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Council consulting community on proposed new cat by-law

Town of Gawler is seeking community feedback on a proposed by-law which will improve the management and control of cats within the Council area.

The proposed by-law has been developed to promote responsible cat ownership, protect wildlife, and reduce public nuisance caused by cats.

New requirements for pet owners under the proposed by-law include:

- Every cat in the area must be registered with Council, including with its unique microchip identification number
- Cats must not wander at large (beyond its registered physical address) before 7am or after 9pm
- Cats must be identified with a neck collar and tag including name of the owner and either the owner's address or owner's phone number, when the cat is not confined to its registered physical address
- A limit of two cats per household, unless otherwise authorised by Council
- Owners must ensure their cats do not create noise or odour that is of nuisance to neighbours

The Cats By-Law 2021 is being made under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995.

Feedback is being sought to help inform any refinements to the proposed by-law, before it is presented to Council for voting.

Feedback can be provided to Council for three weeks from Wednesday 17 March until 5pm on Thursday 8 April 2021.

"We welcome feedback on this important cats by-law to help ensure it reflects the community's views," said Mayor Karen Redman.

"The by-law has been proposed to better protect wildlife from predatory behaviour, keep pets safe, and help prevent cats from being a nuisance to neighbours and other residents.

"If implemented, the by-law will be relevant to all cat owners in the Council area.

"It will be in addition to existing laws that require all cats to be microchipped and registered on Dogs and Cats Online (DACO)."

To provide feedback and view a copy of the proposed by-laws, visit: https://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/your-voice

A hard copy of the proposed by-law is available for inspection, free of charge, during business hours at Council's Administration Centre at 43 High Street, Gawler East.

Hard copy responses marked Cats By-Law Review may also be mailed to Council, marked to the attention of the Chief Executive Officer at 43 High Street, Gawler East SA 5118.

All feedback must be received by close of business on Thursday 8 April 2021.

For information about the by-law, contact Council's Team Leader of Environmental Services, Jack Darzanos, on (08) 8522 9211.

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359