CAT MANAGEMENT IN TASMANIA – *TAKING THE INITIATIVE*

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Tasmania

Explore the possibilities

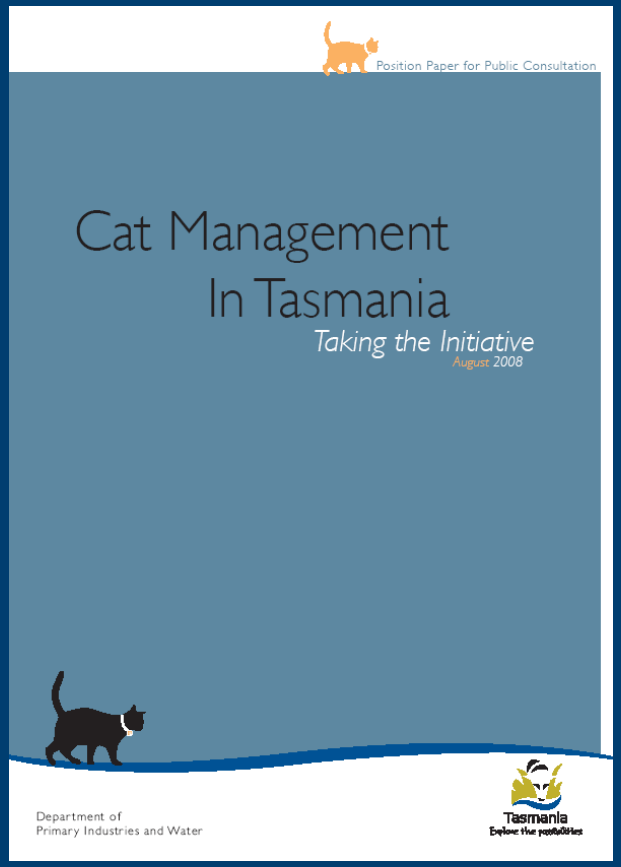
BACKGROUND

- Currently no State-wide, integrated approach to cat management in Tasmania.

- Tasmanian Government recognised the need to develop a coordinated approach.

- Developed the Position Paper, *Cat Management in Tasmania – Taking the Initiative.*

POSITION PAPER



- Released for public consultation in August 2008.
- A total of 171 submissions were received.

Tasmania
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OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 93% of responses supported a legislative approach.

- Strong support for the main strategies, including:
  - 85% in favour of compulsory micro-chipping;
  - 93% in favour of compulsory de-sexing of non breeding cats; and
  - restrictions on the sale of cats supported by 86%, with 93% in favour of cats being both de-sexed and micro-chipped prior to sale.

CAT MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

- Given this strong support, the Tasmanian Government is progressing with the development of cat management legislation.

- Proposed legislation is being developed with input from animal welfare organisations, environmental associations, and Local Government.

PURPOSE

- With a focus on domestic cats, the proposed legislation would aim to:
  - reduce the number of unwanted cats, and promote responsible ownership, including the de-sexing and micro-chipping of domestic cats;
  - promote the effective management of cats, allowing for the humane handling and management of unidentified, stray and feral cats; and
  - reduce the negative effects on the environment

KEY ELEMENTS

- what is being considered:
  - compulsory de-sexing and micro-chipping of domestic cats (phased in over 4 years);
  - a register of cat breeders;
  - only a cat breeder to be able to breed cats;
  - cats to be de-sexed and micro-chipped prior to sale; and
  - education on responsible ownership of cats.

KEY ELEMENTS

- what is being considered:
  - clarifying holding times for cats, and other details, to assist animal welfare shelters and animal holding places.
  - prohibiting cats from certain areas; and
  - enabling Local Government to make by-laws.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- Where to next....