Frankston City News, delivered to 60,000 homes.
- E-newsletters.
- Media release.
- Posters with QR codes for display at Council venues.
- DAMP@frankston.vic.gov.au email address.

- Printed hard copy surveys.

Response Rate

We heard from 1,320 people:

- 974 survey responses were received.
- 15 people provided written submissions.
- 331 people participated across 10 pop up events.

Reach

There were 3,774 visits to the Engage Frankston page during the consultation period.

A paid social media campaign achieved a reach of 50,027 people. The campaign comprised a series of 7 organic and 2 paid Facebook and Instagram posts during the consultation period designed to promote opportunities for the community to provide feedback.

1,635 Engage Frankston subscribers were invited via email to participate in engagement activities.

The Frankston City e-newsletter was emailed to 3,393 subscribers.

361 emails were sent directly to local key stakeholder groups encouraging them to provide a written submission and share the opportunity with their networks.

Community Stakeholders

Our target audience included the following:

Stakeholder Type	
Community	Both pet owners and non-pet owners.
Key external stakeholders	Domestic animal businesses Veterinary clinics Rescue groups Shelters Animal groups Environmental groups Land managers

Consultation Findings Snapshot

Overview

Between **28 July and 7 September 2025**, we asked our community to let us know their thoughts on dogs and cats in Frankston City, to help us better understand views in relation to issues that affect the community.

Key Themes

Cat Curfew

- Majority support 24/7 curfew for wildlife protection and nuisance reduction.
- Opposition due to welfare, cost, renter limitations, and abandonment risks.

Dogs in Public Spaces

- Demand for clearer rules, signage, and enforcement.
- Calls for more fenced areas and small/large dog separation.
- Keast Park beach is divisive: some want removal/relocation, others improved management.

Wildlife & Environment

- Strong concern about pets harming wildlife, especially in reserves, wetlands, and foreshore.

- Push for more dog and cat free areas and site protection.

Community Safety & Amenity

- Issues: dogs rushing at children, roaming cats attacking pets, neighbour disputes.
- Dog waste a consistent problem: more bins, compostable bags, and clearer mapping.

Education & Enforcement

- Calls for stronger enforcement (patrols, after-hours response).
- Education on responsibilities, service dog access, and wildlife impacts.
- Support needed for renters/low income residents to comply.

Divergent Views

- Environmental groups: strong controls.
- Pet welfare advocates: humane alternatives to blanket curfews.
- Residents: divided between stricter rules and preserving pet spaces.

Summary Findings from the Survey

974 survey responses were received.

- 53% own a dog and 39% own a cat.
- 95% live in Frankston City.
- 35% are from Frankston, 16% Frankston South, 13% Langwarrin.

We asked	The community said
<p>Do you support the cat curfew changing from 'sunset to sunrise' to a 24-hour cat curfew?</p> <p>974 respondents.</p>	<p>59% support a 24-hour curfew.</p> <p>Main reasons for support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of wildlife • Preventing cat nuisance • Keeping cats safe <p>37% do not support a 24-hour cat curfew.</p> <p>Main reasons for not supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about cat health and wellbeing • Cost and resident ability to keep cats indoors • May increase cat abandonments <p>4% are neutral.</p> <p>Main reasons for a neutral opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about cat health and wellbeing

We asked	The community said
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost and resident ability to keep cats indoors
<p>What are the most important issues that should be addressed in the proposed new Dogs in Public Places Policy?</p> <p>181 respondents.</p>	<p>Most important issues (ranked):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which areas are suitable to be dog free-roam and dog prohibited 2. Safety in the areas 3. Community education about requirements in the areas 4. Consistent regulations 5. Design of the areas
<p>Other things to address in the Dogs in Public Places Policy.</p> <p>349 respondents.</p>	<p>Top themes evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More enforcement and patrols • Disposal of dog waste is an issue • More fenced off leash areas are needed • Provide equipment in off leash areas • Dog owners need to be better educated

We asked	The community said
Which Council services are most important to support responsible pet ownership? 399 respondents.	Most important Council services (ranked): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dog waste bags in dog walking areas. 2. Community education 3. Dog free roam areas 4. Proactive patrols and enforcement 5. Reuniting lost pets with owners 6. Signage 7. Desexing vouchers for pension, health care and veteran card holders 8. Adoption and rehoming of pets 9. After hours emergency service for dog attacks
Are pet owners responsible in your neighbourhood? How often to you notice the following	Most noticed behaviours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People not picking up dog waste • Not watching dogs in off leash areas • Dogs off leash where they shouldn't be • Cats wandering and entering my property

We asked	The community said
behaviours? 430 respondents.	Locations where these behaviours are noticed regularly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frankston beach, boardwalk, foreshore • Frankston • Langwarrin (general, residential) • Sweetwater Creek Reserve • Seaford and Seaford Beach • Ballam Park
Challenges faced when complying with regulations 382 respondents.	The majority of respondents reported that they did not face any challenges (61.8%). Other identified were 'cost of registration' (18.1%) and 'cost of training' (11.8%)
Feedback on the draft DAMP 143 respondents.	Respondents were asked if they would like to provide comments or suggestions on other actions in the draft DAMP. Top themes evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enforcement • More education for pet owners • Be kinder to cats for their wellbeing • Wildlife needs to be protected

Summary of In-Person Engagement

9 in-person engagement events were held across the City, with **331 people** participating.

Below is a summary of the key themes that emerged across the in-person engagement sessions.

Cat Curfew: Support, Concerns and Practical Challenges

- Environmental concerns: Strong recognition of the harm cats cause to wildlife, particularly from environmental groups and residents.
- Compliance challenges: Widespread concern about costs of compliance (cat enclosures, fencing, cages), especially for low-income households, renters, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- Education & clarity: Requests for clear community education on what is allowed (e.g., walking cats on a leash/pram), enforcement timelines, and whether past submissions will be considered.
- Mixed acceptance: Some groups supportive (e.g., Neighbourhood Watch, environmental networks), while others were indifferent (areas with existing bans, e.g., Pindara Estate).

Dogs in Public Spaces: Infrastructure, Safety and Enforcement

- Fenced areas & free roam zones: Calls for more large, safe, fenced dog parks and clearer signage about free roam/off-leash areas.
- Shared use conflicts: Tension between dog walkers and sporting clubs (soccer clubs locking/opening gates, restricting access).
- Safety concerns: Reports of irresponsible owners, aggressive dogs, and conflicts between dog walkers and other park users. Desire for separate fenced sections for large/small dogs.

Enforcement & Compliance: Perception of Gaps

- Strong perception across multiple sessions that Council does little or no enforcement, particularly at reserves and dog parks.
- Requests for:
 - Increased patrols by local laws officers.
 - After-hours officer availability (when dog parks are busiest).
 - More visible enforcement around compliance with both cat and dog rules.

Dog Waste Management

- Repeated frustration with dog owners not picking up after their dogs.

- Calls for more dog waste bins (especially along foreshore trails) and preference for environmentally friendly/compostable bag options.
- Desire for bin locations to be mapped on Council's website/MyAddress tool.

- Calls to relocate or redesign off-leash beach areas to reduce conflict and safety risks (e.g., ball launchers on beaches).

Community Education and Support

- Requests for more education around:
 - Responsible pet ownership.
 - Service dogs and legal access requirements.
 - Clear communication of rules for dogs in parks, reserves, and beaches.
- Desire for Council to support renters and disadvantaged groups to comply with new rules.

Foreshore and Beach-Specific Issues

- Concerns about roaming and feral cats along the foreshore.
- Poor compliance with dog rules at Keast Park (on/off leash boundaries ignored).
- Confusing or incorrect signage between Frankston and Kingston borders.

Summary of Written Submissions

15 people provided written submissions. A consolidated summary of key themes is provided below.

Cat Management

- Support for 24/7 curfew to protect wildlife, reduce neighbour conflict, and improve cat safety.
- Opposition citing cost, welfare concerns, and unenforceability, especially for renters and low-income households.
- Alternatives suggested: focus on desexing, microchipping, education, and voluntary containment.

Dog Management

- Ongoing issues with off-leash dogs: poor compliance, rushing at people/wildlife, dog poo.
- Keast Park off-leash beach is divisive: some want removal or relocation; others value it but seek better signage/boundaries.
- Calls for fairer distribution of off-leash areas across suburbs.

Wildlife Protection

- Strong concern for biodiversity impacts (predation, stress, habitat disturbance).

- Support for more dog- and cat-free reserves and stricter enforcement.

Community Safety & Amenity

- Children's safety and neighbour conflict highlighted (dogs off-lead, roaming cats attacking pets).
- Amenity issues: dog waste, garden damage, parking, and unclear signage.

Education, Enforcement & Resources

- Need for clearer education campaigns on responsibilities and impacts.
- Support for stronger enforcement, but concerns about cost and effectiveness.
- Suggestions to redirect resources into targeted desexing and community partnerships.

Divergent Perspectives

- Wildlife/environment groups: prioritise biodiversity, back strong controls.
- Pet welfare advocates: oppose blanket curfews, prefer humane, evidence-based programs.
- Residents: divided between stricter controls and preserving valued pet spaces.

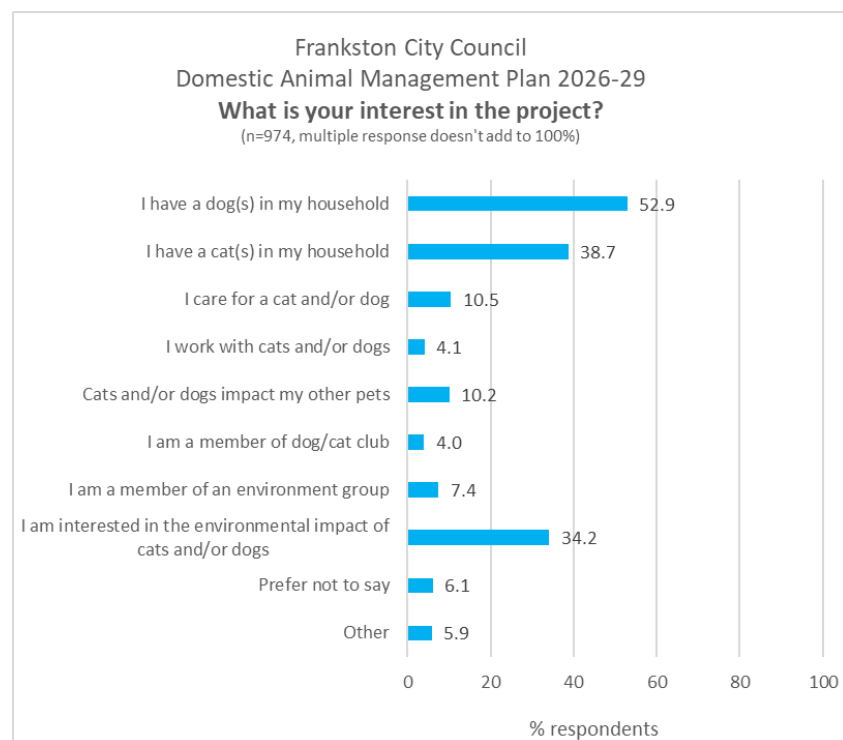
Community Survey Detailed Outcomes

Overview

974 survey responses were received. The survey contained a mix of quantitative and open-ended comment fields. Comments have been listed verbatim, with a thematic summary provided for each.

Respondent Demographics

Interest in the project

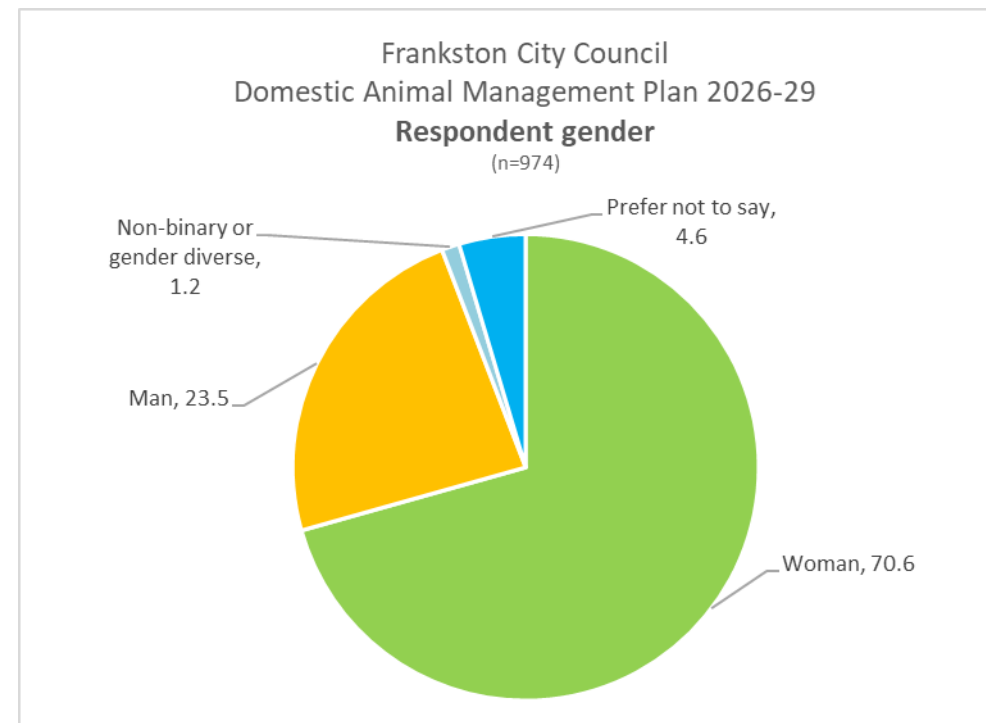


57 people provided comments about 'other' reasons they are interested in the project. Comments have been categorised by theme in the table below.

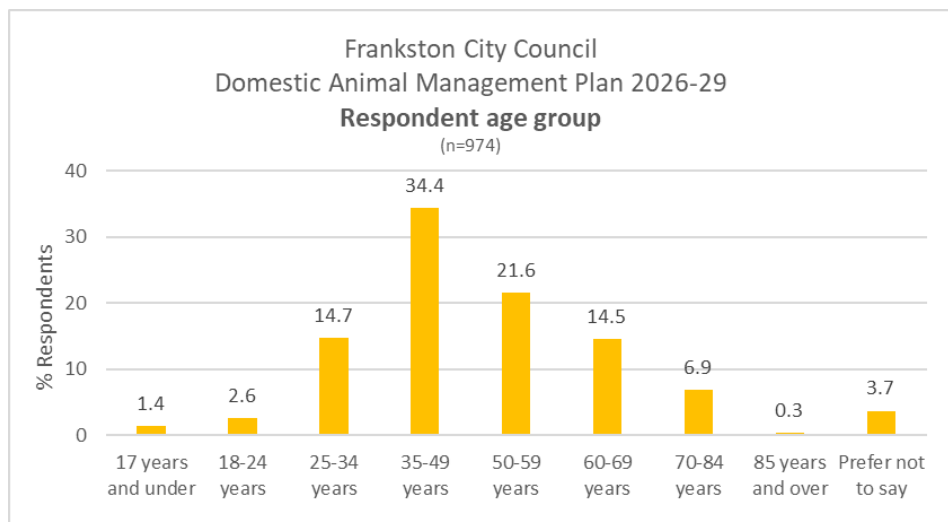
What is your interest in the project? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
I am a dog walker	7
Member of the community	7
Association with Sports Club	7
Roaming cats are a nuisance	6
Concern for children playing in the area	4
Cats defecate everywhere	3
Past owner	3
Environmentalism	3
Work with Rescue/ Volunteer	3
Irresponsible owners are the issue	2
Cats are a danger for wildlife and birds	2
Children scared of dogs	2
Feline and Canine pets are important family members	1
Animal equality for all breeds	1
Number of animals allowed needs to be reviewed/ policed	1
Concern for pets of homeless people	1
Owner of a rabbit	1
Concern for the proliferation of pets in the Shire	1
Dog lover	1
Concern of costs for enclosures	1
Off leash dogs are an issue	1
Raise Guide dogs	1
Former Council employee	1

What is your interest in the project? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Considering getting a cat	1
Victim of a dog attack	1
Do not own a pet	1
Cat lover	1
Other	1
Cats need time to be outside for their wellbeing	1
Support Worker	1
Family member has dogs	1
Interest in companion animals for older people	1
Total	69
n = 57 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

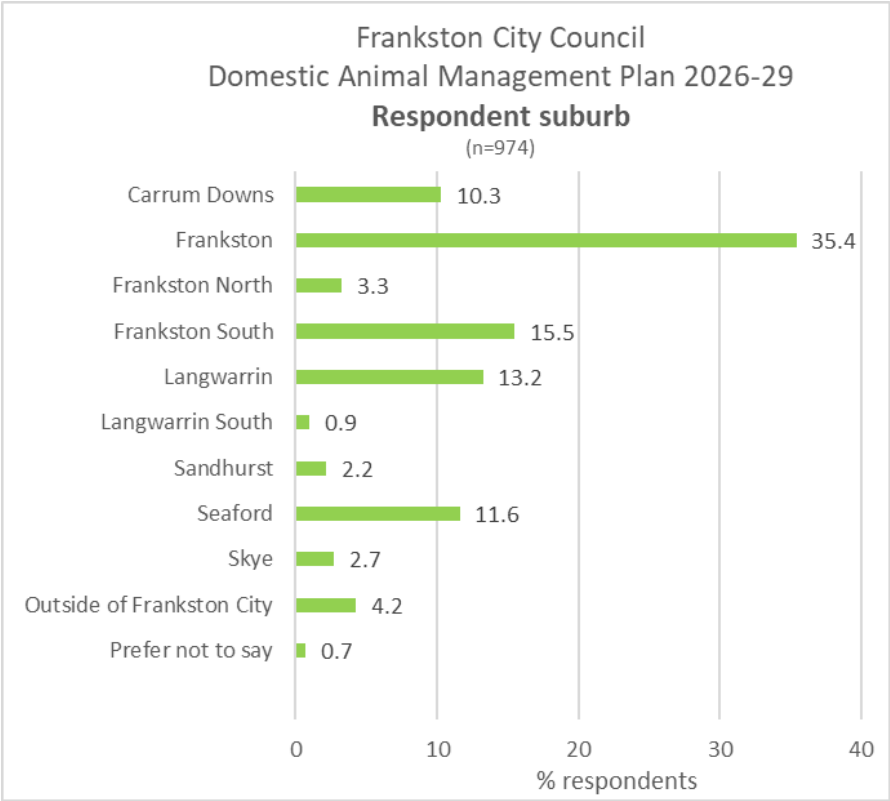
Gender



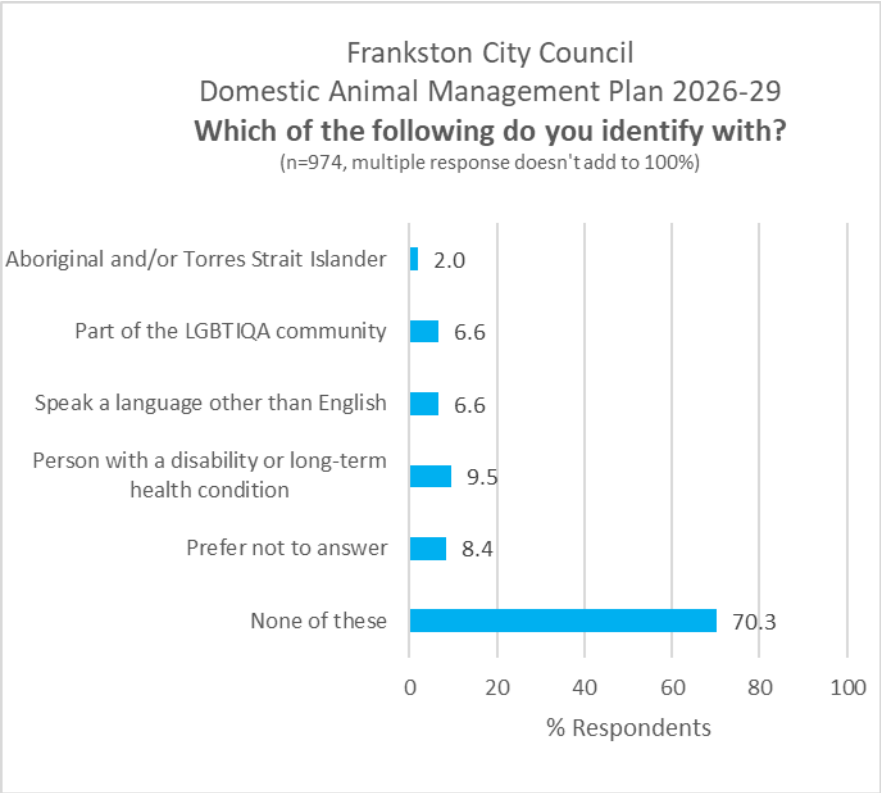
Age group



Suburb



Diversity



Domestic Animal Management

Support for the cat curfew changing from 'sunset to sunrise' to a 24-hour cat curfew

Respondents were asked if they support the cat curfew changing from 'sunset to sunrise' to a 24-hour cat curfew. 974 people responded.

59% support a 24-hour curfew.

Main reasons for support:

- Protection of wildlife
- Preventing cat nuisance
- Keeping cats safe

37% do not support a 24-hour cat curfew.

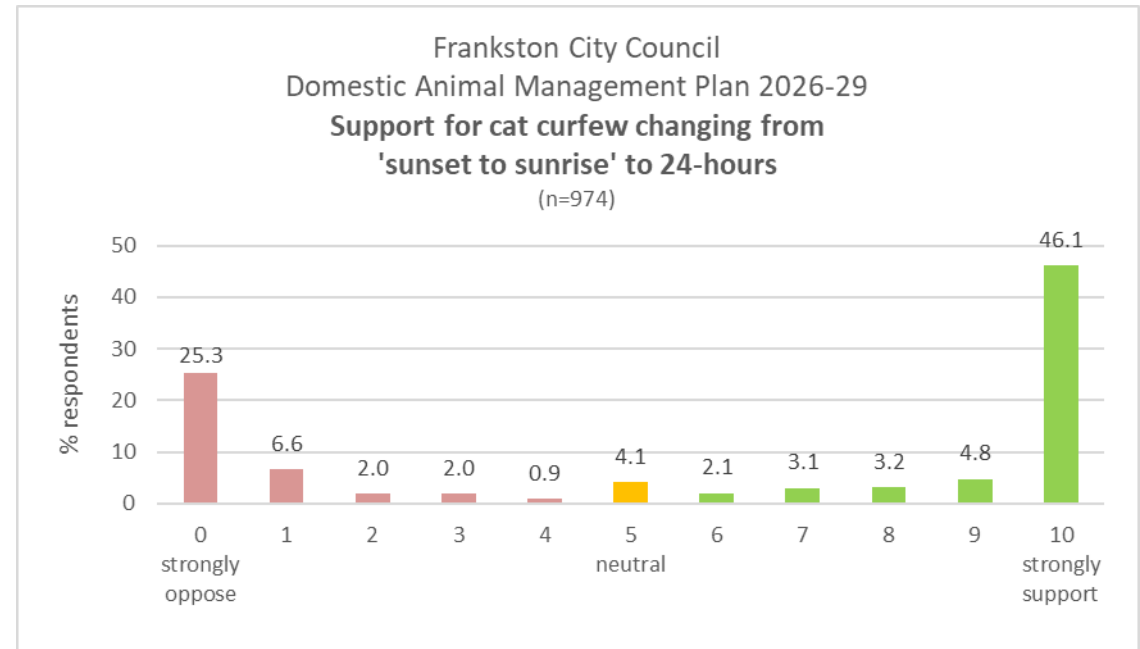
Main reasons for not supporting:

- Concerns about cat health and wellbeing
- Cost and resident ability to keep cats indoors
- May increase cat abandonments

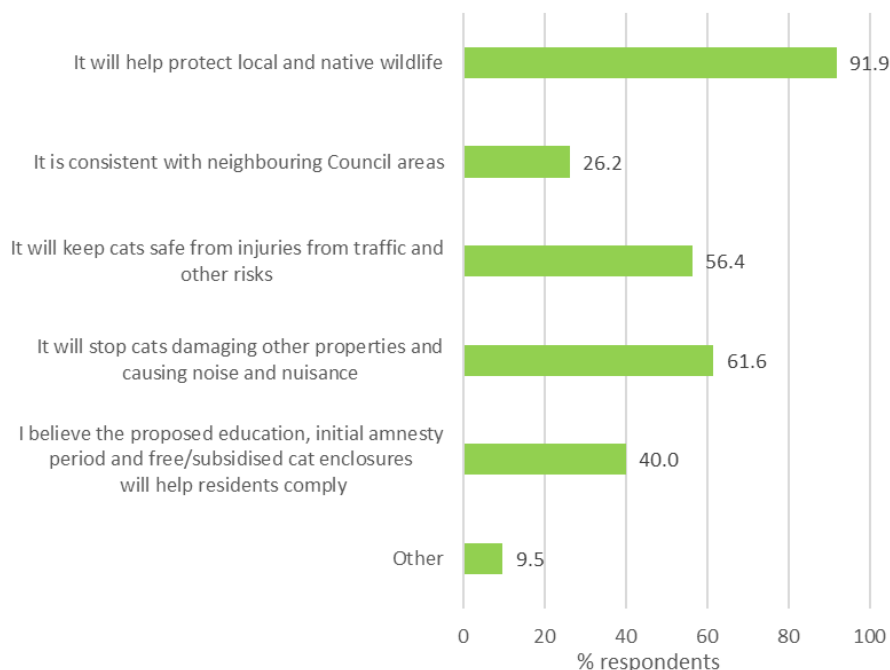
4% are neutral.

Main reasons for a neutral opinion:

- Concerns about cat health and wellbeing
- Cost and resident ability to keep cats indoors

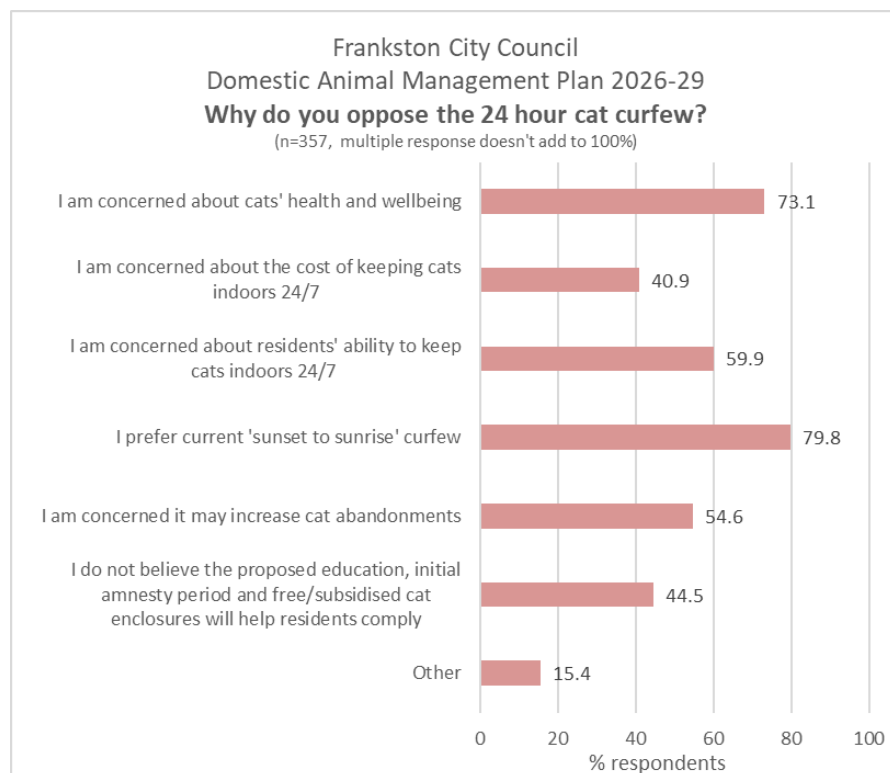


Frankston City Council
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29
Why do you support the 24 hour cat curfew?
(n=557, multiple response doesn't add to 100%)



Why do you support the 24 hour cat curfew? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Keeps cats out of my yard	14
Will reduce cat faeces in my yard	12
Protection of wildlife	11
24hr curfew makes sense to stop cats wandering into other areas/ properties	5
Concern for cats physical and mental health	4

Why do you support the 24 hour cat curfew? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Roaming cats distress confined cats	4
Reside in a cat free estate	3
Will stops dogs from barking at cats that are roaming	3
Concerned about ability to keep cats inside 24/7	3
Concerned about injuries to roaming cats	3
Use electrification system to keep cats in and possums out	3
Roaming cats distress/ kill birds in aviaries	2
Assist to stop the spread of Toxoplasmosis and other diseases	2
Planning on/ or have chickens	1
Cat free covenants on estates wont be required if cats are contained 24/7	1
Opportunity to focus on residents building outdoor cat enclosures	1
Ensures safety of other pets (rabbits/ chickens etc)	1
Its good for people to have their cats with them	1
Support cats outdoors on leads	1
Dog confined in yard was attacked by a roaming cat	1
Cats should be allowed out on leads	1
Equity in laws for cats and dogs	1
Reduce unwanted litters	1
Works well for other Councils	1
Prevent disputes between neighbours	1
Council shouldn't have to cover costs relating to animal ownership	1
Council need to subsidise cost of cat enclosures	1
Council need to protect internationally recognised RAMSAR sites and threatened species	1
Total	84
N = 53 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	



Why do you oppose the 24 hour cat curfew? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Caging/ confining cats inside detrimental to their wellbeing	26
Cats deserve the same considerations/ rights as dogs	13
Council are unable to police and enforce	4
It's impossible to ensure a cat will remain within the boundary of the property	4
Cost to build a cat enclosure	4
Increases the rodent population	3
Not practical as cat and dog live together	3

Why do you oppose the 24 hour cat curfew? OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
This is a knee jerk reaction by Council/ too controlling	3
Humans have more impact on biodiversity than cats	3
Will put more strain on Council resources	3
More cats will be abandoned	3
Residents who currently comply with sunrise-sunset curfew will be impacted	2
I purchased in the area due to policies surrounding cat curfews	2
Current balance with night curfew works best	2
Cat owners are irresponsible	2
Not practical to build a cat enclosure in a rented property	2
Cats kill rabbits	1
Cat needs access to outside as we live in a unit	1
I will not pay to register my cat if they are confined 24/7	1
Do not oppose	1
Focus covenants/ curfews on certain areas to protect vulnerable species in the area	1
People will let cats out at night so they cannot be seen	1
Would like more evidence to support 24 hr curfew being the better alternative	1
Evidence shows that this will not reduce cat population	1
Council need to action current policies before bringing in new ones	1
People renting are restricted and causes houses/ units to smell	1
Biohazard from cat urine/ poo to pregnant women and children	1
Can Council provide data identifying pets as the cause of wildlife issues	1
Dogs do more damage to the environment than cats	1
Total	92
n = 55 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

Frankston City Council
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-29
Why are you neutral towards the 24 hour cat curfew?
(n=69, multiple response doesn't add to 100%)



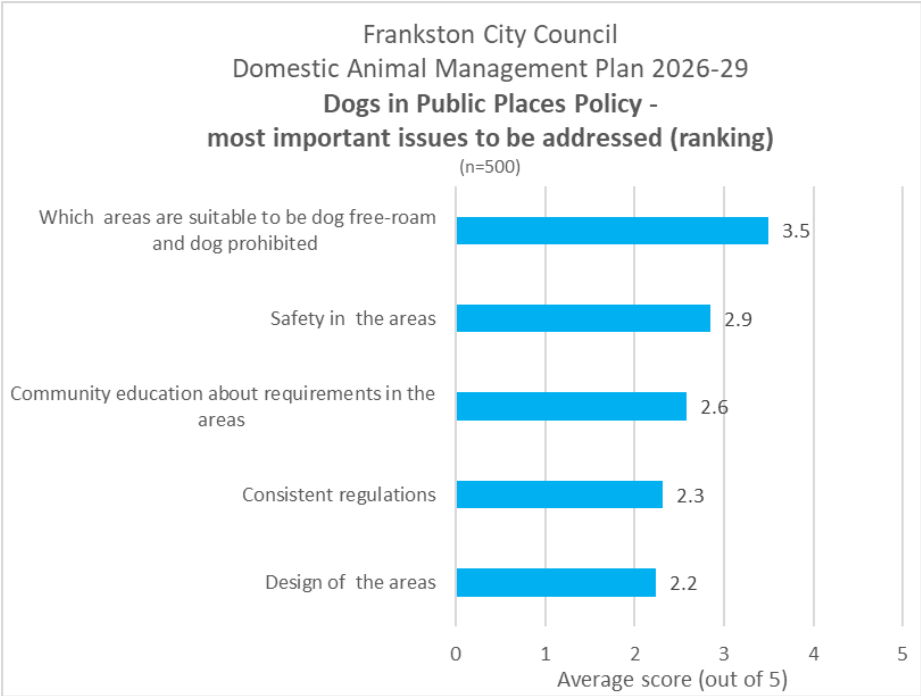
Why are you neutral towards 24 hour cat curfew? OTHER

Comment Themes	Count
No relevance	4
Educate cat owners on curfew times and responsibility	2
Stray animals will always be an issue	1
Unfair to stop an animal that has been allowed to roam	1
Cat curfew will protect wildlife	1
Won't change irresponsible owners	1
Cats will still be allowed to roam	1
Will cause division in the community	1
Enjoy having the neighbours cat visit	1
Council need to subsidise cost of cat enclosures	1
Council unable to effectively enforce	0
Total	14
n = 11 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

Dogs in Public Places Policy

Respondents were asked to rank what they believe are the most important issues that should be addressed in the proposed new Dogs in Public Places Policy. 500 people responded.

Identifying which areas are suitable to be dog free-roam and dog prohibited ranked highest (3.5).



Respondents were asked if there were any other issues to be addressed in the proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy. 348 people provided comments, these have been categorised by theme in the table below.

Are there any other issues or needs that we should address in our proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy?	
Comment Themes	Count
More enforcement is needed / regular patrols	66
Disposal of dog faeces is an issue	49
Irresponsible dog owners are the problem	32
More fenced leash free areas are needed	29
More dog friendly/ off leash beaches needed	26
Owners need to be better educated	25
Provide more bins, bags, access to drinking water, shelter, seats, and agility equipment	23
Off leash dogs are an issue	21
Safety of general public should be considered/ priority	20
Emphasis on Education and Training of animals	19
More/ clearer signage	16
Dogs must be under appropriate control at all times	14
More spaces are needed to walk dogs	13
Dogs should not be on public ovals/ sports grounds	12
Wildlife/ environment protection needs to be a priority	10
Dogs should be on leash everywhere	10
Penalties need to be increased for breaches of Local Laws	9
Dogs areas need to be segregated from playgrounds	9

Are there any other issues or needs that we should address in our proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy?	
Comment Themes	Count
Sandfield Reserve is an important dog area	9
Allow dogs at outdoor dining/ cafes	8
Need clear signage to indicate if dogs must be on lead or not	8
Off leash areas need to segregate to cater for breeds, large and small dogs	8
Controlled/ on leash dogs should be allowed everywhere	7
All leash free areas should be fenced to protect dogs, children and vehicles	7
Common sense approach	7
Aggressive/ anti-social breeds should be muzzled/ always on leash or banned	7
Ballam Park is great for dogs	7
Dogs should be on leashes on the beach	6
Dogs need spaces to run freely and swim for their wellbeing	6
Install CCTV in all dog off leash areas and public spaces	5
No	5
Communicate clear guidelines to the community	5
Appropriate training for all dogs	4
Thank you for the effort with the existing dog parks/ Frankston is dog friendly	4
Provide community spaces for professionals to provide family pet education	3
No policy is needed	3
Allow dogs leash free time on Frankston beach	3
Fence sporting ovals should be used for dog parks	3
How can we see the policy? Need more clarity	3

Are there any other issues or needs that we should address in our proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy?	
Comment Themes	Count
Ensure equality with the rules across breeds such as greyhounds and provide greyhound only areas	3
Provide a simple system to report breaches	3
Majority of dog owners are responsible	2
Enforcement is needed in parks after 4pm and on weekends	2
More information needed on what it is and how it will impact animal welfare and human safety	2
Dogs are important for mental wellbeing and fitness	2
Policies are outdated	2
Consider a warning system instead of a fine	2
Dogs should be allowed on the beach in Summer	2
Don't have communal water bowls for dogs that can spread gastrointestinal diseases	2
Registration checks	2
Council are over regulating	2
Current laws are sufficient	2
There are too many off leash areas	2
Educate non dog owners on how to approach and react to dogs	2
Frankston Council needs to be more dog friendly	2
Consult professionals in urban design for dogs in public space	1
Fenced dog park is needed in Frankston South	1
Implement incentive/ penalty system with regard to picking up after pets	1
Cats should be allowed out when on a leash	1
Mandatory desexing of larger breeds increased from 3 months	1
There should be an age restriction for people walking dogs	1

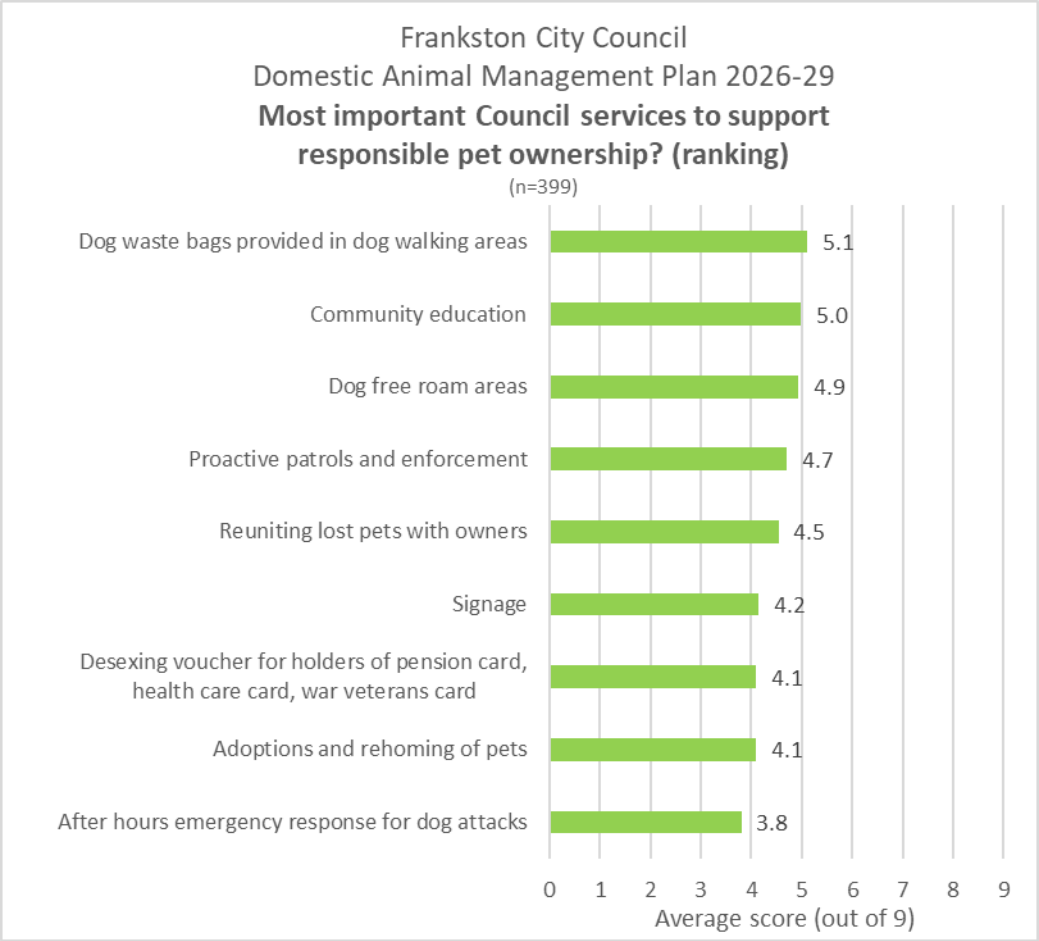
Are there any other issues or needs that we should address in our proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy?	
Comment Themes	Count
Survey suggested answers are narrowed to a directive	1
Chose to live in the area because of promising cat and dog policies in place	1
Dogs should not be in retail areas	1
Introduce 'safe places' or cages in retail areas so dogs are restricted from general public	1
Ban public from Dog club (FDOC) areas when clubs are using the area	1
Dogs should be allowed onlead in George Pentland Gardens	1
Dogs should be on lead in public places	1
Cheaper registration	1
More information needed on roam free areas	1
Increase registration fees	1
Leash free areas need to be a priority for Council	1
Complaint about consistency from Council	1
Dogs should not be on beaches	1
Issues with signage at Overport Park	1
Implement dog free areas (playgrounds/ beaches)	1
Dogs should be banned from Keast Park Beach	1
Council need to police electric biked and scooters	1
Council should direct resources to other areas	1
Assistance dogs and Guide dogs	1
Provide a 24/7 365 day leash free beach area	1
Council workers shouldn't have to clean up after peoples dogs	1
Maintenance of dog parks needs to be reviewed and increased	1

Are there any other issues or needs that we should address in our proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy?	
Comment Themes	Count
Council need to take complaints seriously and follow up	1
Dogs provide a social outlet	1
Total	585
n = 348 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

Importance of Council Services in Ensuring Responsible Pet Ownership

Respondents were asked to rank Council services they felt were important in ensuring responsible pet ownership. 399 people responded.

Dog waste bags in dog walking areas (5.1), community education (5.0), dog free roam areas (4.9) and proactive patrols and enforcement (4.7) ranked highly.



Are pet owners responsible in your neighbourhood?

Respondents were asked how often they noticed a series of behaviours on a typical day. The most frequently noticed behaviours include:

- People not picking up their dog's waste (61.8%)
- Dogs off leash where they shouldn't be (51.5%)
- Not watching dogs in off leash areas (43.5%)
- Cats wandering and entering my property (41.3%)

On a typical day how often do you notice the following behaviours?				
	Not sure	Never	Occasionally	Frequently
People not picking up dogs' waste (n=429)	0.7	3.3	34.3	61.8
Dogs off leash where they shouldn't be (n=423)	2.6	9.7	36.2	51.5
Not watching dogs in off leash areas (n=430)	10.5	10.9	35.1	43.5
Cats wandering and entering my property (n=429)	0.7	20.5	37.5	41.3
Cats wandering and impacting wildlife (n=426)	8.7	28.9	28.9	33.6
Dogs bothering other people or dogs (n=419)	4.8	16.2	47.7	31.3
Barking dogs (n=413)	2.2	14.3	60.0	23.5
Dogs impacting wildlife (n=411)	12.4	46.0	32.1	9.5
Walking too many dogs at once (n=412)	10.2	55.8	27.4	6.6

Respondents were asked to comment on locations where they notice these behaviours on a regular basis. 279 people provided comment. These have been categorised by suburb in the summary table below, with further detailed segmentation by site available on the following pages.

SUMMARY	
Suburbs where behaviours are noticed a regular basis	
Comment Themes	Count
Carrum Downs	37
Frankston	17
Frankston Central	51
Frankston Heights	12
Frankston South	55
Frankston North	18
Karingal	50
Langwarrin	37
Langwarrin South	0
Sandhurst	1
Seaford	54
Skye	6
City of Casey	1
MPSC	4
*Other	49
	392
n = 279 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

Suburb	Carrum Downs
Comment Themes	Count
Banyan Fields	2
Botany Park	4
Broderick Road	1
Carrum Downs	17
Carrum Downs Regional Shopping Centre	2
Carrum Woods Reserve	1
Paddington Avenue	1
Rotary Park Carrum Downs	2
Sandfield Reserve	5
Wedge Road	2
Total	37

Suburb	Frankston Central
Comment Themes	Count
Frankston Beach/ Boardwalk/ Foreshore	39
Jasper Terrace	1
Kananook Creek	6
Lewis Street	2
Montague Park	1
Owrwil Street	2
Total	51

Suburb	Frankston North
Comment Themes	Count
Centenary Dog Park	4
Frankston Dog Obedience area reserve	1
Frankston North	2
Greenwood Reserve	1
McClelland Reserve	2
Monterey Reserve	1
Pat Rollo Reserve	1
Pines - Flora and Fauna	6
Total	18

Suburb	Frankston South
Comment Themes	Count
Baxter Park	2
Casuarina Reserve	1
Delacombe Reserve	3
Dog barking is an issue	7
Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve	3
Frankston South	7
Lawson Reserve	1
Overport Park	7
Paratea Reserve/ Rosedale Grove	1
Pratt Reserve	1
Sweetwater Creek Reserve	20
Sycamore Reserve	1

Tahnee Lodge area	1
Total	55

Suburb Karingal	
Comment Themes	Count
Ballam Park	27
Frank St Oval	1
Frankston - Ashleigh Avenue	1
Gretana Crescent Reserve	1
Karingal	17
Whistlestop	3
Total	50

Suburb Other	
Comment Themes	Count
Beaches	11
Dog faeces is an issue	18
Everywhere	3
Local Sport fields/ ovals	1
Most dog owners are responsible	1
N/a	4
Not an issue	2
Playgrounds in Council area	1
Roaming cats are an issue	5
Roaming dogs are an issue	3
Total	49

Suburb Seaford	
Comment Themes	Count
Austin Reserve, Seaford	2
Belvedere Area	1
Carrington Avenue	1
Downs Road	2
Kananook Avenue	1
Kananook Beach	1
Keast Park	4
Maple St/ East Road	1
RF Miles Reserve	1
Riviera Park	1
Seaford	15
Seaford Beach	15
Seaford North Primary School	1
Seaford Reserve	2
Seaford Wetlands	6
Total	54

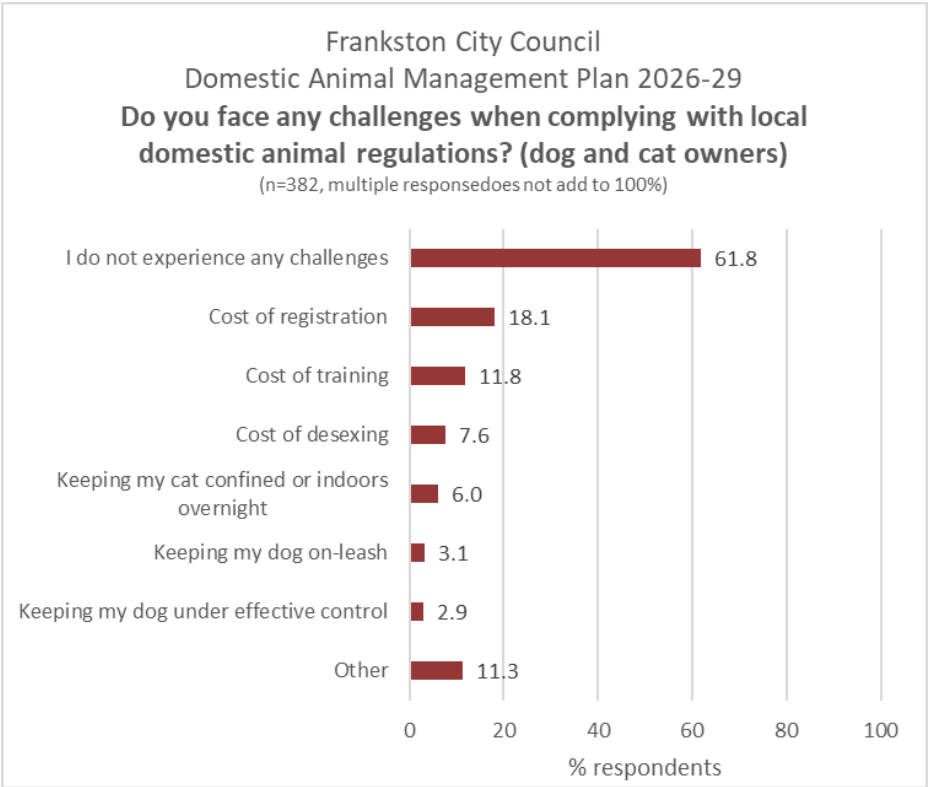
Suburb Skye	
Comment Themes	Count
John Monash Reserve	1
Skye	5
Total	6

Challenges faced when complying with regulations

Respondents were asked if they faced any challenges when complying with local domestic animal regulations.

382 people responded, with multiple selections allowed.

The majority of respondents reported that they did not face any challenges (61.8%). Other challenges identified were ‘cost of registration’ (18.1%) and ‘cost of training’ (11.8%).



43 people provided comments about ‘other’ challenges faced when complying with regulations. Comments have been categorised by theme in the table below.

Challenges faced when complying with regulations OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Not a pet owner	6
Physically containing cats to a property	5
Cost of building a cat enclosure	3
Cats need to be allowed outside for their wellbeing	3
Value of registration - cat doesn't leave the house	2
Access to beaches for dogs to enjoy the water	2
Finding accessible and appropriate off lead areas	2
Look after rescue animals and absorb the costs as the rescue organisations are struggling	2
Cost of registration is too high	2
Education programs on animals are needed in schools	2
Cat is contained between sunset to sunrise	2
Other cats wandering and aggravating my contained cats	1
Council needs to be more like Kingston and dog friendly	1
Vermin population will increase if cats can't hunt at night	1
Aggressive dogs need access to obedience clubs/ training	1
Cats are an issue to wildlife	1
Desexing before 6 months of age is detrimental to some breeds	1
Owners shouldn't have to pay a higher fee to register if animal is not desexed before 12 months	1
Mandatory desexing is an overreach	1
Finding safe, fenced areas	1
No dog parks close by	1

Challenges faced when complying with regulations OTHER	
Comment Themes	Count
Cost of training	1
Cost to desexing	1
Places to supply cat enclosures	1
Availability and access to poo bins	1
Anonymity when making a report to Council	1
Protective dogs barking at passerby, concern that people will make complaints	1
Segregation form smaller dogs from larger dogs	1
Access to training, not enough in some suburbs	1
Looking after stray cats and dogs	1
People leaving food around that dogs then eat	1
Keeping well trained dog on a leash	1
Responsible owners understand different animal temperaments	1
Understanding what the laws are meant to be - Council employee	1
Irresponsible owners	1
Council changing access to leash free beaches	1
Cats should have the same considerations as dogs	1
24hr curfew is not fair for responsible cat owners	1
Total	58
n = 43 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

Feedback on the draft DAMP

Respondents were asked if they would like to provide comments or suggestions on other actions in the draft DAMP. 143 people provided comments, these have been categorised by theme in the table below.

Do you have any feedback on the draft Plan?	
Comment Themes	Count
Increase enforcement	16
More education for pet owners	13
Be kinder to cats for their wellbeing	12
Wildlife needs to be protected	9
Cats should be given the same considerations as dogs	8
Irresponsible owners are the challenge	7
Provide more bins and bags	7
Cat curfew only, do not confine to 24 hours	6
Support residents to build suitable cat enclosures	6
Council need to be more proactive with current laws	6
No	4
Educate non pet owners on behaviour around animals	4
Make it easier for families to include their pets in their everyday life	4
Roaming cats are an issue	4
Keep up the good work	4
Animal welfare needs to be prioritised. (size of yard, cause of barking)	4
Majority of owners are responsible	3

Do you have any feedback on the draft Plan?	
Comment Themes	Count
Enforce cat curfew to stop wandering cats	3
Penalties need to be harsher	3
Playgrounds need to be segregated to keep kids and dogs safe	3
Signage is not adequate	3
Council needs to facilitate cat trapping programs	3
24 hour cat curfew is important	3
Reward responsible pet ownership	3
Chose to live in the area because of promising cat and dog policies in place	3
Allow dogs in retail/ dining areas	3
Allow residents to submit anonymous reports regarding animal issues and act on them	3
Prioritise more freeroam/ leash free areas	3
Cat curfew is too harsh	3
Draft DAMP projects a negative and backwards approach	2
Vermin/ pest population will increase if cats can't hunt at night	2
Introduce incentives to encourage/ mandate desexing	2
Dogs should only be permitted off leash in fenced areas	2
Remove access for dogs at Keast Park and Seaford Beach	2
Focus on policing dogs off leash in public areas	2
Don't allow minority groups to dictate the narrative	2
How can we read the entire policy? Need more clarity	2
Its impossible to contain a cat when you have a dog with doggy door access	2
Dogs need to have access to areas to exercise	2
Don't punish the good pet owners because of a few who don't comply	2
Fully fence in free roam areas	2

Do you have any feedback on the draft Plan?	
Comment Themes	Count
Educate and support cat owners to desex and confine companion cats	2
Provide lights in off leash parks during winter	2
Dogs are great for exercise, mental health and meeting people	2
Review registration process and costs	2
Sandfield Reserve needs to remain off leash	2
Mandating cat confinement will result in equity issues and puts cat ownership beyond the reach of renters and others in financial hardship	2
Council to consider threats to wildlife beyond a roaming pet.	1
Remove cat covenants on land titles and replace with 24hr curfew	1
Frankston Council has the best DAMP in Melbourne	1
Consider policy to support trap, neuter, release programs	1
Enforce maximum number of pets per address	1
State Government needs to step up and implement a policy for all LGA's to enforce	1
Introduce incentives to encourage ongoing dog training programs	1
Survey time is too long	1
Make it possible to register and then provide proof of desexing post 6 months of age	1
Restrict number of animals per house	1
Simple survey	1
Appreciate the community inclusion	1
Survey suggested answers are narrowed to a negative directive	1
Council need to consider resources and allocation of money for this process	1
Upgrade Frankston Dog Obedience Club Grounds	1
Barking dogs need to be addressed	1

Do you have any feedback on the draft Plan?	
Comment Themes	Count
Monterey Reserve needs fencing and signage	1
Stop micromanaging pet owners	1
Wants to speak with Bruce in Prosecutions and Nathan in HR	1
Proactive patrols are a terrible idea	1
Dogs should not be in the same areas as public (beach/ ovals)	1
More fox baiting is needed	1
Park usages need to be reviewed	1
Council need more pet events	1
More off leash beach areas are needed	1
Ok as is	1
Council need to reconsider the training reimbursement scheme and incorporate training from trainers who are endorsed by the RSPCA or Australian Veterinary Association	1
Council need to communicate better	1
Dogs should be allowed on beaches on lead	1
Appreciate being able to walk dogs in CBD on leash	1
Needs to be a balanced mix between on leash and leash free areas	1
Council needs to be more pet inclusive	1
Prioritise safety of public	1
Fully support DAMP	1
Dogs are the issue, not cats	1
Maple Reserve should not be an off leash dog area, it is negligent of Council to have a cycling path go through the middle of a dog park	1
People are the issue, not dogs	1
Difficult to contain a cat, they can escape through open doors; accidentally	1

Do you have any feedback on the draft Plan?	
Comment Themes	Count
Cat curfew has failed in Mornington Peninsula Shire and will have the same effect for Frankston; cats dumped and trapped cats not reclaimed	1
Will cause more cats to be dumped and places further strain on resources	1
Collaborate with Rotary and Men's Sheds to make affordable cat enclosure for people	1
Total	230
n = 143 respondents (comments contain multiple themes)	

In-Person Engagement Events

9 in-person engagement events were held where 331 community members were able to have their questions answered and provide feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan. Some people engaged in conversation; others completed a hard copy survey or took one away. Surveys received have been collated as part of the broader consultation outcomes.

Pop up events were held at:

- National Tree Planting Day – Lloyd Park, Langwarrin – Sunday 27 July 2025.
- RSPCA Education Session – Youth Central, Frankston – Wednesday 30 July 2025.
- Frankston Neighbourhood Watch – Mechanics Hall, Frankston – Wednesday 6 August 2025.
- Monterey Reserve, Frankston North – Sunday 10 Aug 2025.
- Frankston Environmental Friends Network Meeting – Civic Centre, Frankston – Wednesday 13 August 2025.
- Ballam Park Dog Off Leash Area and Fenced Agility Park, Frankston – Saturday 16 August 2025.
- Sandfield Reserve, Carrum Downs – Wednesday 20 August 2025.
- Tailwaggers Dog Walking Group – McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin – Thursday 21 August 2025.
- Foreshore Advisory Committee – Civic Centre, Frankston – Civic Centre, Frankston – Thursday 4 September 2025.

National Tree Planting Day

Date: Sunday 27 July

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Lloyd Park (Pindara Blvd), Langwarrin

Number of people: 60

Community sentiment/comments

- High levels of concern about the environmental impact of cats

- Concern about Residents' ability to comply with cat curfew due to costs
- Questions around whether walking cats on a leash (or in a pram) would be permitted under the cat curfew
- Local residents indifferent to proposed cat curfew due to current cat ban within the Pindara Estate in Langwarrin.

RSPCA Education Session – Frankston Youth Services

Date: Wednesday 30 July

Time: 3 – 5pm

Location: Frankston Youth Central, Frankston

Number of people: 15

Community sentiment/comments

- Concern about Resident's ability to comply with cat curfew due to costs
- Questions around the process and financial support provided for the proposed free or subsidised cat cages for low-income households, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- Questions about how Council will support renters to comply with the cat curfew (information to landlords about building cat enclosures or cat proof fencing.
- Request for more community education about service dogs and the legal requirements for businesses and transport services.
- Concerns about cat curfew impacting cat's natural instincts, as exploration is an enrichment activity for cats

Frankston Neighbourhood Watch

Date: Wednesday 6 August

Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Mechanics Hall, Frankston

Number of people: 10

Community sentiment/comments

- General support for the proposed cat curfew
- Concern about Resident's ability to comply with cat curfew due to costs
- Questions if Council will be reviewing community safety while looking at dog parks as part of the Dogs in Public Places Policy (lighting, CCTV, sightlines etc.)
- Requests for increased patrols by local laws officers, perception of low/no enforcement by Council.

Monterey Reserve Pop Up

Date: Sunday 10 August

Time: 12 – 3pm

Location: Monterey Reserve, Frankston North

Number of people: 60

Community sentiment/comments

- Concern about Resident's ability to comply with cat curfew due to costs
- Issues with owners not picking up their dog waste in the reserve and Council not cleaning up the dog waste.

- Requests for increased patrols by local laws officers, perception of low/no current enforcement by Council.
- Conflicts between dog walkers and soccer club
- Soccer club locked their gates open, preventing dog walkers from using the field as a fully enclosed fenced area
- Dog walkers feel they should be able to use the soccer field as long as there aren't any games/training and they follow the rules (picking up dog waste etc.)

Frankston Environmental Friends Network Meeting

Date: Wednesday 13 August

Time: 1:45 – 2:30pm

Location: Frankston Civic Centre, Frankston

Number of people: 15

Community sentiment/comments

- High levels of concern about the environmental impact of cats
- Questions about the rollout of the proposed cat curfew, including timelines, enforcement and level of support provided.
- Clarification on the DAMP engagement process. Whether previous community submission will be used or if environmental groups would need to resubmit.

Ballam Park Pop up

Date: Saturday 16 August

Time: 10am – 1pm

Location: Ballam Park, Frankston (Fenced Agility Park)

Number of people: 90

Community sentiment/comments

- Dog walkers raised that If Council doesn't allow dogs on the sporting fields, they need to provide a large fenced area (similar to Sandfield reserve in Carrum Downs) for them to use.
- Need increased free roam signage throughout the park, to let other park users know dog owners are allowed to have dogs off leash in Ballam Park (reduce conflict between groups)
- Requests for increased patrols by local laws officers, perception of low/no enforcement by Council.
- Calls to have officers on call to respond to dog related issues outside of business hours, when dog parks are the busiest.

Sandfield Reserve

Date: Wednesday 20 August

Time: 3 – 5pm

Location: Sandfield Reserve, Frankston

Number of people: 50

Community sentiment/comments

- Need for more signage at the reserve. Current signs are too small, fenced area rules is unreadable due to damage, free roam signs are not located at all entrances to the park.
- Strong preference for the whole reserve to remain a free roam area; fenced area is perceived as unsafe due to irresponsible dog owners, by those who choose to walk their dogs off-leash outside of the fenced area.

- Requests for increased patrols by local laws officers, perception of no current enforcement by Council. (dog walkers had never seen an officer attend the park)

Tailwaggers Dog Walking Group

Date: Thursday 21 August

Time: 10– 11am

Location: McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin

Number of people: 19

Community sentiment/comments

- Requests for increased patrols by local laws officers, perception of no current enforcement by Council. Dog walkers choose to attend McClelland gallery due safety concerns about irresponsible owners and aggressive dogs at other parks
- The need for increased community education about responsible pet ownership and the rules for dogs in public areas
- The need for fenced areas in dog parks to have multiple sections for different sizes of dogs and to allow owners to separate themselves for irresponsible owners

Foreshore Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday 4 September

Time: 6:30 – 7:30pm

Location: Frankston Civic Centre, Frankston

Number of people: 12

Community sentiment/comments

- More dog waste bins needed along the foreshore, particularly Olivers Hill and Kananook Creek Trail.
- Bin locations need to be easily available for the public. Locations need to be added to the 'Pets' section of the MyAddress map on Council's website.
- Preference for environmentally friendly options (biodegradable/compostable) versions of dog waste bins be used across Frankston.
- Concerns about feral and roaming cats on the foreshore.

Keast Park

- The current application of the Keast Park "Off-Leash Dog Beach" is not the allowing this valuable resource to be used for the greatest benefit of the Frankston LGA community
- Poor compliance with the rules by dog owners. Particularly in regard to keeping their dogs on leash between the carpark and the beach, and the on-leash section north of FCC114.
- Owner's, in most cases, do not seem interested in conforming to the different "off-leash" rules of FCC versus KCC.
- The "ball launches" should be confined to the many land based "off-leash" parks in the Frankston LGA and not on a beach. The ball and the running dog are a danger to other beach goers.
- Dog regulation signage at Keast Park is not clear
- Sign on the border with Kingston has the incorrect area highlighted as free roam
- Playground sign states dogs must be on lead within 10m of playground, this makes it seem like the whole of Keast Park area is a free roam area.
- Suggestion to move the Keast Park free roam area be moved further south near the Riviera Hotel

Written Submissions

15 people provided written submissions.

#	Date	Submission
1	4 Sep 2025 Presentation to the FCC Foreshore Advisory Committee	<u>Presentation to the FCC – Foreshore Advisory Committee 4th Sep 2025</u> Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current application of the Keast Park “Off-Leash Dog Beach” is not the allowing this valuable resource to be used for the greatest benefit of the Frankston LGA community. • This is particularly applicable during the during the summer beach season. • At other times the presence of dogs is causing a significant nuisance to the general public using the park for recreation, the children’s play area, and the sand/beach foreshore. • Compliance with the rules by dog owner’s is very poor. This is particularly in regard to keeping their dogs on leash between the carpark and the beach, and the on-leash section north of FCC114. • Owner’s, in most cases, do not seem interested in conforming to the different “off-leash” rules of FCC versus KCC. • <u>Most off-leash dogs are not under “effective control”.</u> The major impact of this, are dogs rushing at other beach users and swimming in the water allocated to beach goers. • The signage is in-consistent, and there is a lack of direction to “off-leash” dog owners approaching the beach from the car-
	27 Aug 2025 Email to Cr Green	
	27 Aug 2025 Letter to Cr Bolam	

#	Date	Submission
		<p>park. <u>Owners treat the whole Keast Park beach at Carrum as an “off-leash” beach.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new signage at the LGA boundary is an improvement on previous signage, however is still complicated. • The dog proof fencing installed along the Keast Park sand dunes seems to be very effective. • The “ball launches” should be confined to the many land based “off-leash” parks in the Frankston LGA and not on a beach. The ball and the running dog are a danger to other beach goers. • The 10m signs are confusing as they imply that outside 10m is leash free. • If the “off-leash” beach is retained at Keast Park, the southern beach boardwalk entry should be signed as the “dog entry”. The biodegradable dog waste dispenser should be relocated from the northern egress to the southern egress. The “off-leash” section should be extended south, past the outfall to the next beach entry, as per the sign at the LGA boundary. • The “Coast Snap” frame has been snapped! • Suggested that the beach south of the Riviera Hotel egress would make a better “off-leash” dog beach, this would improve the overall value to the community of the Seaford North beaches. • The carparks opposite the Riviera Hotel are very underutilised. I suggest that the parking limit be lengthened to 60minutes. The Melbourne Water land north of the Hotel is rarely needed by MW –

#	Date	Submission
		<p>this could be used by dog owners, with safer access to the beach via the existing controlled pedestrian crossing.</p> <p><u>Letter to Councillors – 27 Aug 2025</u></p> <p>I acknowledge the importance of the Domestic Animal Management Plan in ensuring pets live harmoniously within our community, alongside local wildlife and the environment. However, I am deeply concerned about Keast Park foreshore being designated as a 24/7 off-leash dog beach.</p> <p>Of Frankston’s three accessible, family-friendly beaches (Frankston, Seaford, and Keast Park), one has been effectively handed over to dogs. This is disproportionate given there are already 33 designated off-leash areas across the LGA, including four fully fenced sites. Despite 146,000 residents and only 17,500 dogs, the majority of the community has lost access to a key beach.</p> <p>Compliance with off-leash rules is poor. Many dogs are not under effective control, creating nuisance and safety issues. I have personally experienced dogs rushing at my 15- month-old grandson, leaving him frightened of returning. Families, swimmers, and picnickers now compete with dogs for space, and water quality is compromised by both bacteria and chemicals. Parking congestion and environmental damage further reduce the amenity of this once family-friendly space.</p> <p>Suggested Independent Solutions (in order of preference):</p>

#	Date	Submission
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove off-leash status at the Keast Park foreshore. Make all beaches on- leash, with summer exclusions (9:30am–7:30pm, Dec–Mar) as already apply elsewhere. 2. If an off-leash access is retained, relocate it. A more suitable site is south of the Riviera Outfall, which is less popular for swimming and beach goers. There is an existing open grassed and a timber boardwalk for egress to the beach. Parking exists on the beach side as well as open land, owned by Melbourne Water and rarely used, on the northern boundary of the Riviera Hotel. A controlled pedestrian crossing for Nepean Hwy exists at that site. 3. As a minimum, restrict Keast Park hours to match Kingston. Aligning rules (10am–7:30pm, Nov–Mar) would reduce confusion across the municipal boundary. <p>I urge Council to restore Keast Park as a safe, family-friendly beach while still providing fair access for dog owners in more appropriate locations.</p>
2	Email 9 Sep 2025	<p>I wanted to complete your survey but see I have missed the cut off date. If I can still express my opinion that would be great. I understand wanting to put in place a 24 hour cat curfew to protect wildlife but what concerns me is my cat is 13 years old and adjusting to being locked up will be difficult given his age and well established pattern of behaviour. At present he is locked inside from 1700 until 0700 and usually remains in his own yard during the day if not all of the day. I realise not all cats are like this. Also on a sunny day and I'm gardening he loves to sit outside</p>

#	Date	Submission
3	Email 7 Sep 2025	<p>with me as I garden. I feel there needs to be some compromise. Also I cannot afford a cat enclosure to give him outside time as I have already looked into this and they are too expensive so how will people like me manage? I feel if it comes in it should only apply to new kittens and then they can be trained as indoor cats from the beginning and will know no different although I do feel it denies them their natural instinct to explore their environment. I wonder if you have the proven evidence of the damage cats do?</p> <p>I have filled in the survey but I also wanted to make a submission .</p> <p>I was looking at the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and I noticed that the number of reported dog attacks has gone up and I wondered if this was because there were more free roaming areas and therefore more opportunity for an attack to occur.</p> <p>I feel that free roaming dogs should be only be in specific fenced areas for dogs. This protects the general public and also confines where most of the dogs poop is and protects indigenous flora and fauna better.</p> <p>Whilst volunteering in a reserve I was bitten by a dog which was on a leash. It was not a what would be considered a dangerous breed either. I required hospitalisation and surgery on my arm. It could have been worse if this dog was not on a lead and its owner was not close by, so I am wary of loose dogs.</p> <p>Dogs are always approaching volunteers at work in our reserves and their owners are always saying their dog won't hurt anyone. But you just don't know. Parks need to safe for people and wildlife.</p>




#	Date	Submission
		<p>How can council say they prioritise protecting our local wildlife when we have more off leash areas for dogs (33) and we have only 7 reserves that domestic animals are not allowed in.</p> <p>We need more reserves to be cat and dog free. We need to reinstate no cats and dogs allowed in our bigger reserves like The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve , Frankston Conservation and Nature Reserve and Seaford Wetlands and Stringybark Reserve . Animals like wallabies and koala need those bigger spaces to be protected. Dogs stress them.</p> <p>We are suppose to protect our Ramsar sites as habitat for all locally and internationally threatened species .How can we truly do this if we allow domestic pets in these areas.</p> <p>I feel there needs to be more resources put into enforcement of pet laws. More cat trapping needs to occur in our reserve to protect wildlife. I have not seen anything advertising that you can get cat traps from Frankston City Council and where you take the cat if you catch one in Frankston even though I live here yet I know exactly what's available in Mornington Peninsula Shire and where to take the animal.</p> <p>Dog poo is a huge issue for me. As volunteers we are always coming across dog poo bagged and unbagged all over the reserves. Its a danger to our health, our rangers health, wildlife health, other peoples and their pets health.</p> <p>People bag up the poo and hang it in a tree or leave the bag on a track instead of putting it in a bin. I am wondering if highlighting the poo with bright colours (with animal safe colouring) will make people take notice.</p>

#	Date	Submission
4	Email 7 Sep 2025	<p>I also wonder if a council Facebook post " called " poos with views" highlighting where this occurs most, whether it would embarrass a neighbourhood to take better of their local reserve/ park.</p> <p>I will support anything that will help people keep there cats on their own property and enable people to get affordable cat enclosures. There should be some sort of grant available to help groups like Rotary and The Men's Shed to help make the enclosures. A project to make enclosures could also help unemployed people/ students get skills.</p> <p>I am also concerned that making registration all computer and phone based excludes elderly residents and those that without access to mobile phones and computers the ability to comply with laws.</p> <p>The Frankston Environmental Friends Network (FEFN) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission regarding Frankston Council's Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029.</p> <p>Over the past few years the FEFN, as well as member groups and individual residents, have made submissions arguing for a 24-hour cat curfew, with supporting evidence. This submission is not repeating evidence previously submitted; we understand that the DAMP draft has taken this into consideration.</p> <p>In general, the objectives and actions are strongly supported as being in the public interest and will contribute to reducing the impact on wildlife of roaming domestic cats. Specifically, Objective 2, 2.1 and 2.4 regarding the proposed education of the public are welcomed.</p> <p>Objectives 3 and 4, regarding the introduction of a 24-hour cat curfew and responsible pet ownership, will benefit biodiversity and are also</p>

#	Date	Submission
		<p>welcomed.</p> <p>We strongly support Objective 8, to enhance patrols, education and enforcement, as essential to protect wildlife and the environment from the impact of domestic animals. The review and enforcement of off-leash offences are particularly welcomed as this will benefit local biodiversity and support our volunteer efforts.</p> <p>We submit that the benefits of the proposed 24-hour cat curfew include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing and reporting of roaming cats will be easier, no questions around what time it is and whether or not the cat should be out. • Reducing the impact of toxoplasmosis on wildlife (refer CSIRO study below). • Improved relationships with neighbours – conversations about neighbour’s roaming cats can be very uncomfortable with owners believing their cat has a “right” to be out. • Saving the lives of many wildlife, approximately 186 prey items per roaming domestic cat per year (refer to CSIRO study quoted below). • Reducing the indirect impacts cats have on feeding, breeding and the success of local wildlife populations (refer CSIRO study quoted below). <p>Reference: CSIRO study extracts that support the benefits as listed above.</p> <p>Legge S, Woinarski JCZ, Dickman CR, Murphy BP, Woolley L-A & Calver MC (2020). We need to worry about Bella and Charlie: the impacts of pet cats on Australian wildlife. Journal Compilation © CSIRO 2020</p>

#	Date	Submission
		<p>Open Access CC BY-NC-ND.</p> <p><i>“the average predation rate for a roaming, hunting pet cat, therefore, needs to be scaled up from 28.1 to 186 prey items per cat per year. Considering the population of roaming, hunting pet cats, and multiplying this by the bootstrapped values for the predation rates per cat gives an average annual overall toll of 390 million individual vertebrates killed in Australia by pet cats.”</i></p> <p><i>“some authors have argued that the indirect effects of pet cats on the feeding behaviour, breeding behaviour and success of local populations may exceed the direct impacts from predation. In these scenarios, wild animals may change their ranging behaviour, including feeding or breeding in suboptimal areas so as to avoid cats, or they may reduce provisioning rates to nestlings to reduce risk of predation (on themselves or nests), but with consequences for the growth and survival of their young. These effects can drive population decline even if the level of direct predation by cats is low (Beckerman et al. 2007; Bonnington et al. 2013).”</i></p> <p><i>“Another pathway for pet cats to affect local wildlife populations is through disease. Cats are carriers for dozens of viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic diseases, some of which have significant impacts on wildlife, human health and livestock production (Day et al. 2012). In Australia, the cat-borne disease that has received the most attention is toxoplasmosis, caused by a protozoan parasite Toxoplasma gondii. Felids are the only definitive host (so the widespread occurrence of the disease in Australia is due solely to the introduction of domestic</i></p>

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		<p><i>cats).</i>"</p> <p>We also strongly support the DAMP proposals for education on responsible pet ownership, and stronger enforcement of off-leash regulations. The anti-social and environmental impacts of dogs off-leash in bushland areas, reserves and parks that are not designated as 'off-leash' is an ongoing concern. Our concerns specifically include the impact of faeces on the environment and people, and the predation and harassment of wildlife.</p> <p>While there aren't the same number of studies concerning the impact of dogs as there are about cats, we do know they harm and kill wildlife, causing many wildlife admissions to vet clinics and wildlife rehabilitators.</p> <p>Other specific concerns relate to off-leash dogs in reserves and bushland areas that are signed as on-leash or dog-free. These concerns, backed up by member observations, Curtin University research (https://research.curtin.edu.au/news/mans-best-friend-may-be-natures-worst-enemy-study-on-pet-dogs-finds/?type=media), as well as other documented studies, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-leash dogs harassing and chasing wildlife causing physiological stress and exhaustion. • The presence of dogs, off and on-leash, can deter wildlife by their scent marking. • Nutrient-rich dog faeces negatively impacts plants and also gets into waterways which can contribute to algal blooms. • Dog faeces can signal to wildlife that a predator is near, which

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5	Email 7 Sep 2025	<p>changes and disrupts wildlife pathways and behaviour.</p> <p>While ecological damage caused by cats has been extensively studied, the new research found dogs, as the world's most common large carnivores, present a significant and multifaceted environmental threat.</p> <p>Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education (AWARE) welcome the opportunity to make a submission regarding Frankston Council's Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026-2029.</p> <p>Founded in 2005, for twenty years AWARE Members have been rescuing and rehabilitating local wildlife, many due to the impact of domestic pets.</p> <p>Native animals are simply no match for roaming carnivorous cats and unrestrained dogs. These attacks on wildlife are cruel, wildlife is unnecessarily killed, orphaned and horribly injured.</p> <p>Injuries included broken limbs, bruising and abrasions, and shock. Necropsies show cat attacked animals suffer massive internal haemorrhaging, soft tissue damage and punctured vital organs.</p> <p>A recent CSIRO study We need to worry about Bella and Charlie: the impacts of pet cats on Australian wildlife Sarah Legge  ^{A B G}, John C. Z. Woinarski  ^C, Chris R. Dickman ^D, Brett P. Murphy ^C, Leigh-Ann Woolley  ^{C F} and Mike C. Calver ^E determined "the average predation rate for a roaming, hunting pet cat, therefore, needs to be scaled up from 28.1 to 186 prey items cat⁻¹ year⁻¹.</p>

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		<p>Considering the population of roaming, hunting pet cats, and multiplying this by the bootstrapped values for the predation rates per cat gives an average annual overall toll of 390 million individual vertebrates killed in Australia by pet cats</p> <p>AWARE strongly support all the DAMP Objectives as they will reduce these direct impacts of domestic pets, both cats and dogs, on wildlife as well as impacts from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chasing and harassing, • disease from cat borne toxoplasmosis, • feeding and foraging behaviours, • breeding behaviours, • bacteria and nutrient loads in the soil. <p>Objective 2, 2.1 and 2.4 regarding the proposed education of the public are welcomed as our experience is that many people are simply unaware of the damage even well fed cats inflict and the impact of off-leash dogs in bushland.</p> <p>Objectives 3 and 4, regarding the introduction of a 24 hour cat curfew and responsible pet ownership, will benefit biodiversity and are also welcomed.</p> <p>We strongly support Objective 8, to enhance patrols, education and enforcement, as essential to protect wildlife and the environment from the impact of domestic animals. The review and enforcement of off-leash offences, are particularly welcomed as they will benefit local biodiversity.</p>

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6		<p>We also strongly support the DAMP proposals for education on responsible pet ownership, and stronger enforcement of off-leash regulations. The environmental impacts of dogs off-leash in bushland areas, reserves and parks that are not designated as 'off-leash' is an ongoing concern. Our concerns include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the often unseen, predation and harassment of wildlife, * the presence of dogs, off and on-leash, can deter wildlife by their scent marking, * dog faeces can signal to wildlife that a predator is near, this changes and disrupts wildlife pathways and behaviour. <p>In conclusion we support DAMP 2026-2029, the introduction of a 24hr cat curfew will save millions of wildlife from predation.</p> <p>The initiatives and activities designed to educate pet owners and Objective 8 to enforce effective domestic animal management will also make a significant difference.</p> <p>We submit that Objective 9, "a strategic and consistent framework for managing free roam and dog-prohibited areas" and in particular that policing and enforcing through patrols and education is critical for our local reserves, bushland and biodiversity.</p> <p>Pied oystercatchers are currently listed as Endangered in New South Wales (Local Land Services, NSW Government). On 14 July, 2025, two pied oystercatchers were observed at approximately 5pm, wandering about the sandy beach shorelines.</p>

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		<p>Pied oystercatchers rely entirely upon coastal habitats/sandy beaches for their survival (Local Land Services, NSW Government). Pied oystercatchers are beach-nesting birds, and their habitat and survival rely upon minimal or absent foot traffic, noise disturbance, littered rubbish, and domestic pets being brought to the beach (please see the attached).</p> <p>Pied oystercatchers are currently listed as Endangered in New South Wales, and have only ever been commonly recorded along the central NSW coast, with only very small numbers recorded (Local Land Services, NSW Government).</p> <p>Dog owners have been seen allowing their dogs to roam leashless on the sandy beach, without monitoring or controlling their animals. Prior to these leashless dogs racing towards the pied oystercatchers, the oystercatchers were not minded by the presence of patrons wandering the beach, as patrons were respectfully observing and keeping their distance from the two pied oystercatchers, while they foraged for food amongst the shore vegetation and marine debris. However, upon seeing the leashless dogs racing at fast speeds towards them, the two pied oystercatchers took flight in the direction of the ocean and did not return. The irresponsible pet owners were completely oblivious of their own ownership responsibilities, and indifferent of the two endangered birds having just fled from fright, to protect themselves.</p> <p>The issue of irresponsible pet ownership means that even endangered species rarely or never seen on Victoria's coastal sandy beaches, such</p>

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		<p>as pied oystercatchers, are unable to nest and rely upon the sandy beach as their habitat. Domestic pets do not belong on a sandy beach, and the sandy beach is not part of a domestic pet's recreation. This is the reason why parks, including dog parks and other dedicated areas such as streets and sidewalks exist, and to be able to be walked on a leash. When owners deliberately flout the laws and regulations in place by releasing their pets off their leash to race wildly around, and while simply holding the pet leash in their hands, but without it being attached to their pet, this does not ensure that the natural wildlife including shorebirds and endangered species are being protected and conserved. Moreover, being physically present on local government property means to obey the rules, bylaws and regulations in place, however, pet owners are not being responsible for their own pets, and are not abiding by local government property rules and regulations.</p> <p>People's safety, as well as the protection and conservation of endangered species such as pied oystercatchers are at risk. This is notwithstanding the littered rubbish that irresponsible pet owners leave behind and discard through their pets' waste. These local government areas are a natural and essential habitat area for shore birds, and shore-nesting birds, whose species are already endangered.</p> <p>Please mandate a complete dog ban on sandy beaches. Endangered species such as the pied oystercatcher too deserve to have their habitat protected and conserved, for the future success of their species' survival. The pied oystercatcher is already an endangered species, and has only ever been found in small recorded numbers in central NSW. Yet, their visit and presence is an indication that these endangered shore-nesting</p>

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		<p>birds want, and are asking for our help and assistance to provide them with safe refuge and shelter along this particular area of shoreline for their future survival.</p> <p>The following, courtesy of Local Land Services NSW Government, has been attached for your reference.</p> <p>Lastly, with respect to different species who, as per the Local Land Services website, rely on minimal to no noise disturbance, littered rubbish and leashless domestic pets on the sandy beach, please also find the attached sensitive image of a deceased penguin, who too was found along the shoreline on 14 July 2025, tired and exhausted and unable to find food in peace.</p> <p>Thank you and looking forward to your response.</p>
7	Email 1 Sep 2025	<p>Submission to Frankston City Council Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029</p> <p>The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) is a peak research body and advocate for pet welfare in Australia. As a not-for-profit organisation, APWF uses science-based research to enhance community well-being and improve the health and welfare of animals and people. APWF specialises in evidence-based solutions to prevent euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in shelters and pounds and the associated mental health damage to staff and community residents. We share research knowledge with the community, shelters and pounds, state and local governments and veterinarians to create change and save animal and human lives. APWF is led by Chief Scientist Dr. Jacquie Rand, Emeritus Professor of</p>

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		<p>Companion Animal Health at The University of Queensland (UQ) and a registered specialist veterinarian in small animal internal medicine. She has worked extensively in shelter research over the last 17 years, including collaborative studies with the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and local governments. While at UQ Dr Rand taught Urban Animal Management and since 2013 has co-authored over 40 peer-reviewed articles on urban animal management including management of semi-owned and unowned cats. Dr Rand is an AVA member.</p> <p>You can read more about us and our vision on our website: https://petwelfare.org.au</p> <p>Executive Summary: Why 24/7 Cat Confinement Laws Are Harmful The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) is strongly opposed to Frankston Council expanding the current sunset-to-sunrise cat curfew into a 24/7 cat confinement order. While this proposal is presented as a step to “protect welfare and wildlife,” the reality is that such laws are deeply flawed, impractical to enforce, and ultimately counterproductive. This feedback specifically relates to cat management. Evidence shows that blanket confinement orders risk harming cat welfare, place disproportionate burdens on lower- income households and renters, and drain council resources without delivering proven benefits for wildlife. More effective outcomes can be achieved through accessible desexing services, education, and community-driven programs, which reduce roaming, complaints, and shelter euthanasia without criminalising pet owners.</p> <p>Cat Welfare at Risk</p>

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		<p>The proposed 24/7 cat confinement order is based on the flawed assumption that confinement automatically improves cat welfare. In reality, confinement without adequate support systems can result in stress, obesity, and behavioural issues. Instead of improving animal wellbeing, it risks worsening it. These laws will also punish low-income households, particularly those in rental accommodation who cannot afford or are not permitted to build cat enclosures. Families already struggling financially will be disproportionately harmed. Further, confinement laws undermine positive welfare initiatives: rather than investing in proven programs such as desexing and microchipping, councils are diverting resources into costly enforcement measures that do not address the root of the problem.</p> <p>Unenforceable, Expensive, and Divisive</p> <p>Blanket confinement laws are practically unenforceable. Stray (semi-owned, and unowned) cats, the true source of most roaming issues – have no “owners” to regulate, meaning the central challenge for councils will remain unresolved. Thousands of households will be criminalised overnight, yet councils openly acknowledge enforcement will rely on neighbour complaints. This approach pits communities against one another and erodes trust. Moreover, councils face inevitable cost blowouts: capturing, impounding, and prosecuting cats drains funds away from higher-priority issues, with no evidence of ecological benefit. Instead of uniting communities, these laws sow division and resentment while criminalising responsible owners.</p>

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		<p>Poor Evidence Base</p> <p>The evidence underpinning these proposals is weak. Claims about cat impacts on wildlife are often overstated, relying heavily on studies of feral cats in remote landscapes (APWF 2022) . These findings cannot be applied to desexed, urban companion cats living in built environments. Even council plans admit they will only “monitor effectiveness” after the laws are in place, forcing residents to live under punitive restrictions while evidence is gathered retrospectively. Better alternatives already exist and have been demonstrated. Targeted desexing programs, such as Banyule Council’s initiative (2013–2021), achieved city-wide reductions in roaming complaints (36%), dramatic declines in shelter intake (66%), and an 82% reduction in euthanasia, without resorting to punitive laws.</p> <p>What Works Instead</p> <p>If councils genuinely want to improve cat welfare and protect wildlife, the solutions are already clear. Accessible desexing services, as recognised in Council’s own objectives, are where investment delivers measurable outcomes. Education and community engagement support carers, renters, and low-income households to participate in humane solutions, creating sustainable improvements for both cats and wildlife. Above all, a One Welfare approach is required, addressing the interconnected wellbeing of animals, people, and the environment. Humane, evidence-based strategies save lives, build community trust, and achieve ecological benefits without criminalising cat owners.</p> <p>Across Victoria, councils with 24/7 cat containment have seen increases in complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia, such as Yarra Ranges (+143% complaints) and Mornington Peninsula Shire (+60% impoundments in the latest DAMP). These trends show that containment</p>

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		<p>laws raise unrealistic expectations but fail to address the root causes of semi-owned and unowned cat populations.</p> <p>Further information for consideration includes:</p> <p>To address any overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats</p> <p>Definitions of cats</p> <p>According to the definitions set out in RSPCA Australia's 2018 report <i>"Identifying best practice domestic cat management in Australia"</i>, cats are categorised as feral or domestic (including owned, semi-owned, and unowned). The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation recognises and supports these distinctions. Under these definitions, feral cats, those that live and reproduce in the wild with no reliance on humans, are not present within, nor impounded by, Frankston City Council. All cats managed within the municipality fall under the domestic category.</p> <p>Domestic cats</p> <p>Domestic cats live around where people live and frequent. Cat management strategies should recognise three subcategories of domestic cats, as recommended by RSPCA (2018 report), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owned cats – these cats are identified with and cared for by a specific person and are directly dependent on humans. They are usually sociable, although sociability varies. These cats are also called pet cats. - Semi-owned cats – these cats are directly dependent on humans and are intentionally fed by people who do not consider they own them. These cats are of varying sociability and are sometimes called stray cats.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unowned cats – these cats are indirectly dependent on humans and receive food from people unintentionally, such as via food waste bins. These cats are of varying sociability and are sometimes called stray cats. <p>Feral Cats</p> <p>Feral cats- Feral cats have no relationship with or dependence on humans (neither direct nor indirect), survive by hunting or scavenging for food, and live and reproduce in the wild (e.g., forests, woodlands, grasslands, deserts). Feral cats do not live in the vicinity of where people live and they do not receive food from humans intentionally (direct feeding) or unintentionally (e.g. via food waste bins). Feral cats are completely unsocialised to humans and have none of their needs fulfilled by humans. Feral cats are not found or trapped in the vicinity of where people live, are not the subject of nuisance complaints and do not enter Australian council pounds or animal shelters.</p> <p>Failure to recognize and apply these definitions in cat management programs can have severe consequences, leading to ineffective strategies and unnecessary euthanasia. When semi-owned and unowned domestic cats are misclassified as feral, they are often subjected to lethal control measures rather than being included in community-based desexing and rehoming programs. This misclassification undermines the effectiveness of proactive, humane solutions such as targeted desexing, which have been shown to stabilize and reduce free-roaming cat populations over time.</p> <p>Additionally, conflating domestic cats with genuinely feral cats can result in misguided policies that penalize community members who provide informal care to semi-owned cats, discouraging public participation in</p>

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		<p>effective management strategies. Without clear distinctions, councils may rely on reactive, punitive measures rather than investing in sustainable, evidence-based programs that reduce intake at shelters, improve animal welfare, and ultimately decrease the number of free-roaming cats in the long term.</p> <p>Community Cat Programs</p> <p>Understanding Frankston City's socio-economic diversity is essential when assessing its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). Many residents face barriers to veterinary care, especially for cats, so effective management must be proactive, data-driven, and focused on suburbs with high stray cat complaints and shelter intakes. By directing resources like free desexing, support for semi-owned cats, and culturally appropriate outreach to identified "hotspots" (Spehar and Wolf 2019), the Council can humanely and efficiently reduce cat overpopulation and nuisance.</p> <p>Subsidised desexing, while helpful, tends to support those already planning to desex their pets and is less effective at reaching disengaged or disadvantaged groups (Frank, 2007). In contrast, free desexing paired with targeted outreach has proven far more successful.</p> <p>Helping people take ownership of the cats they feed and care for, through accessible desexing and microchipping, reduces cat-related complaints, prevents unplanned litters, lowers shelter intake, and ultimately saves Council resources.</p> <p>The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) supports expanding Frankston efforts into a formal, targeted Community Cat Program, building on successful models like Banyule Council's (Cotterell 2024,</p>

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		<p>Cotterell 2025a b). These programs should set measurable 3–5- year objectives and focus on high-complaint or high-impoundment suburbs. Within those areas, microtargeting specific streets or properties where cats are most at risk delivers the greatest return on investment. For impact at scale, desexing should reach at least 30 cats per 1,000 residents in targeted areas, or 10 per 1,000 when microtargeted. results have been proven in Queensland and New South Wales (Rand 2024, RSPCA Report 2023). Experiences from RSPCA NSW (Ma, 2023) shows that strict eligibility criteria can exclude those most in need, only half of participants in their microtargeted programs held benefit cards. Broader, barrier-free access is crucial to success.</p> <p>Strong partnerships are also key. Working with local vets and welfare organisations can expand access to desexing and transport, particularly in areas with limited services. Animal Management Officers should play a constructive, supportive role, assisting residents to manage cats rather than relying on punitive enforcement. This is especially important for financially stressed carers or those managing multiple cats amid rising living costs.</p> <p>A formal Community Cat Program that targets high-intake areas, supports vulnerable residents, and prioritises prevention over enforcement offers Frankston the best opportunity to reduce shelter intake, euthanasia, and complaints, while improving animal and human wellbeing in line with One Welfare principles.</p> <p>To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance</p> <p>Cat Containment Laws</p>

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		<p>The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) supports keeping cats safely contained at night within their owner's property, in a comfortable and enriched environment. However, we do not support mandatory containment laws, such as 24/7 confinement or night curfews, due to strong evidence that these measures are largely ineffective, financially burdensome, and can cause negative welfare outcomes for cats and the people who care for them. Read our position statement https://petwelfare.org.au/2022/09/02/key-issues-to-consider-related-to-mandated-24-7-cat-containment/</p> <p>Mandatory containment laws are unenforceable in most cases because unowned or semi- owned cats cannot be linked to a specific person. Even when owners are identified, many cannot afford to comply, particularly in disadvantaged communities where secure outdoor enclosures (\$700–\$2,000) are often out of reach. Enforcement risks further marginalising those already struggling financially, while doing little to improve animal or community welfare. These laws may also discourage people from caring for semi-owned cats, preventing desexing, microchipping, and the only real path to population reduction. Across Victoria, councils with 24/7 cat containment have seen increases in complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia, such as Yarra Ranges (+143% complaints) and Mornington Peninsula Shire (+60% impoundments in the latest DAMP). These trends show that containment laws raise unrealistic expectations but fail to address the root causes. Australian Pet Welfare Foundation recommends that Frankston promote voluntary, low- cost strategies such as bedtime feeding to encourage night containment. In parallel, microtargeted community desexing</p>

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		<p>programs, as implemented in Banyule (Cotterell 2024), have reduced impoundments by 66%, euthanasia by 82%, and complaints by 36%. These data-driven, supportive approaches offer a more effective, inclusive path to managing free-roaming cats.</p> <p>Not all Victorian councils support the introduction of 24/7 cat curfews (Geelong, Bayside, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Melbourne City). Several have voted against them, recognising that such measures are largely unenforceable and risk placing additional financial strain on residents already struggling with cost-of-living pressures. In disadvantaged communities, these policies effectively force cat owners and carers to choose between feeding their families or complying with costly containment requirements such as enclosures. The likely outcome is a surge in cat surrenders to already overburdened shelters, an outcome that benefits neither animal welfare nor public policy goals.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Frankston City Council do not repeat the mistakes of other Victorian municipalities that have implemented mandatory 24/7 cat curfews. Evidence from the Yarra Ranges shows complaints increased by 143% (APWF 2023), while Mornington Peninsula’s own Domestic Animal Management Plan reports cat impoundments continue at a 60% increase in impoundments after the curfew was introduced in 1997. Casey Council also have a long- standing cat curfew and recently acknowledged this has no impact on stray cat populations, with data showing last financial year impounding 2000 cats. These outcomes demonstrate that far from solving the problem, blanket curfews create new burdens: higher complaint volumes, more impounded cats, and</p>

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		<p>escalating costs to councils and ratepayers, all while failing to reduce roaming or protect wildlife.</p> <p>Increased impoundments also have a devastating flow-on effect: shelter staff are forced to euthanise healthy animals, contributing to mental health crises in an already at-risk workforce, while rescue groups are left to carry the financial and emotional burden of caring for these cats at their own expense. With only 7-10% of cats being reclaimed by owners from council pounds across Australia, what will Frankston do with the remaining 90-93% of cats impounded, who will rehome or euthanise the remaining cats? Will this get community approval of your social licence to operate?</p> <p>There is no evidence that 24/7 cat confinement laws achieve their intended outcomes. Instead, they generate community division, criminalise responsible pet owners, and place further strain on shelters and volunteer-run rescue groups. Frankston City Council must therefore conduct proper research into the experiences of other Victorian councils before proceeding. Without such evidence, these laws represent nothing more than an expensive burden on residents and a policy destined to increase complaints, impounds, and animal suffering. A more effective path lies in evidence-based, humane strategies such as microtargeted desexing and community engagement, which have consistently delivered measurable reductions in cat intake, euthanasia, and nuisance without the collateral damage of punitive laws. Providing free resources such as desexing and microchipping enables community members who are already feeding stray cats to take formal ownership of them. This approach delivers multiple benefits: it improves welfare outcomes for the cats, reduces cat-related complaints, and lowers intake into pounds. Over time it also reduces demand for council services, creating a more</p>

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8	Email 31 Aug 2025	<p>financially sustainable model that benefits both the community and council.</p> <p>I have previously been a garden guide with G4W, and remain a very interested party in the upcoming implementation of the DAMP, specifically as it relates to the cat curfew.</p> <p>A few years ago, I spoke on the matter at the council meeting from the perspective of a wildlife carer. Unfortunately, fat lot of good it did. Clearly, preventing wildlife deaths is not going to be the thing to compel change.</p> <p>So since then, I've had a horrible habit of screen shotting posts from Facebook, mainly about dead cats. Disgusting, I know. But if they aren't going to change the laws for the wildlife, perhaps they will change it for the cats themselves.</p> <p>I've compiled these screen shots onto the document attached. Its a big document, but its an easy scroll through, and in my opinion, pretty compelling. I'm hoping you may be able to get it into the hands of a decision maker if possible please?</p> <p>Thank you in advance. I really hope that this is our year. Surely!</p>
9	Customer request 25 Mar 2025 (early submission)	<p>Please add dogs on leash signage to all entry points to this reserve.</p> <p>My toddler was accosted by an off leash dog while playing here and is now very frightened. Other children were playing at this time but the dog owner (without children) had multiple dogs off leash and no control.</p>

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10	Customer request 17 Apr 2025 (early submission)	<p>Many dog owners treat this park as a free roam or off leash park because it is fenced, but this is dangerous for children using the play equipment.</p> <p>I would like to put in a complaint regarding the cat curfew and that this is not adequate.</p> <p>We have just had 2 of our pet Silkie chickens killed by our neighbours cat. This was after us requesting they keep their cat off our property as it was harassing our chooks. The cat is outside at all hours of the day and night and doesn't have a collar.</p> <p>I work on xxx Street and also have issues with neighbours cats coming into the property and attacking the children I work with, again they have no collars.</p> <p>How cats are allowed to roam anywhere is beyond me when we know the damage they do to wildlife. I hope Frankston Council actually start taking a stand with this, the fact that every cat we see in the area is without a collar and is attacking our chooks and children I work with I think shows the level of care the owners of these cats have. If they were kept indoors and in cat runs like other Councils have in place, this issue would be totally avoided.</p>
11	Customer request 30 April 2025 (early submission)	<p>Karingal drive and Naranga Cres side of ballam park. Dogs are off leash and running around in the plants and digging them up, also swimming in the ponds. Would like to request sign to be changed to 'Dogs on leash' in this specific area.</p> <p>The area with the ponds and 'wetlands' areas.</p>

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12	Email 4 Jul 2025 (early submission)	<p>I recently submitted a snap send solve for Baxter Park and was directed to email this address with my concerns as apparent the animal management plan is being reviewed this year.</p> <p>My concern was the amount of dog poo at Baxter Park. It is all along the paths and in the bushland reserve. It is quite the minefield! And really hinders enjoying this outdoor space. I have noticed similar problems at Overport and other reserves. Would it be possible to install some educational signage – e.g. dog poo is bad for our bushland reserves/biodiversity (so many people pick up the poos with a bag but then chuck the bag in to the bushland reserve) Distance to nearest bins etc..</p>
13	Email 20 Aug 2025	<p>Thanks for taking the time to read my concerns.</p> <p>I am writing as a regular and passionate user of the designated off-leash dog beach at Keast Park. This space is a treasured part of the local community, providing dogs the opportunity to exercise freely and safely, and giving owners a place to connect and enjoy the outdoors. My dogs absolutely love it, and I know many other residents feel the same way.</p> <p>However, the current lack of clear signage and obvious boundaries has left me, and many others, feeling unsafe and even threatened while using this area. There is no obvious indication for people walking into the beach that it is, in fact, an off-leash zone. As a result, dog owners like myself have been subjected to verbal abuse and intimidation from individuals who were unaware of the rules.</p> <p>To give you some examples:</p>

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		<p>A close friend of mine was told by a man that he would “kill your dog” simply because it was off lead and running freely.</p> <p>I was recently shouted at and told I was “the worst dog owner” while my young puppy was happily and safely retrieving a toy from the water.</p> <p>On more than one occasion, I have been on the receiving end of hostile comments and aggressive behaviour from strangers who wrongly assumed I was breaking the rules.</p> <p>These incidents left me feeling shaken, vulnerable, and reluctant to use a space that is meant to be welcoming and safe. No one should feel threatened for simply exercising their dog in a legal and designated area.</p> <p>The issue lies not with the off-leash designation itself—which is both necessary and well used—but with the fact that there is insufficient signage or boundary markers to make this clear to all visitors. People without dogs, or those with reactive or unfriendly dogs, often walk into the area unaware of its purpose, creating unnecessary conflict and risk.</p> <p>With summer fast approaching, and with it a significant increase in the number of people using Keast Park and the beach, I feel this matter is urgent. The warmer months will bring more families, dog owners, and beachgoers to the area, and without immediate action the likelihood of conflict and threatening behaviour will only increase. I believe it is a priority that clear signage and boundary markers be installed before summer, to ensure that everyone entering the space understands its purpose and feels safe.</p>

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		<p>I respectfully suggest the following measures:</p> <p>Installing large, clear signage at every entry point and along the beach itself, stating that this is a designated off-leash area.</p> <p>Considering a partial fence or boundary marker (for example, a half fence along the sand dune and near the pier) to create a visible separation and prevent unintentional entry by those who do not wish to use an off-leash space.</p> <p>These steps would protect both dog owners and non-dog owners, reduce hostility and misunderstandings, and help ensure Keast Park remains a safe and positive community space for everyone.</p> <p>I love Keast Park and deeply value the work Council does to maintain it. Please, I ask that you consider this matter with urgency so that dog owners like myself can continue to enjoy this much-needed facility without fear of intimidation or abuse.</p>
14	Email 19 Aug 2025	<p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Thank you for including me in this correspondence. It is most encouraging to see the stated ambition of the Draft Domestic Animal Management plan is its intention in design to strike a balance between the needs of pet owners and those of the broader community. Balance is vitally important in assessing all things equitably and is generally not something we find; it is something we create.</p> <p>Of most interest to those charged with facilitating outdoor sport locally is perhaps Objective 9 in the plan, which declares a stated ambition of establishing a strategic and consistent framework for managing free</p>

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		<p>roam and dog prohibited areas across the municipality through the development of a Dogs in Public Places Policy to guide the assessment, designation, and design of free roam and dog-prohibited areas on Council-managed land.</p> <p>Given that Seaford's population currently constitutes only 12% of the city's total population but the suburb accommodates over 30% of the city's total designated free roam areas it does seem apparent some real opportunity exists in your current planning development process to redress what appears to me a fairly stark imbalance in the overall benefit to burden workload being imposed on Seaford in this regard.</p> <p>The Victorian Litter Action Alliance, the peak body for litter management and prevention in Victoria, state in their literature that <i>Toxocara canis</i> (<i>the roundworm that can be found in the faeces of infected puppies or adult dogs</i>) can be passed onto humans. They also inform us that Children, people with compromised immune systems and <u>field sports players</u> are most at risk of infection.</p> <p>With one third of the city's total free roam areas already currently located in Seaford the designation of the R F Mies Reserve as a prohibited reserve in the new plan would go some way in addressing the current apparent imbalance. It would also serve to exhibit councils consideration of, as well as care and support for, the wellbeing of local residents involved and engaged in the pursuit of healthy outdoor sport. I am equally confident it would have a negligible , if any actually, effect on dog owners with so many other immediately convenient options available to them, while at the same time offering a significant fillip and</p>

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15	Email 19 Aug 2025	<p>encouragement to those organisations and volunteers currently tasked with an often seemingly overwhelming task trying to keep the reserves playing surfaces clean and fit for purpose.</p> <p>Action Sweetwater Creek Inc. (ASC) strongly supports Council's plan to promote and encourage responsible ownership of cats and dogs; particularly the 24 hour cat curfew and the dogs in public places policy.</p> <p><u>Domestic Cat Curfew</u></p> <p>This submission focuses on three aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roaming cats cause huge damage to our valuable and vulnerable wildlife. • Cats are protected from injury and disease when contained. • Restricting cats avoids annoyance and distress for other householders <p><u>Roaming Cats and wildlife</u></p> <p>Frankston has 55 natural reserves as well as many more open spaces/parks. Most of these are in urban areas where the 6187 registered cats, and possibly the same number of unregistered cats, are able to roam. Cats are well known for their predatory behaviour and as such they have become the top predator along with foxes in the Frankston municipality. Domestic cats do not kill or maim only for food, hunting is an instinct and they travel much further than their owners realise. Research by Australian Universities documented in "Cats in Australia: Companion and Killer" by Woinarski, Legge and Dickman (01/06/2019), states that the average pet cat kills 75 animals per year. It is a catastrophic problem for Australian wildlife.</p>

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		<p>Cats are a host of the disease Toxoplasmosis which is another threat to our indigenous wildlife, which having not evolved with the disease have not developed immunity to it.</p> <p>Our Reserve (Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve) is surrounded on all sides by housing with the potential for lots of wandering domestic cats hunting the birds and indigenous fauna which live there.</p> <p><u>Safety for Cats</u></p> <p>If cats are kept on their property injury to them is avoided from cat fights, dog or fox attack, becoming lost or stolen, and accident with motor vehicle or falls, thus saving the owner from much heartache and Veterinary fees.</p> <p>A quick Google of “cat fencing” shows numerous ways of retaining cats on a property, showing cheap ways to make the fence cat-proof, or to construct a simple outdoor play area for a cat. Council’s intention to assist some owners with these solutions is excellent.</p> <p><u>Annoyance for Neighbours</u></p> <p>Domestic cats also invade private properties to kill and maim small mammals, birds and other wildlife; it is distressing to householders to have to deal with injured wildlife or to dispose of remains. Cats frequently visit neighbouring properties digging and defecating in garden beds with the possible spread of toxoplasmosis.</p> <p><u>Dogs in public places policy</u></p> <p>In Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve we observe many dogs off leash although there are signs on all entrances stating that dogs MUST be on leash. Many of these dogs wander around out of sight of their owners meaning that they cannot be aware if the dog has defecated or where. Therefore when kneeling in the bushland weeding we often find dropping</p>

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		<p>which we have to remove. There have been reports in social media about dogs walking with their owners in the Reserve being attacked by dogs off leash sometimes with injuries requiring a Veterinary visit. We have ground feeding birds and small mammals such as swamp rats which are in danger from wandering dogs, and an added danger is that the presence and smell of rambling dogs is likely to force wildlife to move away from the area.</p> <p>We have long advocated for visits from Authorised Officers to monitor the situation and to be able to advise or fine owners not complying with the regulations.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>Although a 24 hour curfew for domestic cats will be a cultural change for some pet owners with more attention to their pet care initially required, the curfew will benefit our local and threatened wildlife species. Similarly the dogs in public places policy will contribute positively to Frankston City's environmental future and support its Biodiversity Policy. We support Council's plan to have a period of time to help educate pet owners on the benefits of these proposals</p> <p>Action Sweetwater Creek Inc. urges Council to adopt the advertised Domestic Animal Management Proposal.</p>