



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

Cat curfew

Engagement Report

JULY 2025

BENTLEIGH

BENTLEIGH EAST

BRIGHTON EAST

CARNEGIE

CAULFIELD

ELSTERNWICK

GARDENVALE

GLEN HUNTLY

MCKINNON

MURRUMBEENA

ORMOND

ST KILDA EAST

Executive summary

Glen Eira City Council is exploring ways to make our area safer, more livable and more biodiverse. As part of this, we're exploring the idea of introducing a cat curfew — and we asked our community for input on three possible options:

- **A night-time curfew:** Cats must stay on their owner's property from sunset to sunrise.
- **A 24-hour cat curfew:** Cats must stay on their owner's property at all times.
- **No curfew:** Continue with the current approach, allowing cats to roam freely.

How we engaged

Community engagement took place over a four-week period from 2 June to 29 June 2025.

Opportunities for community feedback included:

- an online survey on Council's Have Your Say Glen Eira web page — with hard copy surveys available, if required.
- email or phone call submissions.

What we heard

In total we received **3,038** pieces of feedback, comprised of:

- 2,987 survey submissions through the Have Your Say platform.
- Eight hard copy survey submissions.
- 43 email submissions.

Curfew options



37% (1,117)
Night-time curfew



31% (941)
24-hour curfew

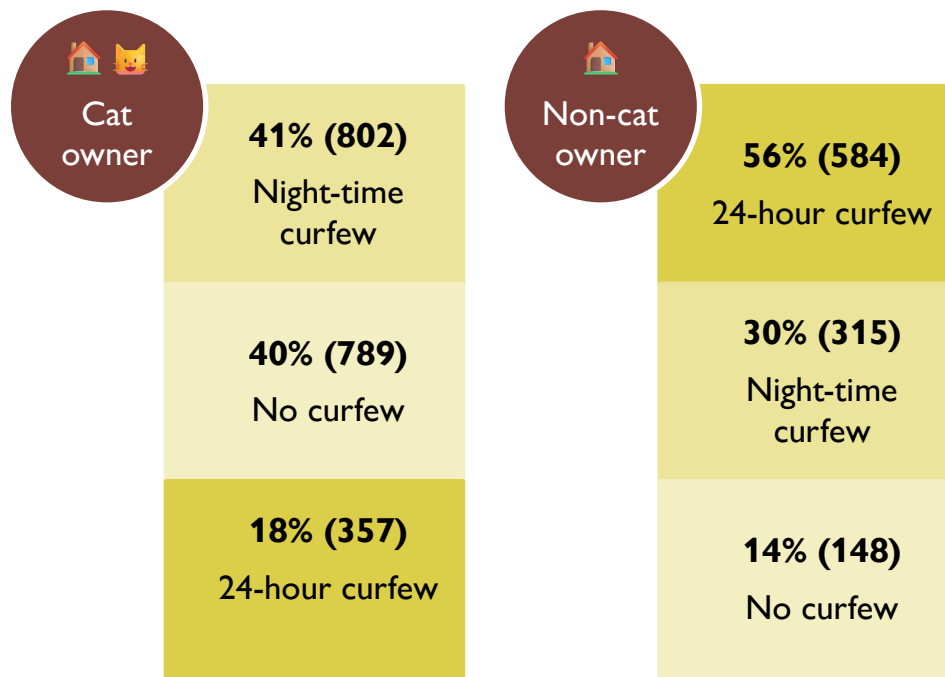


31% (937)
No curfew

When combined, 68 per cent of respondents were in favour of some kind of cat curfew — 37 per cent selected the night-time curfew and 31 per cent selected the 24-hour curfew.

When looked at independently, the **night-time curfew** option was selected by the largest number of respondents (37 per cent). The **24-hour curfew** and **no curfew** options also had a high response rate, each selected by 31 per cent of respondents. There was only a small difference of 6 per cent between the most and least selected options.

Among **cat owners**, the night-time and no curfew options were selected almost equally, (41 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively). Among **non-cat owners**, 56 per cent chose the 24-hour curfew, followed by 30 per cent who chose the night-time curfew.



Overall, the respondents **expressed a mix of support and concern** regarding the introduction of a cat curfew.

The most common sentiment was supportive, with many respondents valuing the potential to reduce harm to wildlife and improve cat safety. A night-time curfew was generally seen as a more practical and acceptable option than full-day containment.

However, a significant portion of the respondents also raised concerns about fairness, feasibility, and the impact on cats' wellbeing, with some questioning whether a curfew is necessary.

There was a clear call for owner responsibility and for any future approach to be guided by education and practical support for owners.

Main reasons for curfew choice

Night-time curfew 🌙

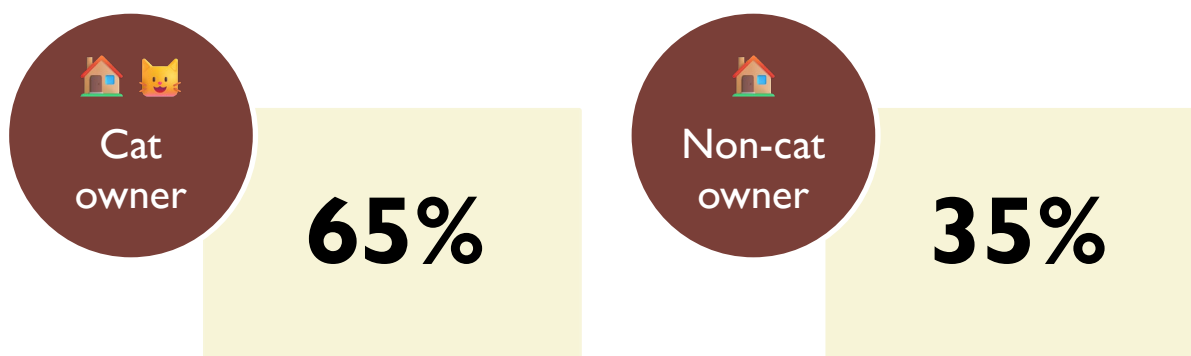
24-hour curfew 🕒

Community feedback expressed a strong preference for a curfew option, either a night-time or 24-hour curfew.

Key similarities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving biodiversity was the most common reason for both groups: 86% of 24-hour curfew supporters and 73% of night-time curfew supporters. Cat safety was also a shared concern: 83% for the night-time curfew and 70% for the 24-hour curfew. Wildlife protection and animal welfare were frequently mentioned in open comments by both groups. 	
Key distinctions 🌙 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seen as more practical and affordable for cat owners. Considered a balanced approach, allowing limited roaming. Emphasised cat safety at night, when cats are most active. 	Key distinctions 🕒 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More strongly associated with reducing nuisance and property damage. Some respondents emphasised the need for owner responsibility. Some felt a night-time curfew doesn't go far enough to address issues caused by roaming cats.
No curfew 🐈	
Key themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustment to a curfew was the top concern (48%), followed closely by enforcement challenges (44%) and uncertainty about implementation (43%). Insights from open comments also noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felt a curfew is unnecessary or unjustified. Fairness for cat owners was a major concern, including practicality, cost, and how rules would be applied. Some viewed curfews as restrictive or cruel, arguing that cats have a natural need to roam. Owner autonomy was also emphasised, suggesting cat management should be a personal choice. Smaller groups noted that cats help control rodents and contribute to community character. 	

Cat owners

Overall, **65 per cent** (1,948 respondents) are cat owners and **35 per cent** (1047 respondents) are non-cat owners.



 <p>How owners manage their cats' movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most owners manage their cats with a mix of indoor and outdoor access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their cat stays on their property (33%). • Allow daytime roaming only (31%). • Keep their cat indoors (22%). • Allow unrestricted roaming (14%).
 <p>Methods for managing cats' movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most common method for managing their cat's movement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat doors (32%) • Enclosures or runs (11%) • Cat-proof fencing (9%) • Other strategies included harnesses, tracking devices, manual access control, supervised outdoor time, and recall training.
 <p>Where Glen Eira cats live</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most cat owners own their home (71%), with 18% renting. • The majority live in houses (59%), followed by townhouses, villas/units, and apartments (each around 12–14%).

Who we heard from

 <p>Connection to Glen Eira</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93 per cent of respondents live in Glen Eira.
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 Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most respondents are aged between 35 to 64. • Fewer responses came from those under 25 or over 75. • Cat ownership is most common among those aged 35 to 64, with a similar age spread to non-cat owners.
 Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67 per cent of respondents identify as women or girls, and 27 per cent as men or boys. • Cat ownership is more common among women or girls.
 Suburb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents came from all Glen Eira suburbs. • Most live in Bentleigh East (21 per cent), Carnegie (14 per cent), Bentleigh (11 per cent), and Murrumbeena (9 per cent). • Cat owners and non-cat owners are evenly spread across all suburbs.
 Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among those who identified with an identity group, the most common were those born overseas (17 per cent) and those from a multicultural background (14 per cent). • Smaller groups included people with disability (7 per cent), LGBTIQ+ (7 per cent), and carers for someone with disability (4 per cent). • Cat owners and non-cat owners show similar representation across identity groups, with only minor differences.

Engagement report

Background

Why are we exploring a cat curfew?

In Glen Eira, we love our pets. In fact, more than 5,000 people in Glen Eira have registered cats. The vast majority of these cats are in loving, responsible homes and well cared for.

We're exploring cat curfews because they have been shown in other parts of Victoria, Australia and the world to keep cats and other animals safe, while also making neighbourhoods feel safer and more liveable. In our neighbouring councils like Port Philip and Bayside, cat curfews are already in place.

Cat curfews keep cats safe from traffic accidents, fights or unwelcome encounters with other animals, or exposure to harmful diseases, especially overnight. This means curfews have been shown to lead to longer, healthier lives for cats.

We also think a cat curfew could help create more liveable communities, which we know is a priority for Glen Eira residents. When left to roam outside, especially overnight, cats have been found to dig up gardens, create nighttime noise, and in some cases even impact or fight local wildlife. In 2023, more than 80 cats were impounded in Glen Eira. Cat curfews have been found to help protect native birds and small animals, helping to preserve biodiversity.

We committed to exploring a cat curfew as part of our [*Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022–2026*](#). Under the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994, all councils must have a plan for managing cats and dogs in their communities. This followed strong feedback from our community, where many people told us they wanted us to consider how to keep cats — and other wildlife — safer in Glen Eira.

What are the options?

We asked the community for their input on three possible approaches:

- **A night-time curfew:** Cats must stay on their owner's property from sunset to sunrise.
- **A 24-hour cat curfew:** Cats must stay on their owner's property at all times.
- **No curfew:** Continue with the current approach, allowing cats to roam freely.

Communication activities

We ran a communication campaign using several channels to raise awareness and encourage participation across the wider community, including key population groups and stakeholders. The table below outlines the channels we used and how far each one reached.

Communication activities	Reach
Glen Eira News Article in June edition	Delivered to approx. 64,500 residences
Have Your Say engagement page Live with the survey available	Views: 5,344 Visitors: 3,807 Followers: 361
Social media: Facebook and Instagram Glen Eira City Council Facebook and Instagram accounts concluded the campaign with 9 posts, including main feeds and stories.	Views: 42,904 Reach: 21,023 Interactions: 368 Link clicks: 670
Community engagement e-newsletter June edition	Recipients: 4,445 Opened: 2,413 Link clicks: 196 Click throughs to engagement: 183
Sustainability e-newsletter June edition	Recipients: 3,850 Opened: 2,093 Link clicks: 639 Click throughs to engagement: 399
Targeted promotion — Glen Eira cat owners Targeted emails and/or letters were distributed to those registered cat owners.	3,669 emails 265 letters
Targeted promotion — Glen Eira veterinary clinics Targeted emails and/or letters were distributed to local veterinary clinics or wildlife shelters.	12 emails 3 letters
Poster Shared at Council facilities, including Glen Eira Town Hall and Glen Eira Libraries. Shared with the local veterinary clinics and pet shops in Glen Eira.	25 posters
Postcard Shared at Council facilities, including Glen Eira Town Hall. Provided with information packs for new cat registrations and distributed by Compliance Officers when investigating complaints.	260 postcards
Digital screens Screen on display at Customer Service	4 June to 29 June 2025
Website – news item and webpage	Page views: 371 Link clicks: 121
Pre-recorded customer service message	9 June – 29 June 2025.

A pre-recorded message was included in Council's phone system as part of the 'on hold' messaging for callers.	
Golden Days Radio 95.7FM Announcements on Saturday 7 and Saturday 21 June.	Approx listeners: over 75,000 listeners globally.

Engagement activities

The primary engagement activity was an online survey through Council's Have Your Say platform.

Hard copies of this survey were available upon request — or provided directly to registered cat owners who did not have email contact.

Engagement activities	Number who participated
Have Your Say online community survey	2,995 survey submissions.
Email submissions	43 emails.

Have Your Say survey responses

The online survey included a total of 17 questions and included three sections:

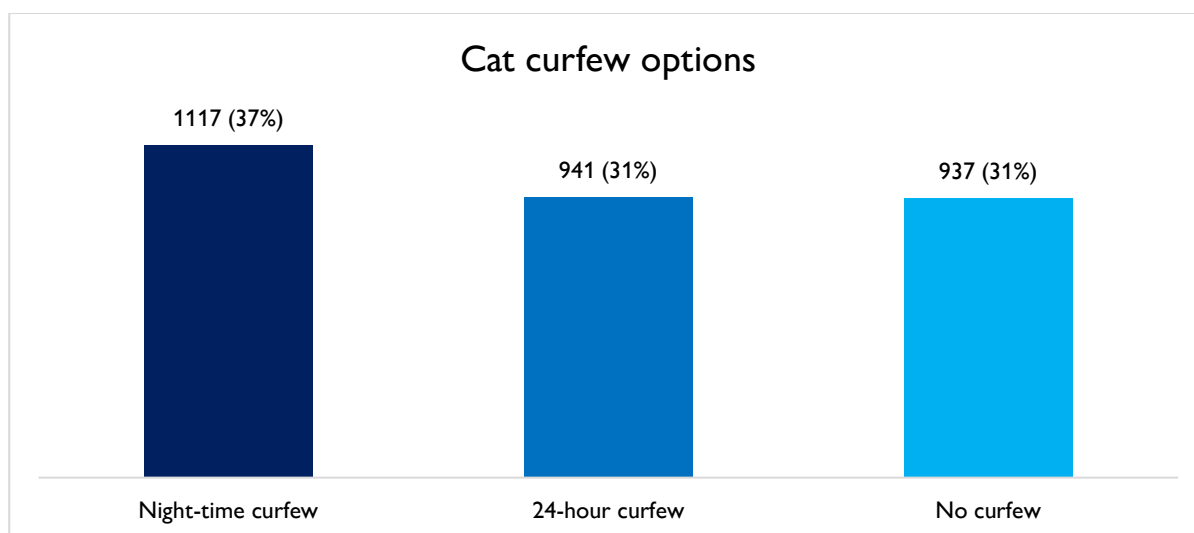
- Curfew options
- Cat owners
- Demographics

Curfew options

Question one: In terms of a cat curfew, what do you think is the most appropriate option for Glen Eira?

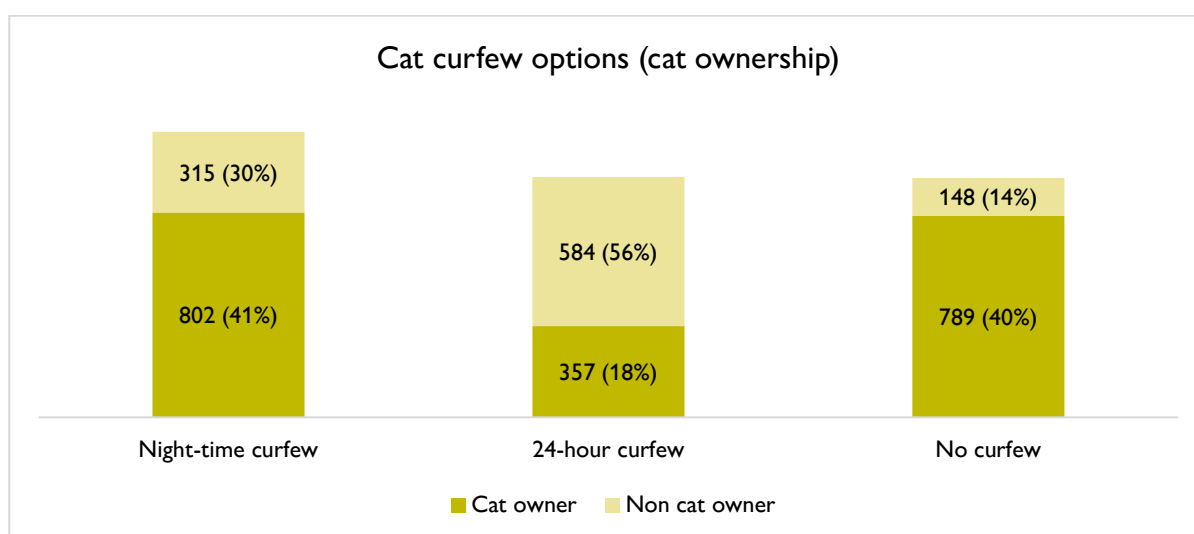
This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

- The night-time curfew option was selected by the largest number of respondents (37 per cent).
- The 24-hour curfew and no curfew options also had a high response rate, each chosen by 31 per cent of respondents.
- This means there was only a small difference of 6 per cent between the most and least chosen options.



- Among cat owners, the night-time and no curfew options were selected almost equally (41 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively).
- Among non-cat owners, 56 per cent chose the 24-hour curfew, followed by 30 per cent who chose the night-time curfew.

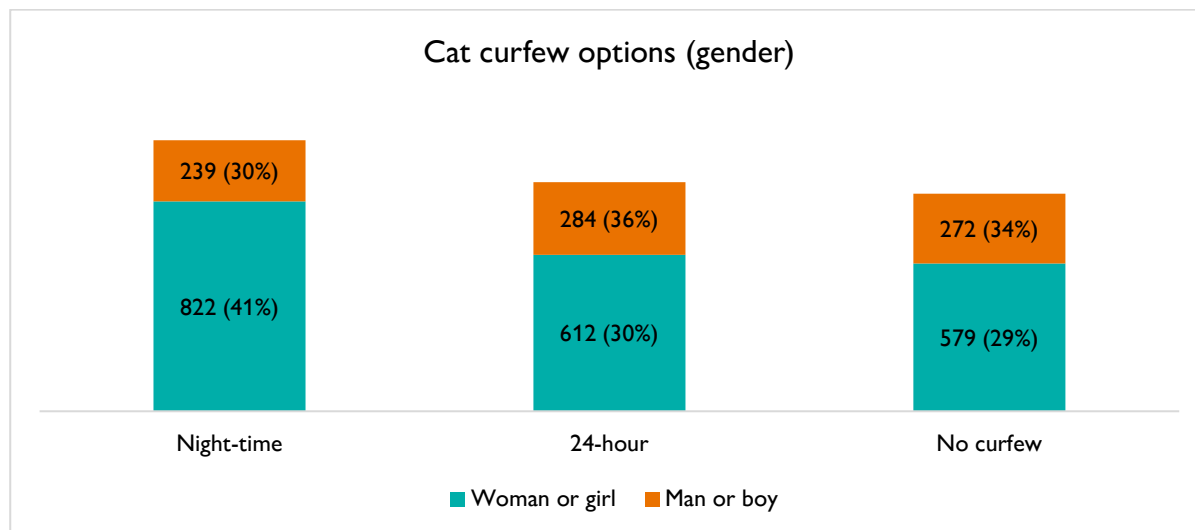
The chart below visually represents the cat curfew options data for both cat and non-cat owners.



- Women and girls made up 67 per cent of total respondents and represent 70 per cent of cat owners — and men and boys made up 27 per cent of total respondents and represent 23 per cent of cat owners.
- Women and girls show a clear preference for a night-time curfew (41 per cent), with similar weighting for the 24-hour or no curfew options (30 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively).

- The responses of men and boys were more evenly distributed, with a slight lean toward the 24-hour curfew option.

The chart below visually represents the cat curfew options data for both women and girls and men and boys.



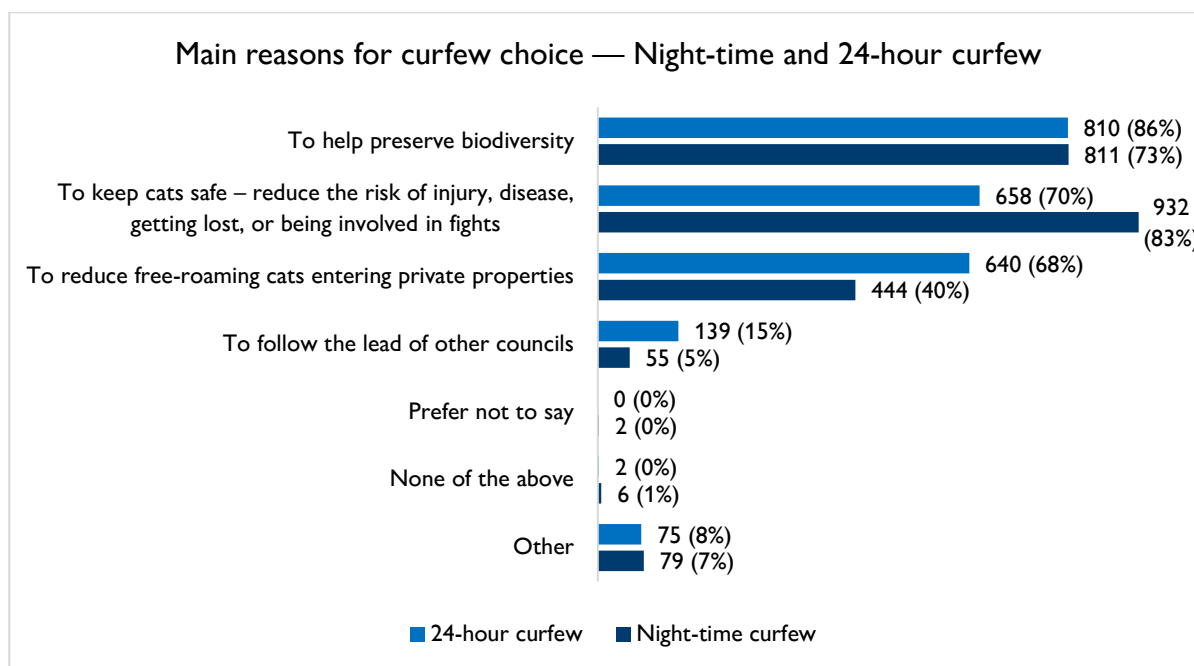
- The data suggests that personal experience with cats (ownership) has the most direct influence on curfew preferences — with cat owners having a higher preference for night-time and no curfews while non-cat owners lean towards the 24-hour curfew option.
- While gender differences are present, they're more nuanced. Women and girls, who are more likely to be cat owners, show stronger support for night-time curfews. Men, despite lower cat ownership, show slightly more support for the 24-hour curfew options, suggesting other factors may influence their views.

Question two: What are the main reasons for your choice?

This was a required question for those who selected the night-time or 24-hour curfew options. It received a 69 per cent response rate (2,058 respondents).

- Preserving biodiversity was the most selected reason for both curfew options, with 86 per cent of those who chose the 24-hour curfew and 73 per cent of those who chose the night-time curfew identifying this reason.
- Keeping cats safe was also a key reason, selected by 70 per cent of those who chose the 24-hour curfew and 83 per cent of those who chose the night-time curfew.
- Reducing cats entering private properties was a stronger reason for those who chose the 24-hour curfew (68 per cent) than those who chose the night-time curfew (40 per cent).

- Following other councils' lead is a minor reason for both groups, but still more common among those who chose the 24-hour curfew (15 per cent) than night-time ones (5 per cent).



Night-time curfew

Of the 154 respondents who selected 'Other', 79 had selected the night-time curfew as the most appropriate option. The most common themes from those comments are summarised below. Some comments mentioned more than one theme.

- Most comments raised that a night-time curfew is more practical and affordable than 24-hour containment (36 per cent).
- The comments also reinforced reducing harm to wildlife and other animals (31 per cent) and keeping cats safe, particularly at night when cats are most active (20 per cent).
- 13 per cent described the night-time curfew as a balanced approach, allowing cats to roam for stimulation while still minimising negative impacts.

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Night-time curfew is more practical and affordable than 24-hour containment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier for owners to comply with and less disruptive for cats, especially if they already roam. 	27	36%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners need education, time, and resources to adapt and cat-proof their properties. Considered the most sensible and humane option. Cat's help to control rodents. 		
Reduces harm to wildlife and other animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits impacts on birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. Reduces risk of cats being hurt by other animals. Helps control rodent populations. 	23	31%
Improves cat safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents cats from being hit by cars, which also causes distress to drivers. Reduces stress and aggression for indoor cats caused by interactions with roaming cats through windows or doors. Night-time is when cats are most active and more likely to cause or experience harm. Limits roaming to reduce unplanned litters. Offers peace of mind knowing cats are safe at night. 	15	20%
Provides a balanced approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows cats to roam for exercise and stimulation while minimising impacts on wildlife and community amenity. 	10	13%
Minimises nuisance and property damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces defecating, spraying, garden damage, and noisy cat fights at night. 	7	9%
Most owners already keep cats indoors at night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects current behaviour and supports feasibility of a night-time curfew. 	2	3%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Reduces community conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimises disputes between neighbours over differing views on free-roaming cats. 	1	1%

24-hour curfew

Of the 154 respondents who selected 'Other', 75 had selected the 24-hour curfew as the most appropriate option. The most common themes from those comments are summarised below. Some comments mentioned more than one theme.

- Similar to the night-time curfew feedback, a high number of comments reinforced the curfew's role in reducing harm to wildlife and other animals (43 per cent).
- 37 per cent focused on minimising nuisance and property damage, and 28 per cent emphasised cat safety and wellbeing.
- A smaller portion (9 per cent) raised that owners must assume responsibility for their pets and their impact on the community, and 8 per cent expressed a preference over the night-time curfew, suggesting it may not go far enough to address the issues caused by roaming cats.

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Reduces harm to wildlife and other animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits impacts on birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. Reduces risk of cats being hurt by other animals. 	34	43%
Minimises nuisance and property damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces defecating, spraying, garden damage, and noisy cat fights at night. Addresses concerns about toxoplasmosis, a disease caused by a parasite shed in cat faeces. Reduces negative interactions with other pets and animals (e.g. dogs or chickens). 	29	37%
Improves cat safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents cats from being hit by cars, which also causes distress to drivers. Reduces stress and aggression for indoor cats caused by interactions 	22	28%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
	with roaming cats through windows or doors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits roaming to reduce unplanned litters. Reduces risk of cats being stolen when left outside. 		
Owners must assume responsibility for their pets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasises accountability for cat behaviour and potential impacts on the community. 	7	9%
Preference over night-time curfew option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night-time curfew may not be sufficient to manage negative impacts of roaming cats. 	6	8%

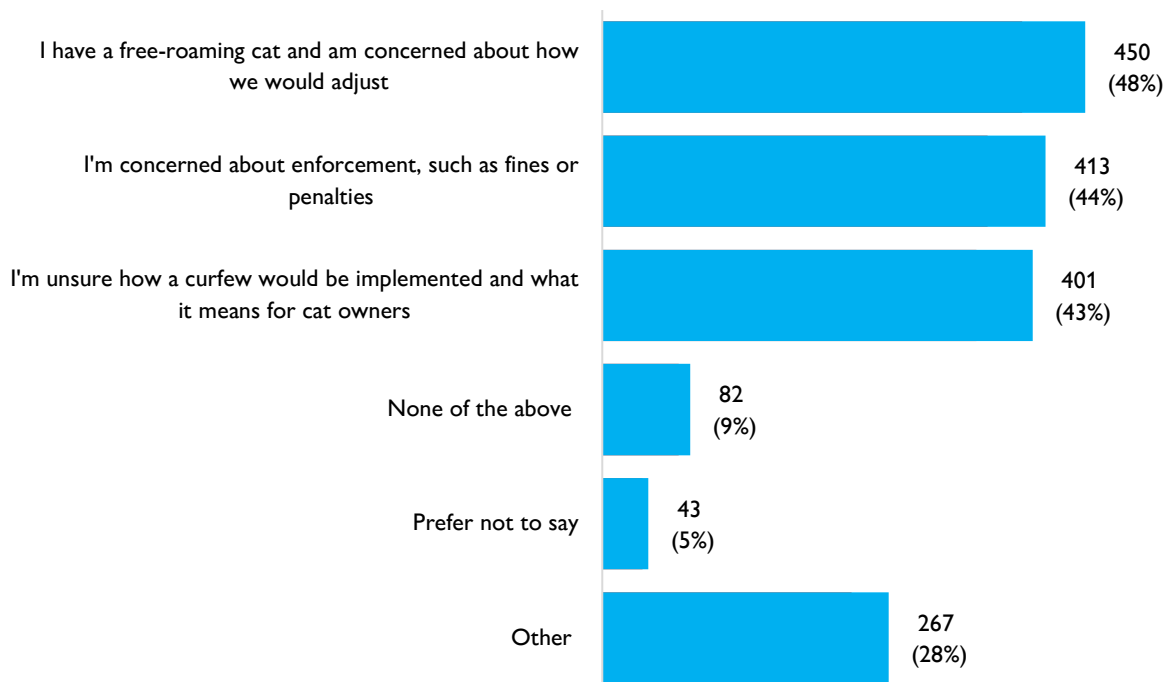
No curfew

Question three: What are the main reasons for your choice?

This was a required question for those who selected the no curfew option. It received a 31 per cent response rate (937 respondents).

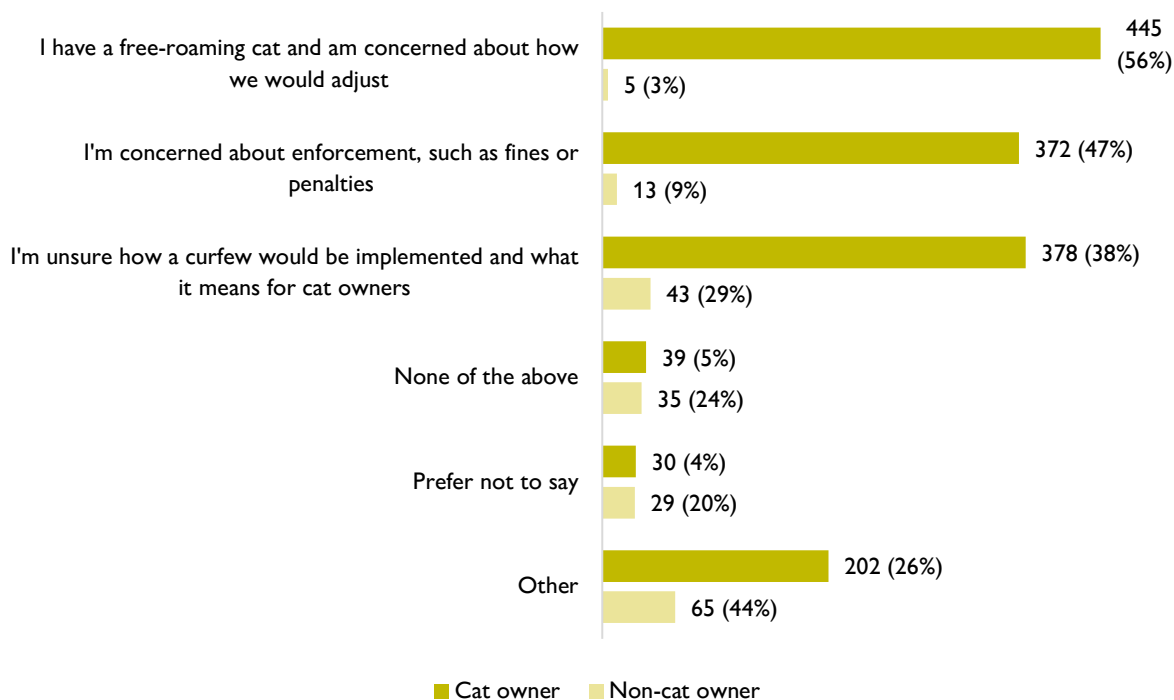
- Adjusting to a curfew was the most selected reason (48 per cent), closely followed by enforcement and uncertainty about implementation (44 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively).
- 28 per cent selected “Other”, suggesting a range of additional concerns not captured in the listed options.

Main reasons for curfew choice — No curfew



The chart below shows the main reasons for selecting no curfew choice among both cat and non-cat owners. This data shows much higher concern among cat-owners with how they would adjust to a curfew as well as enforcement and implementation of a curfew compared to non-cat owners.

Main reasons for curfew choice — No curfew (cat ownership)



267 respondents (28 per cent) selected 'Other' and provided a comment. The most common themes are summarised below. Some comments mentioned more than one theme.

- Most comments expressed that a cat curfew is unnecessary or unjustified, citing minimal local impact from roaming cats, lack of evidence, or consider a curfew to be an ineffective way to manage roaming cats (38 per cent).
- Concerns about fairness and enforcement were also a key reason, including the practicality of containment, costs for owners, and how enforcement would be implemented (30 per cent).

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Curfew is considered unnecessary or unjustified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief that the impact of roaming cats in Glen Eira is minimal and does not warrant a curfew. • Not sufficient data or evidence to justify a curfew. • Not considered an efficient or effective way to manage roaming cats. • Cats generally remain on their owner's property, with only occasional roaming for exercise, stimulation, or convenience. Imposing a curfew places an unfair burden on responsible pet owners. • Doesn't control stray cat populations. 	81	30%
Concerns about fairness and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewed as discrimination against cat owners. • Concerns about how enforcement would work, including the cost of enforcement for Council, how cats would be caught, treated, and safely returned — and how fines or penalties would be issued. • It can be difficult for cats to adjust to containment, and owners may struggle to control their movements — especially if the cat is already 	81	30%

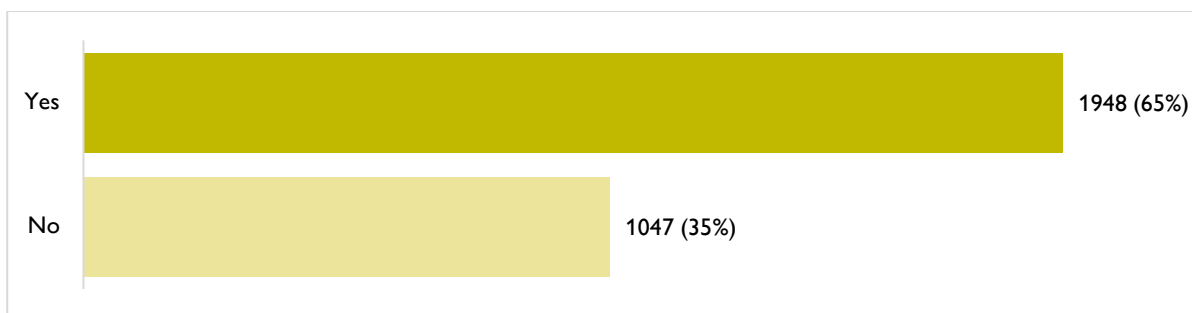
Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
	<p>accustomed to roaming. For many, this is impractical and not feasible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of modifying properties to contain cats can be significant for many owners — particularly renters or those in low-income households — making compliance with a curfew more difficult. 		
Cats' wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats need to roam for exercise and stimulation. A curfew would be considered cruel or restrictive for cats. 	69	26%
Belief in owner autonomy and limited government role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be the decision of the owner. Not considered the role or responsibility of local government; seen as Council overreach. 	47	18%
Cats help control rodents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats help control rodents that are considered an issue, like rats and mice. 	31	12%
Cats add to the charm and character of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roaming cats are seen as friendly and approachable. People enjoy interacting with them, such as stopping for pats, which adds to the neighbourhood's appeal. 	5	2%
Discourages cat ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May discourage cat ownership resulting in abandoning or a drop in adoption. 	2	1%

Cat owners

Question four: Are you a cat owner?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

Overall, 65 per cent of respondents are cat owners and 35 per cent are non-cat owners.

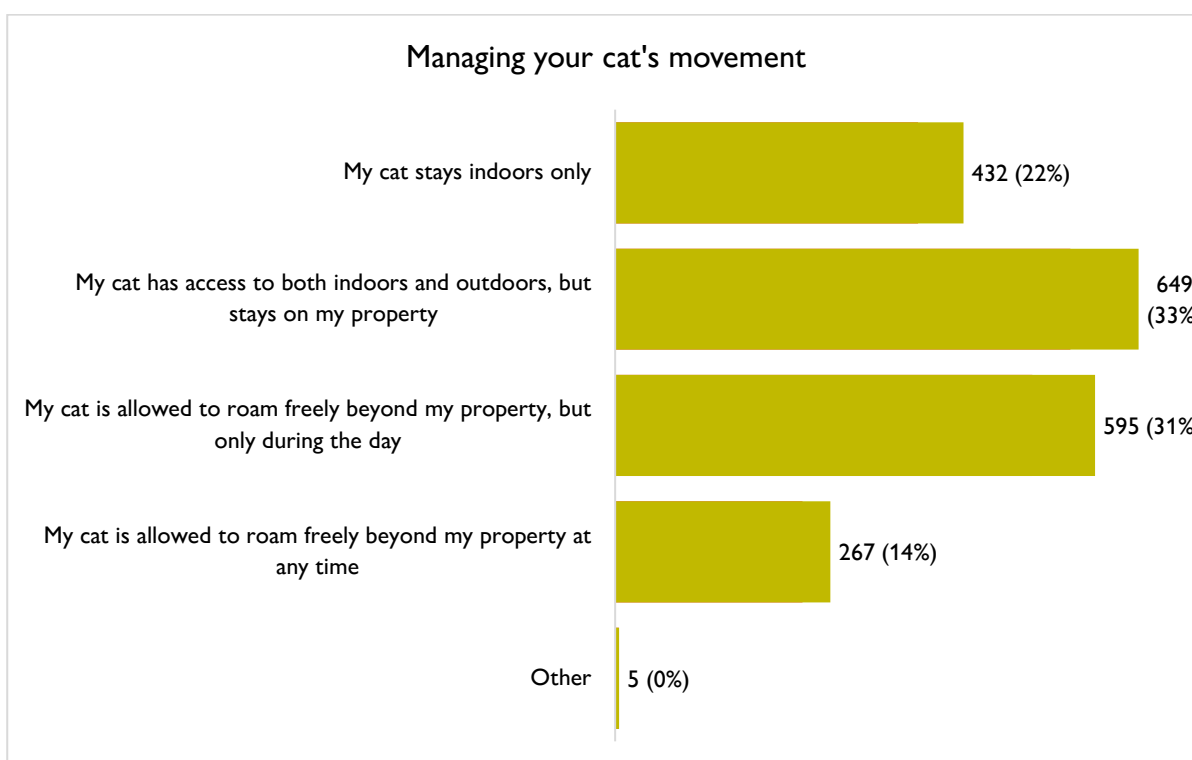


The following questions were required for cat owners only.

Question five: How do you manage your cat's movement?

This was a required question for cat owners. It received a 65 per cent response rate (1,948 respondents).

- Most cat owners said their cat has access to both indoors and outdoors but stays on their property (33 per cent), followed by 31 per cent who allow their cat to roam freely during the day, but not at night.
- 22 per cent keep their cat indoors only.
- 14 per cent allow their cat to roam freely at any time.



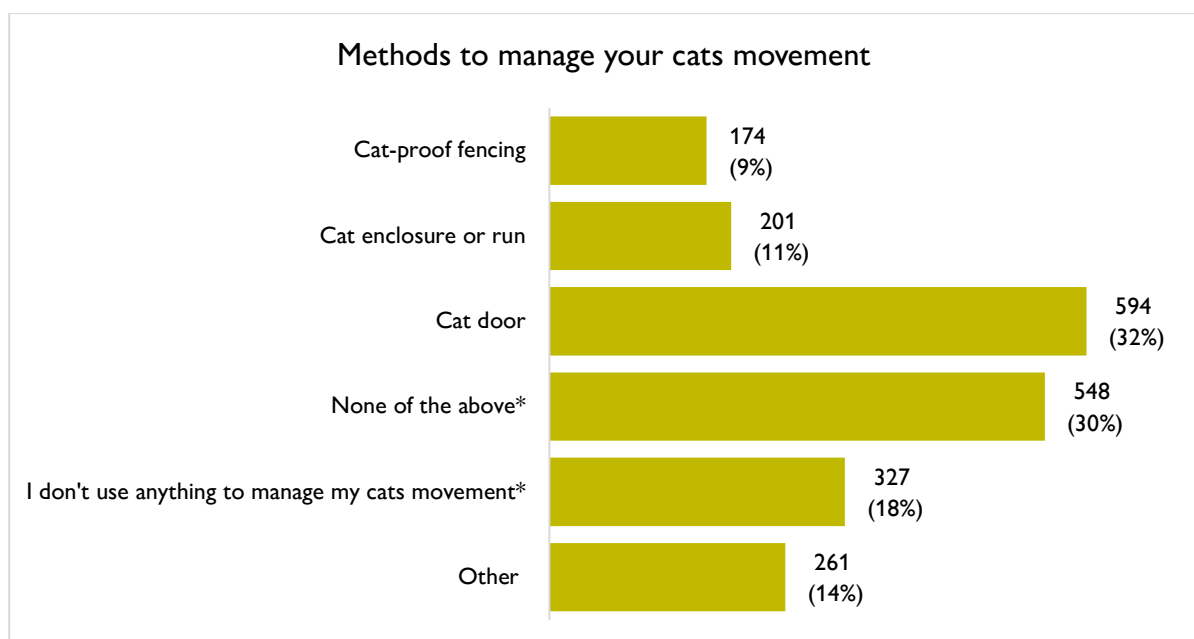
Out of the 1,948 respondents, 106 selected 'Other'. Of those, 101 responses closely matched one of the existing multiple-choice options. These have been reassigned and included in the graph above to improve clarity around cat movement. Some responses also provided additional context about how owners manage their cats' movements, and a summary of these comments is provided below.

Multiple choice option	Description of comments	# of 'Other' comments
My cat stays indoors only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional comments. 	3
My cat has access to both indoors and outdoors, but stays on my property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outdoor areas of my property are secured with an enclosure or netting. My cat only goes outside when supervised or while wearing a leash or harness. My cat generally stays on my property but may very occasionally wander beyond it. 	42
My cat is allowed to roam freely beyond my property, but only during the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My cat usually comes home on their own by night-time. My cat is typically indoors at night but may sometimes stay outside or go out briefly to use the toilet. My cat can roam freely during the day, but only when I'm home. 	38
My cat is allowed to roam freely beyond my property at any time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My cat can roam freely at any time but mostly chooses to stay indoors or on my property. 	18
Other responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I own multiple cats and manage their movement differently (2 comments). No input provided (3 comments). 		

Question six: Do you use any of the following to manage your cat's movement?

This was an optional question. It received a 61 per cent response rate (1,838 respondents).

- From the options provided, the most common method was using a cat door (32 per cent), followed by cat enclosures or runs (11 per cent), and cat-proof fencing (9 per cent). 30 per cent selected "None of the above".
- 18 per cent said they don't use anything.
- 14 per cent selected "Other", with 261 respondents providing comments that offered further insight into the methods used to manage their cat's movement (summarised in the table below).



261 respondents (14 per cent) selected 'Other' and provided a comment. The most common themes from those comments are summarised below. Some comments mentioned more than one theme.

** Note: The below includes 28 respondents who had selected 'None of the above' and 11 who selected 'I don't use anything to manage my cat's movement'.*

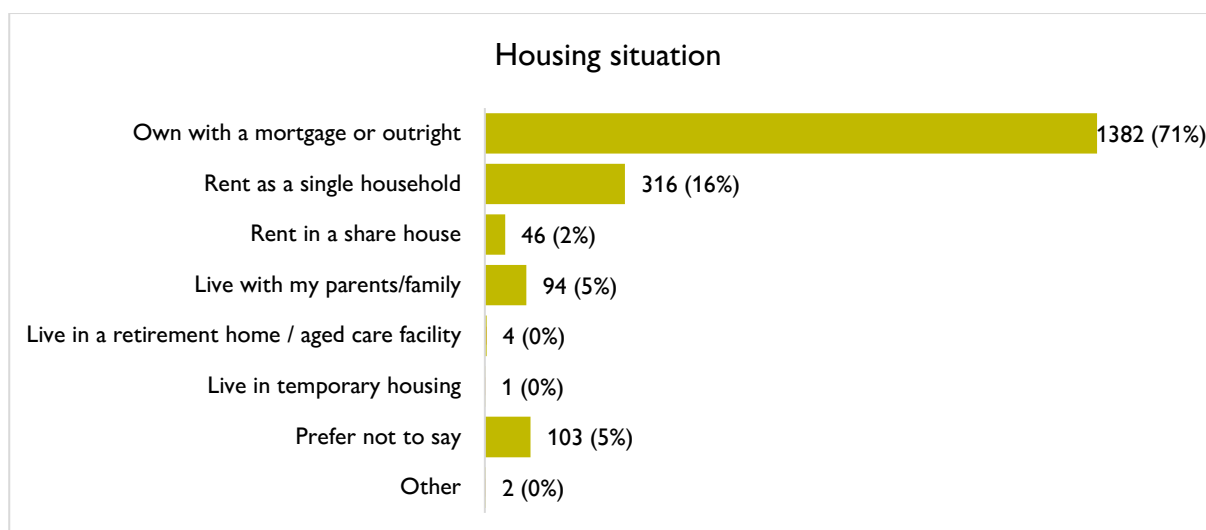
Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Other equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use a harness or lead to keep them within my property or to walk them outside the property. I use a tracking device to monitor my cat's location. Microchip activated cat door that controls their movement. High fences that they can't leap over. Tree wraps to prevent climbing. 	85	33%
Manual access control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I let my cat in and out through the door — they can only go outside when I allow it. 	59	23%
Supervised outdoor time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I supervise my cat when they're outside or keep an eye on their movements. 	37	14%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Recall training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've trained my cat to return for meals and then keep them inside. • I've trained my cat to stay close to my property. 	30	11%
Indoor-only cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My cat stays indoors all the time, so I don't need anything to manage their movements. • I live in an apartment and/or my cat only has access to an enclosed outdoor area (e.g. balcony). • If outside they don't go beyond my property. 	30	11%
Low interest in roaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My cat isn't very interested in going beyond the property. • My cat is older and has limited mobility, so I don't need anything to manage their movements. 	21	8%
Cat-proofing difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've tried cat-proofing, but it was expensive and only worked temporarily. • I want to install cat proofing, but it's not currently possible. 	12	5%
No response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No input provided or the response is beyond the scope of the question. 	5	2%

Question seven: What is your housing situation?

This was a required question for cat owners. It received a 65 per cent response rate (1,948 respondents).

- Among cat owners, most own their home (71 per cent) or rent (18 per cent).

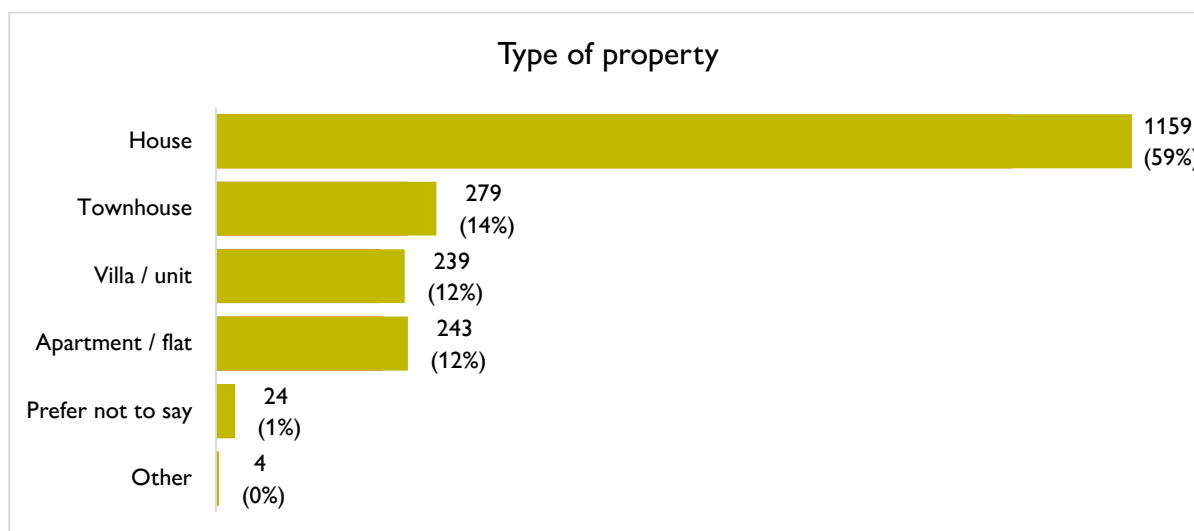


Other responses: Public or social housing; granny flat.

Question eight: What type of property do you live in?

This was a required question for cat owners. It received a 65 per cent response rate (1948 respondents).

- Most cat owners live in a house (59 per cent).
- Smaller but similar proportions live in townhouses (14 per cent), villas or units (12 per cent), and apartments or flats (12 per cent).



Other responses: Duplex; granny flat.

Question eight: Do you have any other comments you'd like to share?

This was an optional question for all respondents. It received 47 per cent of the response rate (1,456 respondents).

These additional comments reflect the themes raised in Questions 2 and 3, which asked respondents to explain their curfew preferences for cats.

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Reduces harm to wildlife and other animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits impacts on birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. 	394	27%
Concerns about fairness and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewed as discrimination against cat owners. Concerns about how enforcement would work, including the cost of enforcement for Council, how cats would be caught, treated, and safely returned — and how fines or penalties would be issued. It can be difficult for cats to adjust to containment, and owners may struggle to control their movements — especially if the cat is already accustomed to roaming. For many, this is impractical and not feasible. The cost of modifying properties to contain cats can be significant for many owners — particularly renters or those in low-income households — making compliance with a curfew more difficult. 	305	20%
Night-time curfew is more practical and affordable than 24-hour containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier for owners to comply with and less disruptive for cats, especially if they already roam. Owners need education, time, and resources to adapt and cat-proof their properties. 	270	18%
Improves cat safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents cats from being hit by cars, which also causes distress to drivers. Reduces stress and aggression for indoor cats caused by interactions with roaming cats through windows or doors. Night-time is when cats are most active and more likely to cause or experience harm. 	232	16%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Minimises nuisance and property damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces defecating, spraying, garden damage, and noisy cat fights at night. 	217	15%
Cats' wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats need to roam for exercise and stimulation. A curfew would be considered cruel or restrictive for cats. 	208	14%
Curfew is considered unnecessary or unjustified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief that the impact of roaming cats in Glen Eira is minimal and does not warrant a curfew. A lack of sufficient data or evidence to justify a curfew. Not considered an efficient or effective way to manage roaming cats. Cats generally remain on their owner's property, with only occasional roaming for exercise, stimulation, or convenience. Imposing a curfew places an unfair burden on responsible pet owners. Doesn't control stray cat populations. 	158	11%
Owners must assume responsibility for their pets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasises accountability for cat behaviour and potential impacts on the community. 	151	10%
Most owners already keep cats indoors at night, or on property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects current behaviour and supports feasibility of a night-time curfew. 	94	6%
General support for 24-hour curfew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 24-hour curfew without any specific reasoning stated. 	58	4%
Cats help control rodents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats help control rodents that are considered an issue, like rats and mice. 	57	4%

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments	% of comments
Belief in owner autonomy and limited government role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be the decision of the owner. Not considered the role or responsibility of local government; seen as Council overreach. 	47	3%
Cats add to the charm and character of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roaming cats are seen as friendly and approachable. People enjoy interacting with them, such as stopping for pats, which adds to the neighbourhood's appeal. 	44	3%
Council should support cat containment needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council should provide resources to support cat containment. 	38	3%
<p>Other themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief that cats do not harm wildlife (18 comments, 1%) Cats cause human health concerns (9 comments, 1%) Comments questioning the survey process and integrity (9 comments, 1%) <p>104 comments (7%) were unrelated or beyond the scope of the question, such as changes to dog ownership expectations, GESAC or comments that stated 'no' or 'N/A'.</p>			

Illustrative quotes

Night-time curfew

- "Believe cats can be a menace to wildlife and biodiversity and would like them to be kept on owners properties 24hrs but don't think that's realistic or fair to responsible cat owners or well behaved cats."* — Woman, 65-74, Caulfield South.
- "Our cat has 14 years' experience of going outside, so it would be hard to transition him to a 24-hour curfew."* — Man, 55-64, Caulfield East.
- "We had free roaming cats approaching our cat and fighting through the window at night, scaring our cat and make lots of noises."* — Woman, 25-34, Carnegie.

24-hour curfew

- "As a veterinarian, this is vital. There is no other situation for any other animal where this is acceptable. We must be a council following suit of others and pushing for change, especially being so close to bird habitats including our own council green spaces. It is unacceptable to continue to allow for this to continue occurring. There are too many*

injured and hit by cars, and I can't bear to see more." — Woman, 25-34, Caulfield North.

- *"Cats are lovely pets (having been a cat owner) but free roaming they get lost, hurt and injured. They don't mind being indoors with short time in an outside cat run. Please consider a 24-hr curfew - it's not a hardship for the cat."* — Woman, 65-74, Bentleigh East.
- *"I've had property and belongings damage caused by someone else's cat, also almost ran over a cat late one evening. Cat curfews would prevent these from happening."* — Man, 35-44, Ormond.

No curfew

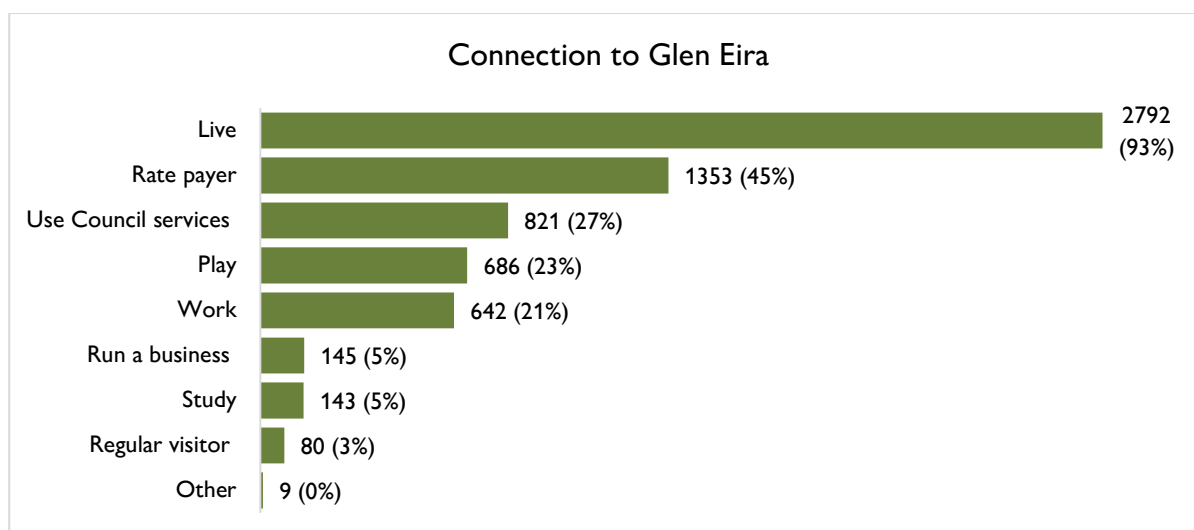
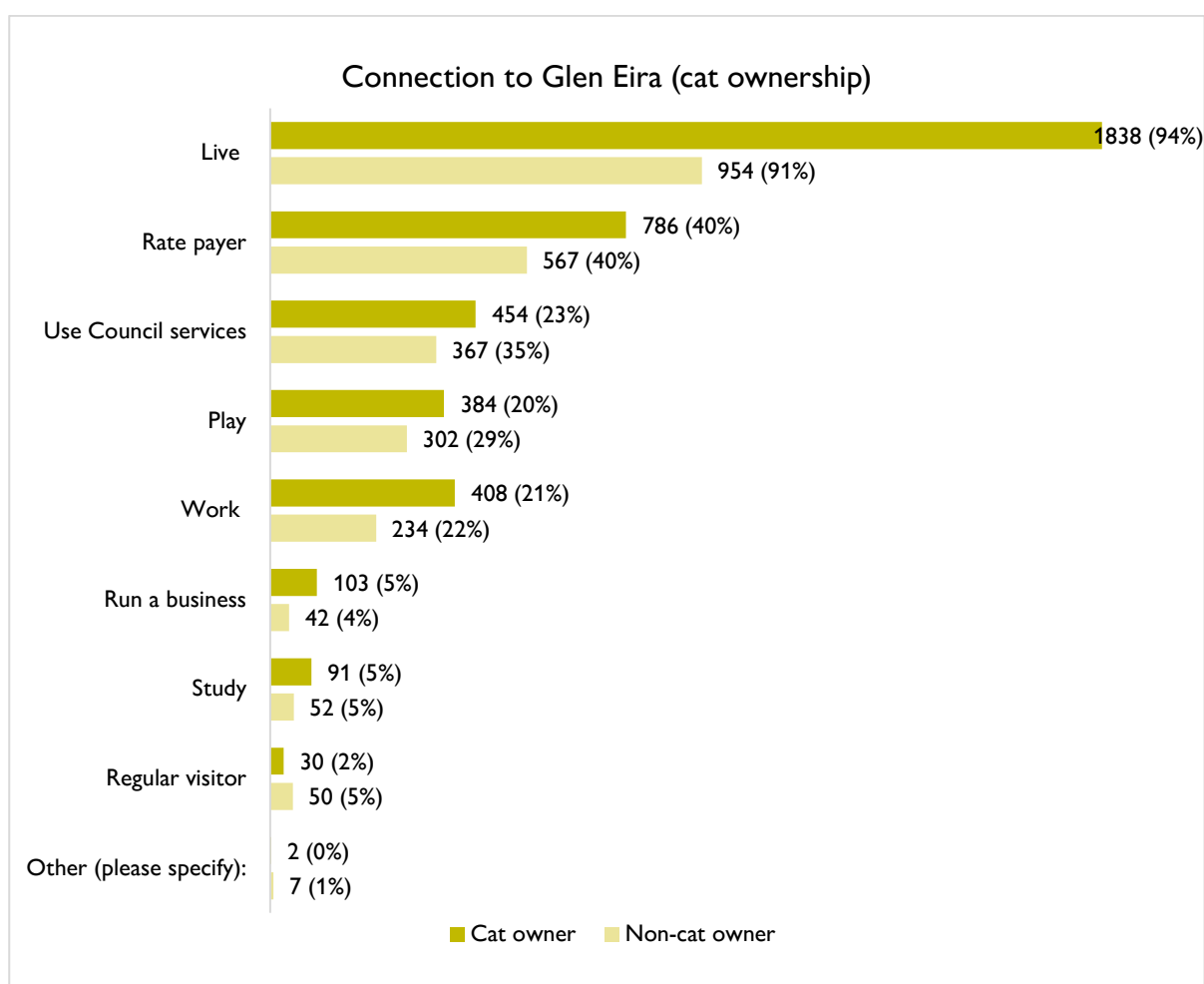
- *"This is outright discrimination against cat owners."* — Woman, 25-34, Murrumbeena.
- *"I understand the issue at hand of protecting native wildlife, however from what I have seen both I and the other cat owning members of Glen Eira, at least in my area, have been very responsible with the way they manage letting their cats outside."* — Man, 18-24, Bentleigh.
- *"As a council, think of ways to help the community in general while being less prescriptive with the way people live. Cat owners, like people in general are perfectly able to make decisions on what's best for them, their pets & the community without heavy handed rules & regulations"* — Woman, 55-64, Elsternwick.

Demographic profile

Question ten: What is your connection to the City of Glen Eira?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

- Most respondents are closely connected to Glen Eira, with 93 per cent living in the area and 45 per cent being ratepayers. Overall, 96 per cent either live in Glen Eira or pay rates (or both).
- When looking at the results by cat ownership, both cat owners and non-cat owners report similar levels of connection. Living in Glen Eira is the most common link for both groups.

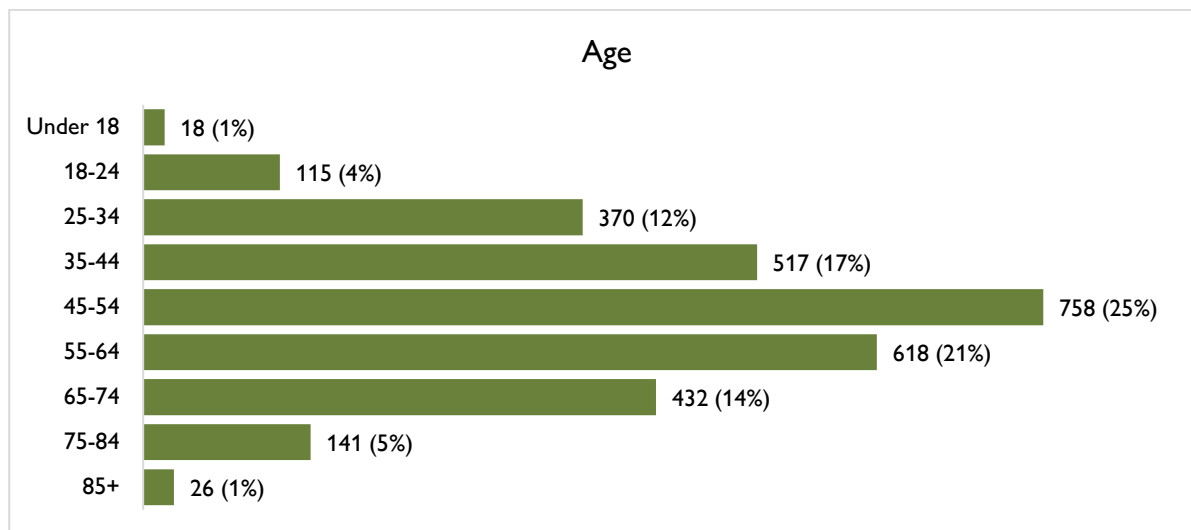
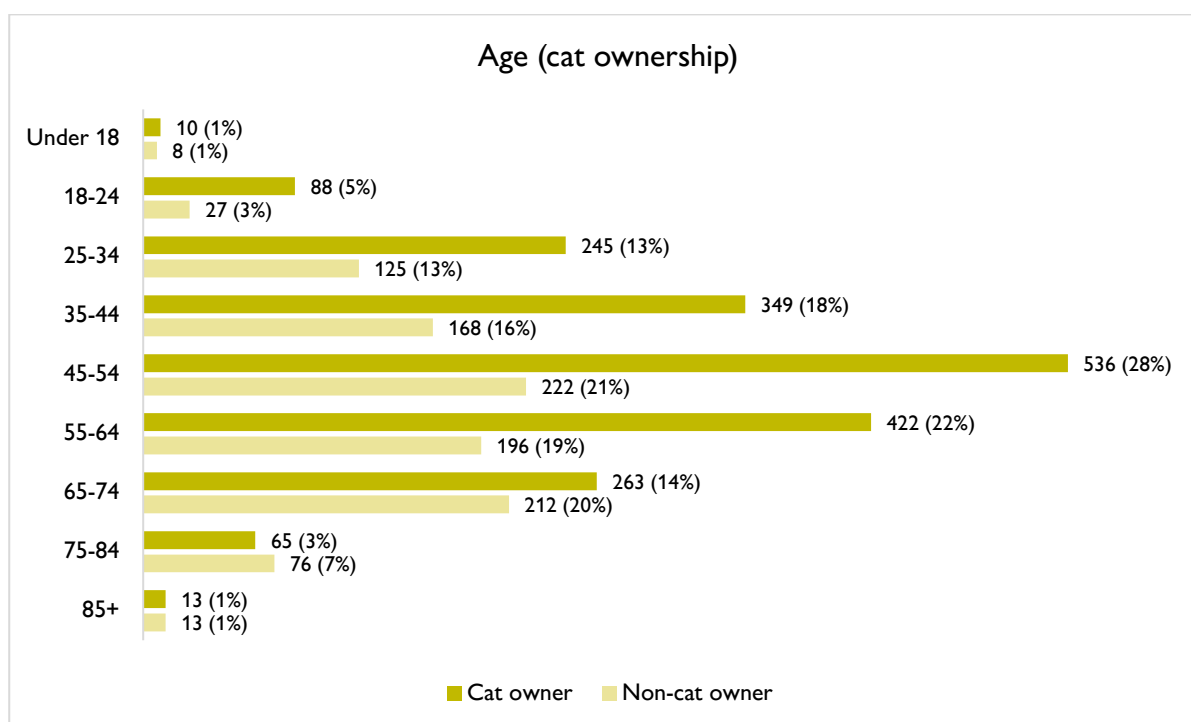


Other responses: Former residents, volunteer, children attend school in Glen Eira, and have friends or family who live in Glen Eira.

Question eleven: What is your age?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

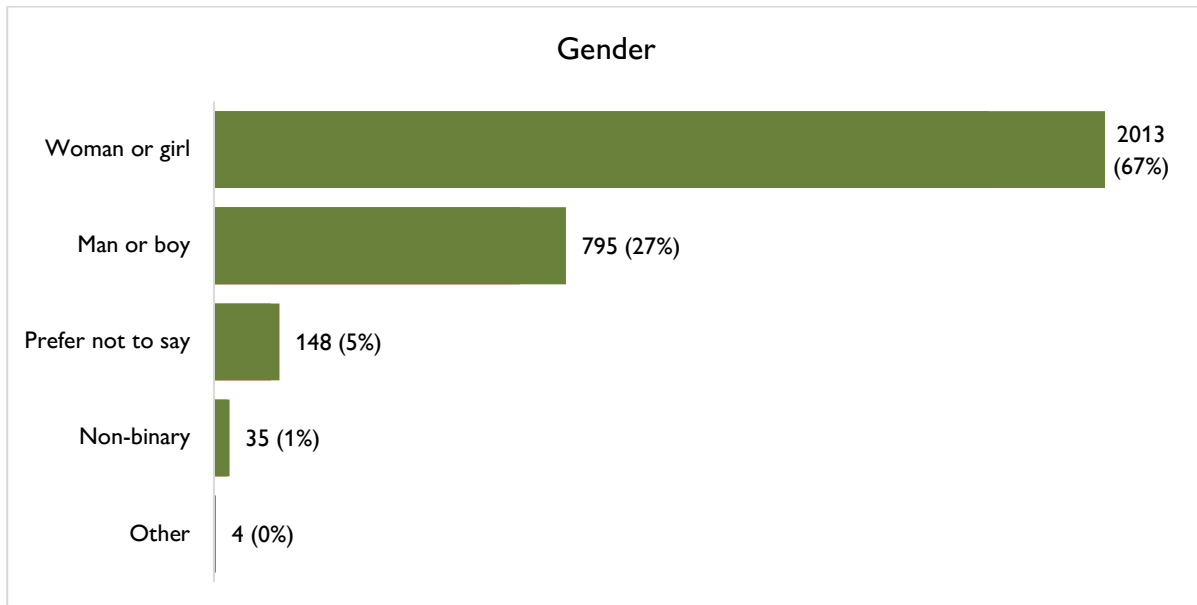
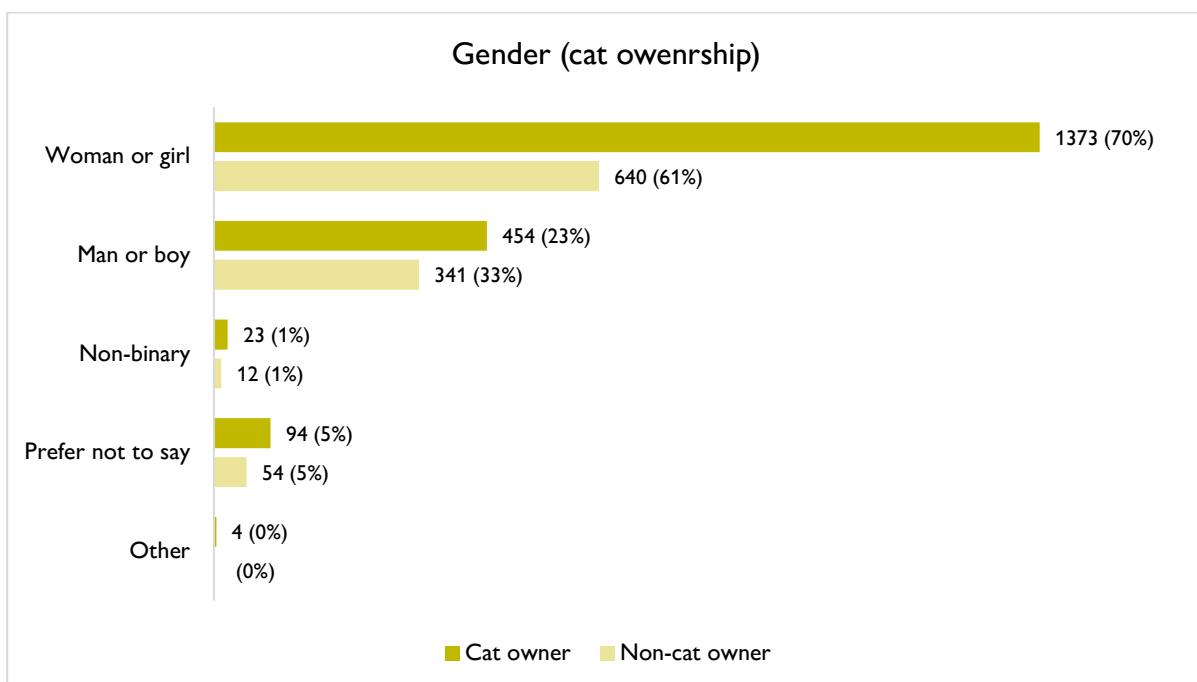
- Respondents range across all age groups, with the largest proportion aged 45 to 54 (25 per cent), followed by those aged 55 to 64 (21 per cent) and 35 to 44 (17 per cent).
- Younger respondents (under 25) and older respondents (75 and over) make up a smaller share of the total.
- The age distribution of cat owners and non-cat owners is broadly similar, and cat ownership is most concentrated among those aged 35 to 64.



Question twelve: What is your gender?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

- Most respondents identify as women or girls (67 per cent), followed by men or boys (27 per cent).
- The gender distribution among cat owners and non-cat owners is broadly similar, though cat ownership is more common among women or girls.

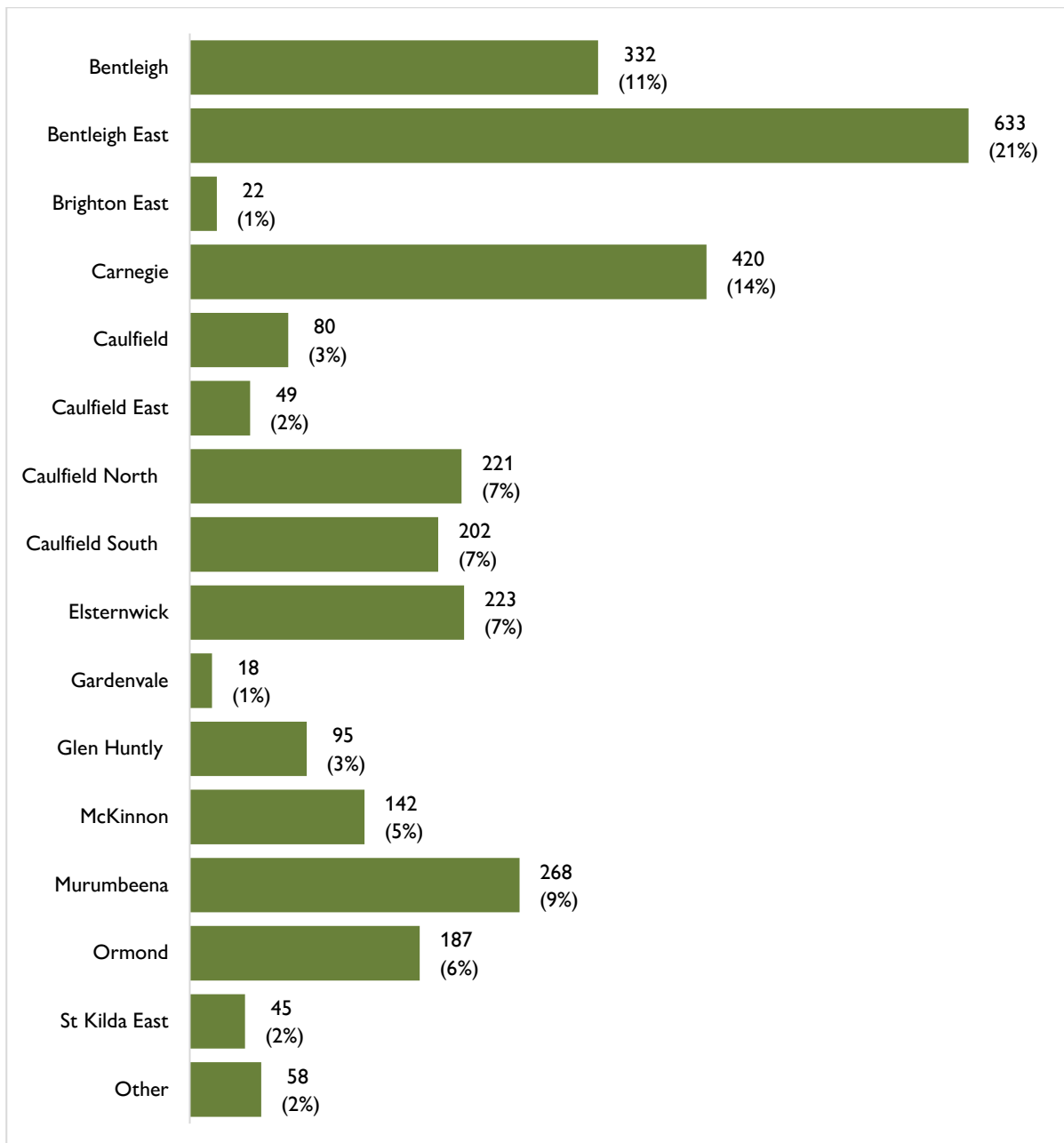


Question thirteen: What suburb do you live in?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

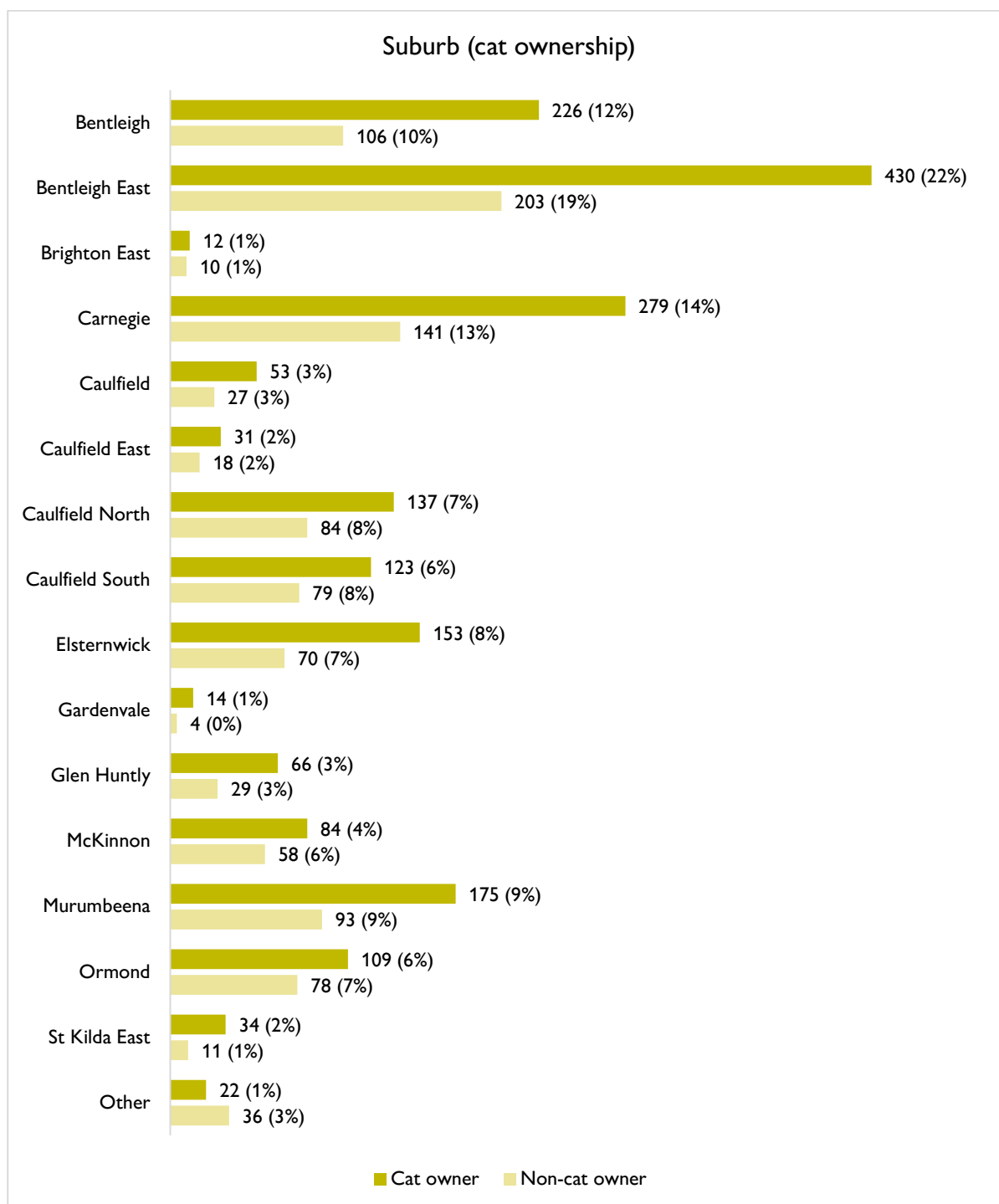
- All Glen Eira suburbs are represented in the responses, with the largest share living in Bentleigh East (21 per cent), followed by Carnegie (14 per cent), Bentleigh (11 per cent), and Murrumbeena (9 per cent).

- When looking at suburbs by cat ownership, the distribution is broadly similar. Bentleigh East, Carnegie, Bentleigh, and Murrumbeena remain the most common suburbs for both cat owners and non-cat owners.



Other responses:

Armadale (1); Boroondara (1); Camberwell (1); Cheltenham (1); Clarinda (1); Clayton (2); Clifton Springs (1); Dandenong (1); Dandenong North (2); Elwood (3); Endeavor Hills (1); Footscray (1); Forest Hill (1); Glen Iris (2); Hampton (1); Hampton East (2); Hawthorn (1); Heatherton (1); Highett (2); Hughesdale (6); Keysborough (1); Kingston (1); Lara (1); Lysterfield (1); Malvern (2); Malvern East (3); Melbourne (1); Mentone (1); Moonee Ponds (1); Moorabbin (2); Mordialloc (1); Notting Hill (1); Oakleigh South (2); Reservoir (1); South Melbourne (1); St Kilda (1); Thornbury (1); Family connections to Glen Eira (3); Other (1).

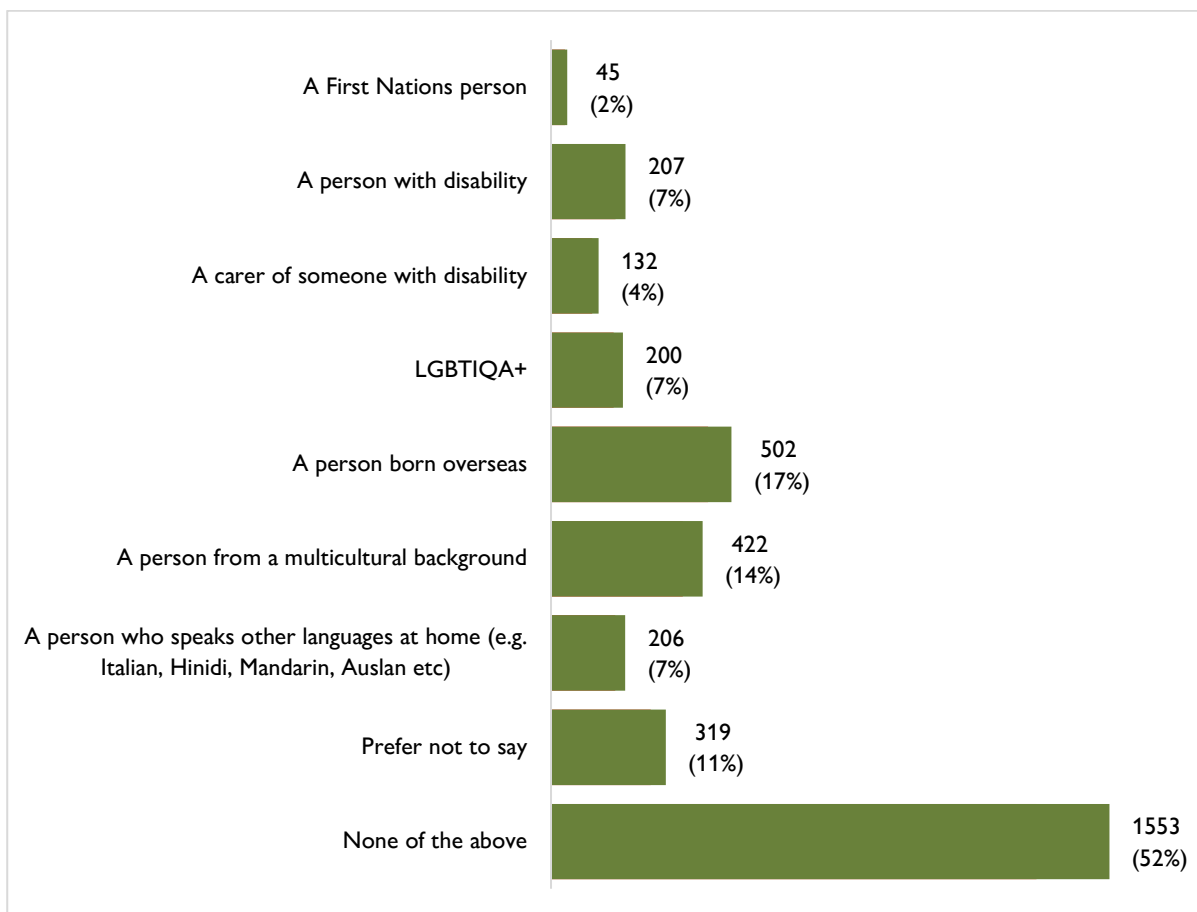


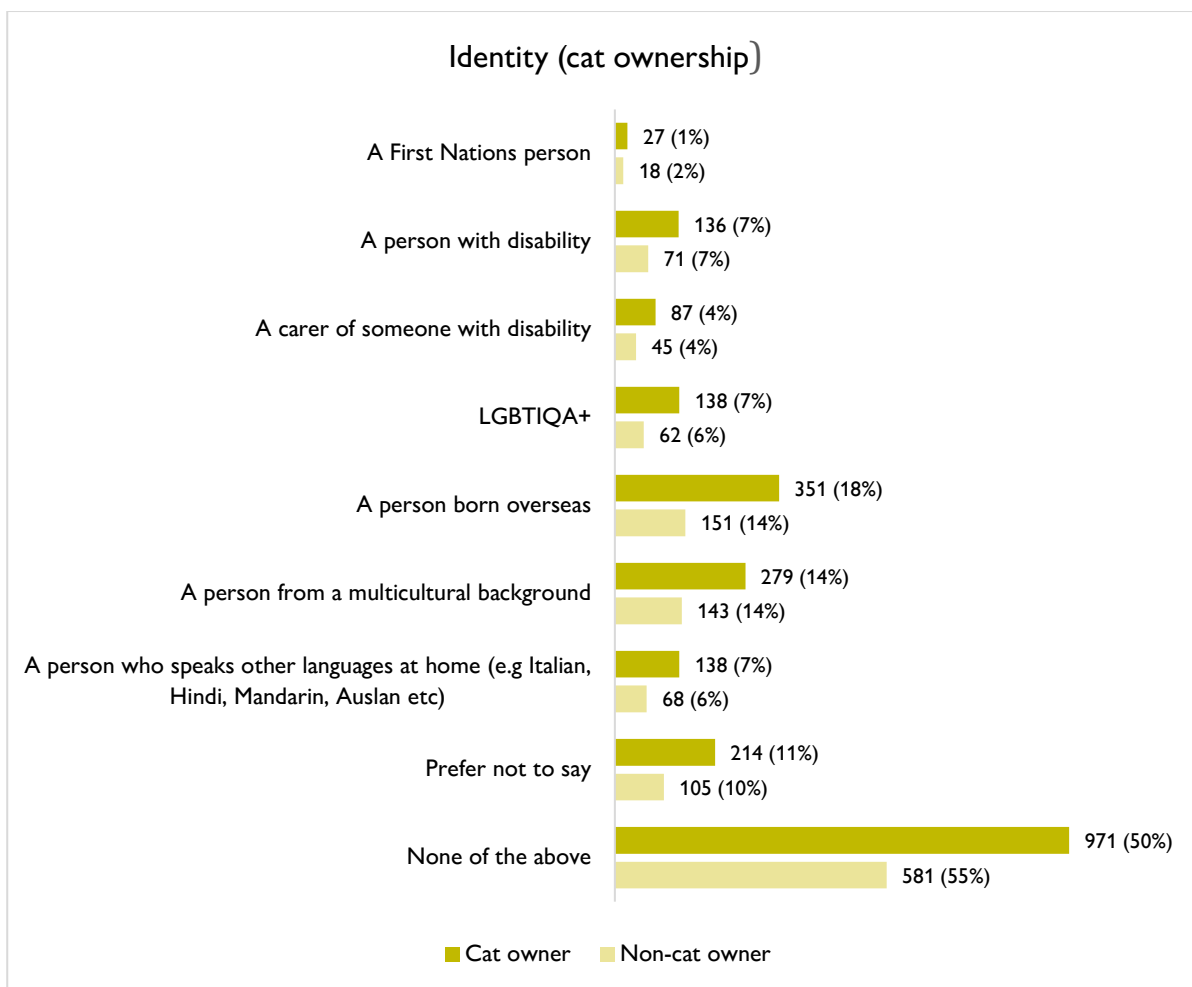
Question fourteen: Do you identify as any of the following?

This was a required question. It received a 100 per cent response rate (2,995 respondents).

- Over half of respondents (52 per cent) did not identify with any of the listed categories.
- Among those who did, the most common groups were those born overseas (17 per cent) and being from a multicultural background (14 per cent).

- Smaller numbers identify as a person with disability (7 per cent), LGBTIQ+ (7 per cent), speaking other languages at home (7 per cent), or being a carer of someone with disability (4 per cent).
- When looking at identity by cat ownership, the distribution is broadly similar — and cat owners and non-cat owners show comparable representation across most identity categories.
- Slight differences include a higher proportion of cat owners born overseas (18 per cent compared to 14 per cent of non-cat owners).

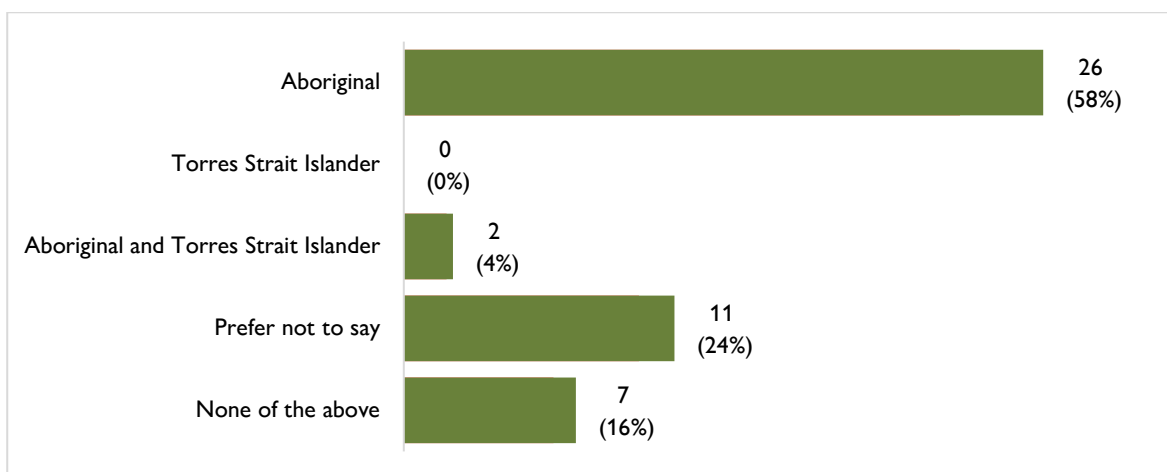




Question fifteen: Which identity relates to you?

This was a required question for people who identified as being a First Nations person. It received a 2 per cent response rate (45 respondents).

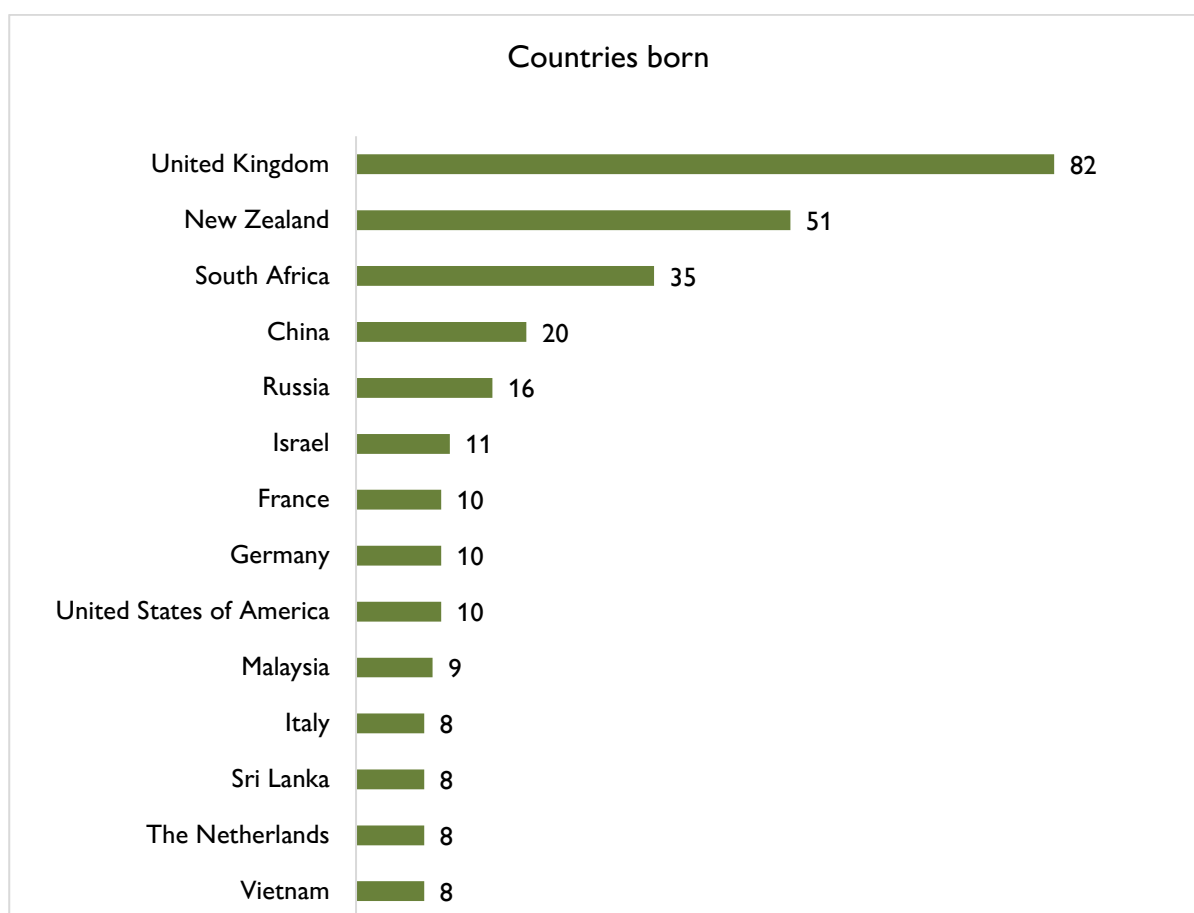
- Among those who identify as a First Nations person, most identify as Aboriginal.



Question sixteen: Which country?

This was an optional question for people who identified as being born overseas. It received a 13 per cent response rate (398 respondents).

- Of the 502 respondents who said they were born overseas, 398 provided a comment (79 per cent).
- Among those born overseas, most were born in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), followed by New Zealand and South Africa.
- The bar graph shows the countries with eight or more comments, and the remaining countries are summarised in the table below.



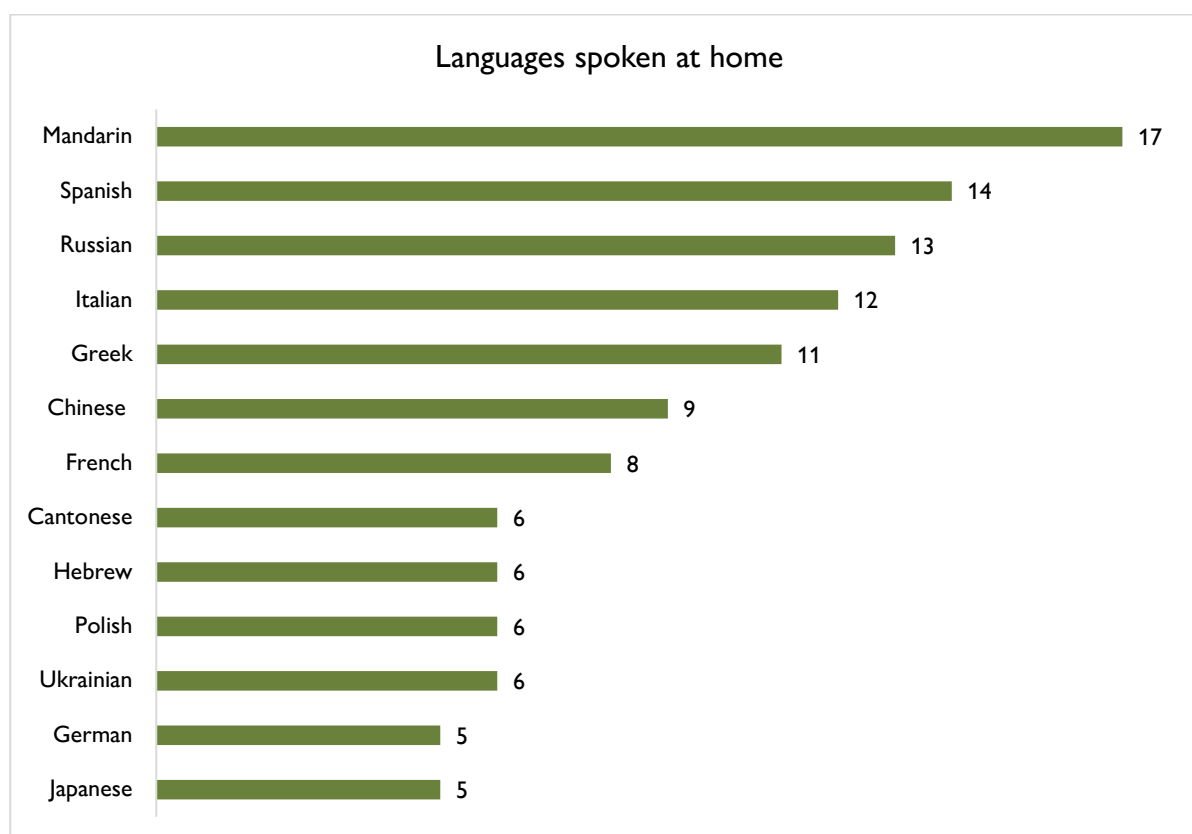
Country	# of comments
• Canada; Poland.	7
• India; Japan; Ukraine;	6
• Republic of Ireland	5
• Hong Kong; The Philippines; Sweden.	4
• Brazil; Hungary; Singapore; Spain; Türkiye.	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina; Chile; Fiji; Greece; Mauritius; Nepal; Peru; Serbia; Switzerland; Taiwan. 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria; Belgium; Bosnia; Cambodia; Croatia; El Salvador; Former Yugoslavia; Indonesia; Iran; Kazakhstan; Libya; Malta; Moldova; New Caledonia; Pakistan; United Arab Emirates; Slovakia; Zambia. 	1

Question seventeen: Which language/s?

This was an optional question for people who identified as speaking other languages at home. It received a five per cent response rate (140 respondents).

- Of the 206 respondents who said they speak other languages at home, 140 provided a comment (67 per cent).
- Among those who speak other languages, most speak Mandarin, Spanish and Russian.
- The bar graph shows the languages with five or more comments, and the remaining countries are summarised in the table below.



Language	# of comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutch; Vietnamese 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portuguese; Arabic 	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auslan; Chinese dialects; Hindi; Maltese 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bosnian; Croatian; Fars; Filipino; Hakka; Hokkien; Hungarian; Indonesian; Kannada; Korean; Lithuanian; Malay; Malaysian; Mauritian Creole; Nepali; Romanian; Serbian; Serbo-Croatian; Swedish; Swiss; Tamil; Turkish; Wiradjuri. 	1

Email submissions

A total of 44 email submissions were received during the engagement period.

- 30 percent supported no curfew (13 submissions).
- 25 per cent supported an overnight curfew (11 submissions).
- 16 percent supported a 24-hour curfew (7 submissions).
- Three email submissions supported a curfew, without specifying a preference.

Some of these emails were received from respondents who had also completed the survey but wanted to provide further information or comments. The full email submissions are provided at Appendix A.

Theme	Description of comments	# of comments
Night-time curfew is more practical and affordable than 24-hour containment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easier for owners to comply with and less disruptive for cats, especially if they already roam. Considered the most sensible and humane option. 	10
Curfew is considered unnecessary or unjustified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief that the impact of roaming cats in Glen Eira is minimal and does not warrant a curfew. A lack of sufficient data or evidence to justify a curfew. Not considered an efficient or effective way to manage roaming cats. 	9
Concerns about fairness and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about how enforcement would work, including the cost of enforcement for Council, how cats would be caught, treated, and safely returned — and how fines or penalties would be issued. It can be difficult for cats to adjust to containment, and owners may struggle to control their movements — especially if the 	9

	cat is already accustomed to roaming. For many, this is impractical and not feasible.	
A curfew will negatively impact feline welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats need to roam for exercise and stimulation. A curfew would be considered cruel or restrictive for cats. 	9
A curfew reduces harm to wildlife and other animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits impacts on birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. 	9
Supports 24-hour curfew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General support stated for the introduction of a curfew without any specific reasoning. 	7
Cost related concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of modifying properties to contain cats can be significant for many owners — particularly renters or those in low-income households — making compliance with a curfew more difficult. Cost of introducing a curfew and use of rate payer money. 	6
Prioritise education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners need education, time, and resources to adapt and cat-proof their properties. 	5
Most owners already keep cats indoors at night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects current behaviour and supports feasibility of a night-time curfew. 	4
Discourages or disadvantages cat ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May discourage cat ownership resulting in abandoning or drop in adoption. Viewed as discrimination against cat owners. 	4

Appendix A: Email submissions

Email 1:

As much as I acknowledge the local wildlife, I equally acknowledge the rights of cat owners.

Working with seniors for example who are on a Home Care Package, some issues you may not have considered include:

- How will seniors manage to keep their cat inside?
- How will seniors manage to change the cat litter when they have medical or mobility issues?
- Most seniors on the pension could not afford cat fencing or cat runs, let alone the extra costs of cat litter and a cat tray.
- How do you expect seniors to clean the cat litter, most have health and mobility issues and would be unable to lift, carry, let alone walk with a tray or bag filled with cat litter.
- Most seniors can not bend and need their hands to use their mobility aids, so asking them to change cat litter becomes a major safety risk.
- Most seniors do not have family or friends who can help them
- Home Care Package providers already have to deal with clients who are hoarders, but the thought of their cat being locked inside and the smell and mess is unthinkable, not to mention the OH & S issues, this is opening a huge can of hazardous worms.
- Clients who have a cat, informed me their cats have the freedom to come and go and sleep with them every night. If they need to go to the toilet, they go through their pet door to do their business and come back inside.
- How can you enforce what time a cat has to come in, let alone get it in by a certain time?
- If a cat owner with a pet door also has a dog, the dog would be forced to remain inside and will not be able to go to the toilet, again, how could the senior clean up this potential slip hazard.
-
- How do you expect seniors to manage this?

- Seniors on a Home Care Package can not use their funds to pay for a carer to change the cat litter. (it is not an approved service)

A responsible cat owner will feed their domestic cat enough that they would not need to hunt wildlife.

A responsible cat owner will have their domestic cat microchipped, desexed & registered and the cat owner could be traced.

Perhaps one solution is if a cat has been 'caught' then the owner is given a warning and further issues a fine.

Non-responsible cat owners may not have their cats registered, desexed or microchipped. These cats may become feral and hunt wildlife, finding their owners would be near impossible. I do not believe you can compare the feral cats with the domestic cats.

With the huge increase in building constructions under the City of Glen Eira, there is also a huge increase in mice and rats, I would be thrilled to know my cat keeps these disease vermin under control

Council could

- Continue to educate and encourage potential and existing cat owners of their responsibility
- Provide free desexing to help reduce unwanted cats
- As part of cat registration, provide a GPS tracker so owners can see if their cat roams (responsible cat owners would act on this)
- Adopting a cat from an agency or adoption program should be free and provide a discount for registration, microchipping and desexing
Buying a cat from a pet store should be banned.
I suspect responsible cat breeders do the right thing before they sell any cats e.g microchip etc
- Provide a subsidy for registered cat owners who want to install a cat fence or cat run to help with the purchase and installation costs
- Provide a discount to cat owners who can prove they have a cat fence or run for their annual registration fee.
- Educate and plan: e.g. all new business and residential builds along parklands should have a cat fence as part of their planning and construction

There are too many unwanted cats, so planning to reduce this should be a high priority in future planning and involve councils, animal welfare groups, breeders etc.

I understand it may be possible to train a kitten but how do you train a mature or senior cat?

How will you support seniors with a cat who cannot afford extra costs or physical support they may need to keep a cat inside?

Community education is certainly needed and encouraged, you can not just bring in a new law and that's it. We live in a suburb, not the bush.

Responsible cat owners should not be penalized for non-responsible cat owners.

Not all cat owners live along or adjoining parklands.

Like the introduction of solar panels, education & awareness must come first, allow time for people to take this information in, then if you have to implement change, it should be implemented in stages, provide appropriate time, offer subsidies to help homeowners with extra costs, options not compulsory.

As a registered, desexed and microchipped cat owner myself, I could not afford a cat fence or run. My cat is too old to justify the costs.

My cat has the freedom to come and go, sleeps inside every night and uses the pet door as too the dog to attend their toilet needs.

My cat sadly has brought in mice and rats, but never, NEVER any wildlife in 16 years. In fact my cat sits in the back and front yard and just watches the birds on the bird feeder without any incident, meows etc.

A wildlife carer at Karkarook Park, told me not all the wildlife in her care had been injured by cats, most had been injured by humans, cars, dogs, foxes, rats, other birds even possums and reptiles.

If we lived in a bushland area, or adjoining parkland like Karkarook Park, Caulfield Park Landcox Park etc, then a curfew could be considered, but most of us live under the City of Glen Eira in suburbs and therefore I am NOT in favour of any curfews, but am in favour for education and appropriate planning.

Planning could include compulsory new builds next to parklands, include the construction of a cat fence residential or business.

Planning, existing parklands which adjoins a home/business install cat fencing which could be subsidized by existing cat registration fees.

Thank you for this opportunity

Email 2:

Dear officers at Glen Eira council,

We (and most cat owners) always bring our cat in each evening and let him out in the morning.

We don't need a new enforcement law to do this. It should be a recommendation, not a law.

He has been outside during the day for 13 years and would hate to be confined during daylight hours.

He doesn't attack any animals and is on our property 99% of the day.

Please consider our opinion.

Email 3:

We have owned our rescue cat for some 12 years.

The cat has the run of the backyard - but is always on a lead (picture).

Not once in 11 years has the cat roamed the street, so to speak.

And, at night it is protected from the possums as it is inside sleeping in the laundry.

There is no cat door.

Many of our neighbours did not even know for "years" that we owned a cat.

Nighttime curfew - no problems, agree.

24 hour curfew - the cat stays on our property at all times. As it does - no problem

No curfew - that would not apply to us as our cat is not allowed to roam freely.

Email 4:

Whilst I am in favour of the principle of a cat curfew, I believe it is almost impossible to

achieve. I am very fortunate in that I have a totally indoor cat. Even when I open the front or back door, my cat makes no attempt to go outside. Whilst it would be ideal to have a totally indoor cat curfew, it would be too expensive for current cat owners to institute, not to mention the stress placed on previous outdoor cats. The same applies to a much lesser degree to instituting a night curfew, but it still would be somewhat stressful on cats that previously were out. It may require a gradual process with curfews applying to new kittens and allowing the numbers of previously outdoor cats to naturally decline.

Email 5:

My vote is for no curfew as my cat is a rescue cat and there is absolutely no way they will stay inside. I have tried keeping her inside which led to her urinating everywhere and she became so stressed she became fecal incontinent.

As there are so many rescue cats that have spent time out on the street I don't think any curfew is going to work. Especially the ridiculous option for keeping them on property at all times, there is absolutely no way to oversee that.

Email 6:

Hello,

I am deaf and communicate in Australian Sign Language.

Unfortunately, I am unable to open the attachment.

My say: A night-time curfew: cats must stay on your property from sunset to sunrise.

1. I taught Rex in Australian sign language when he was a kitten.
2. Brisk walk with my cat Rex during my coffee breaks in morning and afternoon for fresh air and exercise.
3. Rex likes to look at the gardens, birds, and hear all kinds of sounds from outside.

I strongly don't agree with cats being imprisoned in the flats / apartments.

Email 7:

In lieu of a reasonable response option I chose the status quo.

Our cat is contained to indoors overnight after dinner time & has all day access to indoors however, sunset in the middle of winter? Most people don't get home from work until after dark so this seems impossible to manage.

I would think that an 8pm curfew would encourage more people to contain their cats overnight when the real problems occur.

Email 8:

I think it's responsible for cat's to be inside at nighttime. 98 percent of the time we have our cat, Dolly inside by sundown. Occasionally however we might be late home, or she gets a fright/is distracted and she is home later.

I believe cat owners should be encouraged to get their cats in at night but that that registered cats should never be seized or threatened. I don't believe in fines either. I believe in personal responsibility and education.

Email 9:

I agree with a nighttime curfew.

Email 10:

Definitely from dusk to dawn.

Email 11:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this proposal.

As a concerned cat owner, I think it is important to discuss, but I don't believe information has been shared properly.

This question is not just about having a curfew or not.

If a curfew is imposed, what are the rules and the consequences? Is there a structure for one off versus regular offence?

Your statistics indicate that this is actually not a problem, with less than half a percent of cats being impounded. What is the expected drop in this figure based on a night time or full time curfew?

I'm also concerned that being able to comply with a 24 hour curfew may concern some residents, who would benefit from a companion animal, to the point of not having one.

Our experience is that our cat mostly stays on our property, but if she does occasionally venture further then she returns within minutes. She is indoors at night so this is not a particular concern for us.

Again, if there is no reason to change I would not support the change, but irrespective of that, more information is needed in order to make the decision.

Email 12:

My cat strictly indoor but I agree with the curfews

Email 13:

As someone living with a cat, I appreciated the opportunity to be asked my opinion (which is that I think a **dusk-until-dawn curfew** is a great idea). However, I did not complete the survey because I objected to the specificity of the demographic data required.

Email 14:

Our cat is strictly indoor, so the proposed cat curfew doesn't concern us at all.

Email 15:

I am absolutely in favour of a strict, 24 hour, cat curfew.

Cats are efficient and ruthless predators and should not be allowed to roam in Australia.

Email 16:

Here is my opinion on the proposed changes.

I think that a 24 hour curfew is the healthiest option for our pets but it may be hard for owners to suddenly and dramatically change one of their pets behaviors.

I don't like my animals outside at night and I think cats as aloof as they are, should have a home and owner to return to and not just get fed by a person at a house they occasionally enter. I'm in favour of the night curfew for this reason.

That being said a 24 hour curfew will not affect me or my cat.

I only take my cat outside while supervised as she does enjoy the enrichment.

I believe a Night time curfew is the best compromise. I'm sure the vets in the area will be happy to not treat as many cat fight wounds which is sadly a large percentage of feline visits.

Enforcement will be a challenge for you and I think a focus on the owner doing wrong instead of the onus on a cat doing what it has always done. I am worried that some people will go out of their way to hurt a cat if they see one roaming "when it shouldn't be" past curfew. (Which is another reason for having an indoor only cat!)

Email 17:

I oppose any curfew as it changes the lifestyle my cat has enjoyed for the last 8 years . He will be stressed an if you proceed he would need to be euthenized. I will not change his way of life because you think we need to follow other councils, we also do not

I've on the fringe neighbouring bushland with native fauna that other councils do. This should not be considered.

Email 18:

I submitted feedback via the survey, but wanted to make a further point.

Cat enclosures are very expensive to build and maintain, so keeping a cat confined to your backyard is not an option unless you have the funds for this. Unit dwellers don't have this option at all. If you don't have an outside cat enclosure that the cat can access it is basically confined to the indoors at all times.

Surely, it would be agreed that is unhealthy for the cats to have no access to fresh air or the natural environment? Especially cruel if they've always previously had access to the outdoors. My cats like nothing better than to sun themselves out on the porch! I'm sure some cats do, but ours out hopeless hunters. Useless at catching birds and I doubt they travel much beyond our backyard but I'm quite horrified at the idea of denying them this simple pleasure (and very worried about how I would enforce it - they would simply dart

outside the minute a door or window was left open, by one of the 4 people who live in my house, including careless young people). Cats are far, far less biddable than dogs and much more difficult to control.

Also - what evidence is there of cats doing damage to property, in gardens etc ? This doesn't sound like typical cat activity- they're mostly up on the trees and roofs. Digging up gardens etc sounds more like something a dog would do, or maybe possums.

The rest of my feedback is contained in the survey.

Thank you very much for inviting and reviewing this feedback.

Email 19:

Just writing in to give some feedback on the recent policy.

I take my cat on leash and harness walks. We live in an apartment with no backyard and she enjoys to walk around outside a few times a week with me as she's a very active cat.

She does not free roam as it's too dangerous, only outside with me, on her leash.

If you implement a curfew please do not include it for cats who are accompanied by their owners.

Email 20:

Thanks for the correction email re cat curfew survey .

I did think the way we received this survey was a bit odd, to say the least, and it certainly raised concerns for me.

Regarding the actual content, I have looked through the "Have Your Say" page and the listed rationale for the survey.

I would have liked to see more specificity in the presentation of the rationale on the site, rather than just generalised, unsubstantiated comments. In my opinion, the fact that neighbouring councils are doing something similar is not a sufficient driver for our council to do the same. Considerably more relevant statistical data needs to be presented to evaluate the options properly. This data could then be used as a baseline for the council to track the effectiveness and outcomes of the selected option.

I am also concerned that the presentation, both in the letter and on the website, does not outline, even in general terms, what each option represents from the council's perspective. It fails to detail potential servicing models for each option, the possible costs to the council,

or the potential punitive aspects for cat owners. I believe there is certainly a place in this discussion to address potential incentives that could be developed for each option and to seek residents' attitudes and opinions on them.

I have a considerable interest in this area through my past involvement with RSPCA Victoria and from a policy perspective through my involvement for many years with the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).

I am very happy to provide more specific comments and advice. Please feel free to contact me.

Note: Cat management in Australia was also the subject of a very extensive RSPCA Australia report a few years ago.

Email 21:

I am voting for a 12 hour curfew (which is in place now , I believe) . It is unnatural for a cat to be imprisoned for the entire day . I have a cat who loves to go outside , and he does not hunt . I think he might if outside at night , which he isn't. He is fascinated looking out the window at the night life !

Email 22:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I am a resident of Glen Eira, and a cat owner of one 3 year old male. I am in favour of an overnight cat curfew. I have had several cats over the years while living in other suburbs such as Elwood, and Fitzroy where overnight curfews had already been in place for some time.

I am in favour of an overnight curfew because:

- cats pose a danger to other species including birds, possums, lizards, native mice etc and even insects. This is especially so at nighttime when cats are following their biological drive to hunt while possums are out looking for food and become prey.
- cats are apparently more at risk of being run over by cars at night when there is less traffic on the road - perhaps because cats are somehow more confident and more adventurous or daring at night.
- cats are at risk of harm by fighting with other cats who are also out at night.

I am not in favour of a 24 hour curfew because:

- a 24 hour curfew which would be unduly onerous on people like myself whose cat is used to having some freedom to roam during the day. I got my rescue cat as a kitten about 3 years ago. Had I known that Glen Eira might introduce a 24 hour curfew, I would have chosen an older cat who did not have as much energy to burn off and who would more easily adjust to life in doors. As it is now, I try to bring my cat in at 3 or 4 pm each day by the latest. A few hours outside is more than sufficient, however, right now, my cat would not tolerate being confined all day.
- my current living arrangement where I am caring for my elderly mother with dementia, does not lend itself to making a transition to a 24 hour curfew. While my mother is going in and out of the garden during the day, she could easily unwittingly let the cat out.

While cats pose a danger to other species, they do also provide very significant benefits to communities. These include:

- invaluable companionship for lonely and isolated people, including the elderly.
- fostering in children who grow up with them, a love, appreciation and regard for other species. Pet ownership can nurture in children the development of empathy in general, and a love and care for nature and the natural world.

Further, I believe there would be other people like myself, who delight in seeing and interacting with their neighbor's cats, or other friendly felines that might be encountered while walking in one's neighbourhood. Cats can be a source of solace and friendship even to people who cannot own them for various reasons.

For these reasons I think the City of Glen Eira should promote and encourage responsible cat ownership. A 24 hour cat curfew would be a disincentive to keep a cat for many families with children.

If Glen Eira were to move to a 24 hour curfew I think this should only be after trying an overnight curfew first, giving the cat owners time to adjust. In 2 or 3 more years time my cat will hopefully be less of a "teenager" and more easily adjust to full time life in doors if there is no other option.

Email 23:

Hi, I fully agree with the need for a cat curfew. We have tried to provide a wildlife friendly garden and particularly have welcomed nesting tawny frogmouths twice over the last few years. The greatest threat to the chicks and fledglings are cats. We have seen and heard cats on our property night and day. Even our neighbours who try to do the right thing to

get their cats in at night sometimes fail to do so. Unfortunately others seem to let their cats roam freely.

For this reason I strongly support a 24 hour curfew.

Email 24:

Why does Glen Eira want a cat curfew? Which raises the cost-of-living for all residents. Science from the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, and international studies, shows that cat curfews fail to save wildlife, make more homeless stray cats, raise expensive euthanasia, overload shelters, and place rescuers at suicide-risk higher than Australian police and firefighters endure. Please Consider a Science-proven Community Cat Program - 'One Welfare' Community Cat Programs are science-proven, effective cat management. Community Cat Program desexing programs reduce cat impoundments, reduce euthanasia, reduce wildlife predation, reduce nuisance calls, and associated costs. By engaging those already feeding and caring for unowned cats and providing council-backed resources, these programs turn carers into empowered owners, reducing intake, euthanasia, and complaints. Not through punishing mandates, but through partnership. Community Cat Programs reduce the number of stray cats in pounds and shelters, and free up more resources to care for and re-home dogs. Community Cat Program's 'One Welfare' approach optimises the well-being of people, animals and their environment. A Melbourne Council saved approximately one-million dollars during the eight years they ran a Community Cat Program. Urban Cat Management in Australia - Evidence-Based Strategies for Success. pages 9-10 'Cat-related calls to Banyule Council decreased in the target area by 51% and citywide by 36%. Savings associated with reduced cat-related calls to council, and the reduction in time spent by AMOs addressing complaints, estimated at A\$290 per call, was approximately A\$137,170 over the eight years of the program. Further savings to council emanated from reduced costs associated with charges from the contracted shelter (A\$303,490). The total estimated savings over eight years were A\$440,660. The cost to council for sterilizations and microchipping amounted to A\$77,490 for the eight years. Similar or greater decreases in cat-related calls to councils in NSW and Queensland over two to three years were reported following implementation of similar programs. The flow-on effects of these programs include significant benefits to the contracted shelter, due to reduced cat intake. Given the estimated cost for each admitted cat of at least A\$400 and in some cases over A\$1000 for housing, sterilization, microchipping, and miscellaneous veterinary care, it is estimated that the program in the City of Banyule saved the shelter contracted (CPS) approximately A\$619,942 over the eight years based on a cost of \$400/cat, less income paid by Banyule per cat (\$80/cat until 2017/18 and \$150/cat from 2018/2021). Over the eight years of the program, the total savings to the local government and the contracted shelter

were estimated to be closer to A\$1 million, which did not include the value of the social or environmental benefits.' Additional flow-on, uncostered, savings would be community mental health and wellbeing. Urban Cat Management in Australia—Evidence-Based Strategies for Success <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/8/1083> (Banyule) Impacts of a Local Government Funded Free Cat Sterilization Program for Owned and Semi-owned Cats: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/11/1615> Community Cat Programs: <https://petwelfare.org.au/community-cat-programs> Video, Getting to Zero: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQbK3R36Xjg> 1 Over a one-to-three-year period, the Community Cat Program yielded a 30-50% reduction in cat impoundments across targeted areas – numbers that continue to fall in successive months and years. With no new litters being born, the cat population declines, - Fewer stray cats mean less wildlife predation. - Reducing the number of stray cats in pounds and shelters frees up more resources to care for and rehome dogs. - Job satisfaction and mental health of staff in pounds and shelters are positively impacted (due to reductions in unnecessary euthanasia) Intensive targeted desexing Community Cat Programs are used in Europe, and across the USA - which has revoked leash-laws/curfews, as being unenforceable without identifiable owners. Curfews Cost Curfews raise the stray cat, homeless, population; and are a barrier to ownership. Curfews rise costly trapping and killing, while proving to be ineffective, and unenforceable. Cat curfews fail to save wildlife, rise the euthanasia of healthy animals, and rise the suicide-risk in rescuers. Curfews are divisive in neighbourhoods. Curfews contribute to mental stress in carers, and community animal workers. 90percent of Victoria's impounded cats have no owners - to contain at night, or to convict. Curfews do not lessen roaming stray cats - instead they exacerbate the issue of ownerless cats. Curfews raise euthanasia. Pound providers charge councils for the greater euthanasia. Cat curfews raise the cost-of-living for residents - without demonstrating desired results. Curfews punitive fines particularly target renters, the disabled, and the elderly. Caring for a cat becomes a fearful, and financial, burden - and can force choosing between the surrender of a loved fur-family member, or food-on-the-table. Companion cats are essential workers, kinship, children own therapy cats, and the elderly - when many can no longer walk dogs. The City of Stonnington and the City of Boroondara did not make curfews. Merri-bek City Council and Hobsons Bay City Council rejected cat curfews, to focus on unowned cats. 24-hr cat curfews have failed in the City of Casey and Yarra Ranges Councils. Bayside City Council, City of Greater Geelong, Mount Alexander Shire and Frankston City Council have rescinded 24-hr cat curfews, recognising the facts. Rethinking Urban Cat Management—Limitations and Unintended Consequences of Traditional Cat Management: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/15/7/1005> Download - Key Issues Mandated Cat Containment: [https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/ cat-containment](https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/cat-containment) <https://framerusercontent.com/assets/kl6AZmco2gL9MtgHEVyOAFZCXbM.pdf> How is a

roaming cat issue solved when it is not addressed? It is not irresponsible owners - when homeless cats have no owners - to contain them, or to convict. Less Health, Less Homes. Contrary to 'More liveable communities. Keeping cats safe' Latest research show that poison laid for rats is killing more native animals. Rats have developed resistance to poisons which continue to kill large numbers of native birds and frogs, and are so potent that they are lethal to secondary predators that feed on rodents, including tawny frogmouths, Australian boobooks and eastern barn owls. Poisons leaching into waterways have also been found in frogs and toads, while possums and reptiles have also been found to contain SGARs. The poisons work by preventing blood clotting, causing animals to die from internal bleeding. 'Ratsak is losing its bite: How to get rid of the rats in your ranks' [https:// 2 www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/ratsak-is-losing-its-bite-how-to-get-rid-of-rats-in-your-ranks-20250604-p5m4sm.html](https://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/ratsak-is-losing-its-bite-how-to-get-rid-of-rats-in-your-ranks-20250604-p5m4sm.html) The Age, June 10, 2025. Cat curfews further burden Glen Eira's 'priority with 12.3percent' 'living with disability', and the 'most common' families 'with children' (DAMP). Comments AdvoCats have received: How can I stop the cat from following out the dog and the children? Our landlord won't install flywire screens. Older residents say they cannot walk a dog anymore so now have a cat. Curfews making a lack of affordability is often mentioned. Young people have said that a cat curfew is forcing the relinquishment of their best friend and companion. Cat curfew fines particularly target renters and the elderly for high fines. Cat curfews make inequality between dog and cat owners, and are divisive in neighbourhoods - further impacting safety and liveability for many, and particularly the already disadvantaged. Indoor cats are more at risk of Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease - which can be fatal. Reported is also the greater stress for carers, as well as stress in cats, greater costs, inequality to neighbours owning dogs, making carers imprisoned too, fearfulness, and mental-health distress. Many residents own both dogs and cats and want their cats to enjoy their lives equally. All responsible owners lock-in their cats at night - bedtime feeding could be encouraged. Curfews are a deterrent to ownership. Curfews overburden Glen Eira's families, renters, students, and the elderly, to care for their cats. 90percent of council cat impounds, have no homes, and curfews make less homes. It is not irresponsible owners, it is irresponsible councils. Curfews make greater wildlife deaths, greater euthanasia, higher cost-of-living, and less health, and less liveability. If wildlife and human lives would be valued by the City of Glen Eira, it would be demonstrated in using science-proven solutions, and facts. Instead of opinion, and a political 'war on cats' in expensive, ineffective curfews. Terminology, Training, Accuracy Please cease citing faulty data with inaccurate estimates of urban cat predation. [https:// petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/domestic-cats](https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/domestic-cats) Download evidence - Issues to Consider About Cats and Urban Wildlife: <https://framerusercontent.com/assets/qF3mhYTVyyM1EguYBmdVySJuyT4.pdf> Calling urban domestic cats 'feral', 'wild' and 'pest' imperils lives, and prevents being seen as a potential 'pet', and outlaws care. Felines have a long association with females, and feminine

attributes, as canines do with males, and the masculine. To make lesser, to deprive, can aid and condone cruelty acts, as being undeserving to live. Mis-naming, and false blame, enables hate-speech and threats of harm. Damaging name-calling, and tropes, often precedes violence. Cat definitions: <https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/cat-definitions>

Training for Animal Management Officers and Local Laws is essential. Current desexing aid fails to help the cats, and carers, most in need. Community Cat Programs need to be run by CCPeducated officers. Banyule's Community Cat Program ran only for eight years until key staff retired. Banyule saved a \$1million during those years. Then Council employed staff, without knowledge and without necessary training, who then ruined Banyule's Community Cat Program. Contract Killing Why does Glen Eira's DAMP cite RSPCA's Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife, and Who's for Cats? RSPCA Victoria's new campaign 'Rethink Roaming' references the Invasive Species Council's faulty data. A campaign designed to raise euthanasia paid for by Councils. With costs presumed passed on to residents. There is no reference to scientific cat management. No reference to the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation. 3

Rethink Roaming quotes the Invasive Species Council which pushes Australia-wide cat curfews. The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald have reported on ISC's plan to collar Victoria's 'threatened species' native dingoes, against their welfare, and without consulting First Nations. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/dingoes-to-be-collared-incontentious-bid-to-protect-sheep-20250401-p5lo8v.html> The Invasive Species Council also pushes the use of the Felixer, using 1080 poison - known to also kill small native mammals, Wedge-tailed eagles, dingo pups, and pet dogs, torturously, in great agony. Re-citing the private Invasive Species Council's false figures, incites hate-speech, threats of cruelty, and death-acts. Why ignore the actual scientific evidence? Why make a cat curfew that kills more wildlife, not less? Glen Eira's RSPCA is a high-killing pound contractor. Cat curfews raise euthanasia. Raising euthanasia is profitable for a killing-pound, charging the Council, and entailing higher costs to residents. Determination to kill more healthy animals brings community distrust and loss of faith in Council. Particularly if misinformation is spread of a curfew being a cure for roaming cats. When 90percent of roamers have no home to be in, and no identifiable owner to convict. When curfews re'education' is for greater cost-of-living expenses, greater inequality, and greater animal deaths. Inequality Glen Eira dogs have thirty off-leash parks and reserves. What do Glen Eira's, around 5000, registered cats receive for their payments? A dog can walk on the streets, and enjoy public places. Where are the cat parks, cats-welcome cafes to drink outside, and cat events? Mandated curfews give rise to hate-speech, threats, and cruelty, towards felines and carers. Curfews make homing harder for rescuers; as well as placing more stress upon renters, and struggling carers. Fencing is expensive, if there is even a yard, and not an option for renters. Social housing often has no enclosed outdoor spaces. Cats like to day-sleep and to follow round the sun - which no enclosure can do. 24-hr cat curfews mean that cats have no visibility, no

safety to be seen outside, and on streets. Even the RSPCA 'does not recommend' that cats be walked on a leash. Lifetime lockdown instantly makes cat-owners inferior to dog-owners, and removes the only reason for registration - for if a cat gets lost. Equality between neighbours is eroded; trust, and health are impacted. Hidden cats are more at risk of cruelty acts. Being a different species has been devalued. 'Copycat' curfews. 'Following the lead from other councils' Science shows that 24-hr curfews have failed in Casey and Yarra Ranges.

Download - Key Issues Mandated Cat Containment: <https://petwelfare.org.au/position-statements/cat-containment> On April 1 2025, City of Melbourne made a 14-hr cat curfew (6pm-8am). Agenda 6.1 9. published, falsely, that the City of Stonnington had introduced a cat curfew. Councillor Dr Ball, claimed that 'Merri-bek has 24-hr containment provisions which is our neighbouring council...' 'and Merri-bek cats are contained all day long'. In fact, Merri-bek Council rejected mandated containment, to instead focus on unowned cats. These untrue statements were used to make a cat curfew, Melbourne's Mayor joked of a 'dog's breakfast', a 'cat-as-trophe.' '5454 cats registered' '56 cat complaints'. 'Cr Ball has identified Merri-bek as one that has the containment policy. I have identified two bordering municipalities which have a curfew.' The Mayor thrice stated that all Metropolitan 9 Councils should have uniform cat laws. No correction was made of the false claims before the vote. Vote was 5-to-5, then the Mayor used his extra vote to make the curfew. 4 The Melbourne Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is an ongoing funder of the private Invasive Species Council which pushes cat curfews, 1080's torturous poisoning, and causing greater native animal deaths. Science shows that cat curfews will rise strays, rise impoundments, rise expenses, and rise the deaths of kittens, while failing to 'save wildlife'. Science disproves curfews 'Designed to save wildlife'. Local Councils make night curfews, then say that 'it is not working', to then impose 24-hr lifetime lockdown, with ever more expense, more killing, and pain thrust upon the community. Stonnington and Merri-bek Councils chose to act on evidence, not to 'copycat' ineffective cat curfews - not to 'follow the lead' for greater wildlife deaths. In May 2025. Stonnington residents fought to keep Save-a-Dog Scheme's 'No Kill' Shelter, against Council Agenda for the Lost Dog's Home euthanasia, and LDH's admitted doctored reporting. Funding Deaths or Supporting Lives Can Glen Eira consider scientific research from The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, USA and European studies, for living solutions, to save animals, and to improve the welfare of Council animal workers and residents? Community Cat Programs' microtargeted desexing and voluntary, community-led strategies target the cause - of roaming, stray, cats. Victoria's 90percent of homeless impounds. Cat curfews turn Council Animal Management Officers into punitive police - the kitten-killers dealing out death and court-fines to the poorest. Community Cat Programs recast officers as welfare support for rescuers, for living animal solutions, which brings better mental health, and mutual respect. Consider Council support for Community Cat Rescuers. Cat curfews place greater burdens on volunteer community rescuers - who

raise funds for treatment, desexing, food, homes and ongoing care. A Glen Eira cat curfew will cost more than kitten-lives, it also costs more in mental-health help, and suicide-prevention, and community distrust for Council's commanding greater expense - without producing better results. Consultation Why is Glen Eira's consultation written to sway support for a cat curfew? 'No curfew: continue with the current approach, allowing cats to roam freely' is claimed, without mention that there are already laws to keep a cat off your property. Why does Glen Eira use words of 'protect' 'safe' and 'more liveable'? When science shows that cat curfews fail to save wildlife? Councils use open-worldwide surveys, anonymous, able to be completed multiple times by a person - allowing hate-groups to target, to hide, and manipulate figures. There is no proof of residency, or of connection to the city. No proof of pet ownership, gender etc. Lack of evidence for a curfew, lack of informed consent, lack of transparent consultation, appears to support only the Council Agenda to make a cat curfew. Opinion-led decisions for cat curfews, worsen the problem of homeless, impounded cats - which have no owner to contain them, or to convict. Curfew fines upon registered owners, particularly target renters, the elderly, students and families. 5 If Glen Eira was to be a Leader, Liveable, Healthy, and to Lower the Cost-of-Living Respect for Felines could include not intimating that cat-carers are 'crazy' 'childless' 'need mental help' for loving not 'the right pet', if they are not a 'real dog lover', and needing curfews' punitive 'education'. Could felines, and females, walk without fear on streets, have respect, visibility and outdoor public space, equal to canines, and males? Can Glen Eira envision a future where both felines, and females, can walk safely without fear, be seen on streets, and not experience hate-speech, threats of violence, of shooting, of having throats cut, being scared, trapped, and enduring lifetime-lockdown imprisoning and silencing? Can as much respect, and value, be accorded to felines, and females, as is accorded to canines, and males? Can Glen Eira cats publicly share greetings, socialise and sun-bathe? How does a cat curfew make financial sense? How is this being 'responsible' to residents? Why make a cat curfew which raises the cost of living, is a science-proven failure in cat management, raises expensive euthanasia, punishes carers, and places rescuers at high suicide-risk? Community Cat Programs bring communities together - saving many animal lives, saving costs, and community health - using science-proven cat management.

Email 25:

24hour curfew for cats

Email 26:

Let's let the native birds live! Unless of course we can train cats to only prey on non native birds!

Email 27:

24 hour, like the Bass Coast.

Email 28:

Ild like to just leave things how they are.

My cat is 10yrs old & has always gone outside to go toilet.

We don't have a little tray & don't intend getting 1.

Email 29:

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my thoughts on the plans to implement a cat curfew in Glen Eira.

As a responsible cat owner, I ensure that our cat is confined within our premises during nighttime hours (usually before 7 pm), is microchipped, vaccinated, desexed, and wears the council tag. I understand the importance of responsible pet ownership in maintaining the community's safety and well-being.

I believe that a comprehensive discussion about the proposed cat curfew is crucial before any implementation. A thorough examination of the factors contributing to roaming cat issues, such as stray cats or unneutered pets, can help the council develop targeted and effective measures that address the problem without unduly restricting responsible cat owners.

It is important to acknowledge that the safety of local birds is a concern; however, attributing the problem solely to cats may not be accurate. Other factors, such as the presence of dogs, larger bird species, and foxes, should also be considered in assessing the overall impact on the ecosystem.

Thank you for considering my feedback on this matter. I look forward to continued engagement with the council and the possibility of collaborating on responsible pet ownership initiatives that benefit the Glen Eira community.

Email 30:

If you look at the actual scientific reports, and also contact the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, then Glen Eira might consider not killing more cats, and more wildlife, by making a curfew which does not help the problem - when 90percent of impounded cats have no owners to contain them, and no owners to convict.

It is not a 'perspective' it is proven science. Why do you think the USA has revoked leash laws/curfews as useless without an identifiable owner?

If you are determined to kill more wildlife, and to raise the cost-of-living with higher trapping and killing - which only worsens the problem of homeless, stray cats, then you will.

We hope you might read actual peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

Email 31:

I have recently been invited to provide feedback on the Cat Curfew proposal in Glen Eira, as I am a cat owner in Glen Huntly.

I've completed the survey, but also wanted to provide a more long form answer, as this is a subject I care very deeply about!

I qualified as a veterinary nurse in New Zealand in 2005. During my career, I have worked in shelters, private practice, emergency and specialist university hospitals across Australia and New Zealand as well as working as a trainer and assessor of new veterinary nurses.

My career has had a large emphasis on feline medicine and welfare. I spent 11 years of my career working at Paddington Cat Hospital in Sydney, studied the Diploma of Feline Medicine through International Society of Feline Medicine (Now International Cat Care), have volunteered my time to various TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) programs to assist in the desexing of feral cat populations, and have fostered and rehabilitated very ill cats in my own home until they were stable for adoption.

I've also volunteered for the City of Sydney Council with Cats Protection Society and Inner City Strays to lend my expertise in presenting workshops to educate the public on responsible pet ownership and provide free desexing to those who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

I have two pet cats of my own - they are 18 and 10 years old. They adore having up to a few hours supervised access to our safely enclosed back yard on sunny days, but otherwise live indoors only.

Despite believing that the indoors lifestyle is best for my cats, as they have suitable enrichment, and that I believe it is safer for them, I **do not support** any proposal of a cat curfew for Glen Eira.

On the information page, you have said that more than 5000 people have registered cats in Glen Eira. And 80 cats were impounded in Glen Eira in 2023. This is a very small number - representing 0.016% of people owning cats - and a smaller percentage knowing that many people would have multiple cats registered.

What percentage of those 80 impounded cats were confirmed to be cats registered to residents of Glen Eira? What percentage of those cats were from a feral or semi-owned population?

Feral Cats

Most of my concerns regarding a cat curfew relate to feral cat populations.

It is an unfortunate reality that Australia has a large feral cat population, and it is a problem that we are unlikely to ever solve due to their success in survival and breeding in Australian bush and cities.

Numerous sources including <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/cats-in-australia/> state that there are around 5 million pet cats in Australia. There are at least another 5 million feral cats - though, I suspect this number is significantly higher.

The blame for harm to wildlife is blamed on "roaming" cats - but this does not make the distinction between pet cats who have access to outdoors, or feral cats who live outdoors permanently, and are skilled hunters.

Feral cats have a tendency to fill any available territory - which is why TNR programs are favoured by any reputable cat organisation. The "R" (Return) of TNR is important - we aim to desex cats and return them to where they are found to "maintain" the population. If you remove a feral cat population from an area instead of returning, another non-desexed, feral population will quickly take its place and start breeding.

I feel that a cat curfew would expend wasted resources in rounding up feral cat populations - with no associated owners to pay fines. The attempted removal in any feral cat populations will inevitably result in the population "refilling" with an infinite supply of further feral cats and I believe that control of these populations by TNR programs is a much more effective use of resources.

<https://icatcare.org/articles/what-is-tnr>

<https://icatcare.org/articles/where-do-all-the-cats-on-the-streets-come-from>

<https://icatcare.org/articles/different-needs>

<https://icatcare.org/articles/cat-friendly-solutions-for-unowned-cats>

Safety & Education

As I mentioned, my cats are indoors only. Growing up, I had cats that have lived indoors/outdoors and I ultimately believe that it is a safer lifestyle for them to spend the majority of their time indoors and that most cats will live a happy life indoors if given proper enrichment.

Education is important, as the care required for an indoor cat may be more involved - some owners find it easier to simply let their cats roam for entertainment, exercise, and no litter trays to maintain. People should be educated about the benefits of keeping their cats indoors, rather than punished for lack of education and choices that may not be in their cats best interest.

Saying all this - I do not believe that having a cat who has access to the outdoors to be a "bad" thing. Some cats have personalities that are much more aligned to living an indoor/outdoor lifestyle, and struggle to thrive with an indoors only lifestyle.

<https://icatcare.org/articles/should-i-keep-my-cat-indoors-or-allow-outdoor-access>

Enforcement

Cats, unfortunately, do not understand property lines! Their territories can be complex and vary depending on the time of day or the movements of other cats in the neighbourhood. Asking a cat not to wander into a neighbours yard, or beyond a certain boundary is impossible. They also do not understand the request to "be home before sunset" - (here referring to the idea of a nighttime cat curfew). A cat curfew is attempting to go against the natural behaviour and instincts of a cat.

If my own cats were to somehow become lost and wander beyond my property, I would be devastated. They may not know how to come home, and certainly not be monitoring their watches to know what time they should be home. Enforcement of a cat curfew may mean that many cats of well-intentioned owners would be trapped and impounded, and the owners fined for something outside of their control.

Cats are very difficult to trap! Trapped cats are scared, and scared cats are dangerous. Attempting to trap a roaming cat is time consuming, costly, and poses a danger to those tasked with capturing it. Animal shelters and pounds are already under enough pressure with too many animals and not enough cages - capturing and impounding well loved pets adds additional pressure, as well as exposes the cats to diseases common in shelters.

There are people in our communities that do not like cats and intentionally cause them harm. Throughout my career I have seen cats caught in bear traps, shot with arrows and air

rifles - I fear that the council declaring a cat curfew will make people like this feel more justified in taking their anger out on beloved pets who may have wandered too far from home.

I could easily talk about cats, their behaviour and their welfare for hours! But in summary, I believe that education of responsible cat ownership, and providing cats with a safe, mostly indoors lifestyle, or understanding the risks and obligations with owning an outdoors cat is much more effective than additional rules and punishments. I believe that resources spent on the implementation and enforcement of a cat curfew are better directed to appropriate management of feral cat populations.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read all my thoughts! I'll definitely be watching to see how the project progresses. :)

Have a wonderful day!

Email 32:

Thank you for allowing community engagement on the issue of a cat-curfew.

We support a 24-hour cat-curfew.

The main reason we think a curfew is necessary is to protect ringtail possums, brushtail possums and indigenous birds.

We have had many birds and possums killed by cats on our property and burying a brushtail is akin to burying a cat. Birds are vulnerable at any time of day or night.

We also think a 24-hour cat-curfew will prevent cats getting injured from vehicles, cat fights and attack by other animals. About 2 years ago, while out running just after 6am, we saw a cat being chased by a fox across Brewer Road, Bentleigh. We have had a fox on our property twice in the same area of the garden that the cats frequent. The first time (we know of) I saw the fox scale a 2 metre fence on our property early one morning – it was after dawn. The second time was at night, picked up by our wildlife camera. What happens if a domesticated cat is killed by a fox on our property?

From August 2022 we have had 7 different cats caught by our wildlife camera on our property. Only two were able to be trapped with the council cages and these two cats reappeared at a later date. We have also had cats coming onto the property after first light when the birds are most active and when sometimes ringtail possums are still heading back to their dreys or the possum boxes we have installed.

As rangers are not employed at night, a night-time curfew does not work, as there is no enforcement by council, except by traps which are an inconvenience for the people having

to set them up and close them down during the daytime and which are ineffective in trapping many domesticated cats which, while well-fed and so not attracted by food, but still will kill native wildlife. A 24-hour cat-curfew makes it easier for rangers to identify cats which are being left to wander indiscriminately and return them to their owners.

As we have had so many problems with cats, we purchased three cat deterrent devices which have proven very effective (about \$200 each), although we may need more as we have had to move them around as we had three cats come in this year where we had no device. We also have had to put wire along fences and along gateways which we then have to remove to leave or access our property and this is proving very inconvenient. We feel that we are bearing all the cost, inconvenience and responsibility of protecting native animals and birds while other residents who own the causes of this destruction get off scot-free.

Email 33:

I think it is difficult for families whose cats are used to going out and having a sniff to suddenly restrict them in this way. A grand-fathering clause would allow those who already are registered to continue their lives as they are accustomed to, with restrictions placed on newly registered cats who don't know any different an option to gradually make the change.

Email 34:

Thankyou. I'm very supportive of Glen Eira Planning.. to create a Cat curfew.

Email 35:

As you are looking at whether a cat curfew would benefit both our feline friends and the wider environment, and you are seeking our opinion on three possible options:

- Nightly curfew: cats must remain on your property from sunset to sunrise.
- 24-hour curfew: cats must remain on your property at all times.
- No curfew: no change to our current approach, allowing cats to roam freely.

I would like to maintain the current approach: **No curfew: no change to our current approach, allowing cats to roam freely.**

I firmly believe that:

1. Outdoor access allows cats to engage in natural behaviour, and research suggests that preventing this behaviour can lead to frustration, boredom and the development of problem

behaviours such as aggression, inappropriate urination or toileting, and furniture scratching. Behavioural problems are often an indication that welfare is being negatively impacted, and the presence of these behavioural problems also increases the risk of cats developing other welfare-related problems such as abandonment or neglect.

2. Additionally, sun exposure is as important for animals (cats, dogs) as it is for humans. It builds and maintains strong bones and is associated with a healthy immune response, as well as playing a role in a number of other processes including muscle function, nerve health and cell growth. Adequate sun exposure in the morning and afternoon reduces the risk of developing late-stage cancer, fatal metastatic cancer, and autoimmune diseases, and reduces some inflammatory biomarkers in both humans and animals (since medical results are often confirmed in animals).

Email 36:

I would definitely support 24 hour cat curfew. I have seen what cats are doing to wildlife during the day and night.

Email 37:

I cannot see anywhere details about cats being required to be kept indoors under curfew suggestions. How do you propose a cat will be kept within the owners property? Cats climb trees and fences. This daytime or 24 hour curfew option is no barrier to preventing cats killing wildlife, defaecating on vegetable beds, spraying urine, being hit by cars etc. as there is no method to prevent cats leaving the property.

This curfew will be ineffective in my view for the above reason and a waste of time surveying, collating responses and publicising the result. The only effective curfew for a climbing predator is to prevent free access to the outside.

Could you let me know which wildlife organisations council consulted to guide this policy proposal?

Email 38:

Submission to Glen Eira Council in Response to a Possible Introduction of a Cat Curfew

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 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 30 peer-reviewed articles on urban animal management including management of semi-owned and unowned cats. Dr Rand is an AVA member.

You can read more about us and our vision on our website: <https://petwelfare.org.au>

While Glen Eira residents care deeply about their pets, including the more than 5,000 registered cats across the municipality, the introduction of a cat curfew risks placing unnecessary restrictions on responsible cat owners while failing to address the true source of most community concerns. The vast majority of owned cats in Glen Eira are already desexed, registered, and largely contained, either kept strictly indoors or allowed supervised access outside. These cats are not typically the source of nuisance complaints to council. In contrast, it is semi-owned and unowned cats, those without a clear legal owner, that are most often associated with issues such as roaming, and property trespass. Because these cats have no formal owner, curfews and enforcement-based approaches cannot be applied to them, rendering containment laws ineffective at addressing the actual problem.

There is currently no scientific evidence in Australia demonstrating that cat containment laws are effective in reducing stray cat populations or improving community amenity. On the contrary, early findings suggest that curfews increase complaints and shelter/pound intakes, as public expectations shift. Once a curfew is introduced, communities begin to expect that no free-roaming cats will be seen, yet this is unrealistic given the presence of unowned and semi-owned cats, whose behaviour is not altered by regulation. Without extensive community support programs, Australian Pet Welfare Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt Foundation this disconnect between policy and outcome can erode trust and increase the frustration of community.

Several other councils in Victoria, including Bayside, Geelong, and the City of Melbourne, have acknowledged the risks of implementing 24/7 containment laws, particularly during a time of widespread financial hardship. A 24/7 curfew risks disproportionately impacting low-income residents, renters, and older people, especially those who may be unable to modify their homes or afford outdoor enclosures.

Rather than introducing broad, punitive restrictions, Glen Eira has the opportunity to lead with a humane and practical approach. Investing in accessible desexing programs, targeted support for carers of semi-owned cats, and community education are far more effective and equitable strategies. These approaches align with the goals of Glen Eira's Domestic Animal Management Plan and reflect a One Welfare mindset, prioritising outcomes for people, animals, and the environment.

Definitions of cats.

The APWF recognizes and supports the definitions of cats as delineated in the findings and recommendations from RSPCA Australia's 2018 report, "Identifying best practice domestic cat management in Australia." These definitions categorize cats as Feral and Domestic (owned, semi-owned, unowned).

Domestic cats.

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:

- 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.
- 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.

Feral Cats

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.

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 communitybased 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.

Mandated Cat Containment

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) strongly supports keeping cats safely contained at night, within their owner's property in a comfortable and enriched environment. However, APWF does not support mandated cat containment, such as 24/7 confinement or night curfews, due to significant evidence showing these approaches are ineffective, expensive to enforce, and can lead to negative animal welfare outcomes. Mandated containment often increases cat-related complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia, while placing financial pressure on local councils. Critically, containment laws fail to reduce the number of free-roaming cats, particularly in disadvantaged areas where most nuisance cats are semi-owned or unidentified. In these locations, compliance is unrealistic for many residents who live in low-cost rentals, apartments, or social housing without secure outdoor areas or adequate home infrastructure. Enclosures can cost \$700–\$2000, making them inaccessible for many.

Cat curfews also create enforcement challenges. Unowned or semi-owned cats cannot be linked to a specific person, making infringements unenforceable. Where owners are identified, they often cannot afford to comply, and penalties can worsen financial stress without improving outcomes. Mandated laws can also discourage

Evidence from Victoria supports these concerns. After Yarra Ranges Council introduced 24/7 cat containment, cat-related complaints rose by 143%, impoundments by 68%, and euthanasia by 18%. In Casey, impoundments were still 296% above baseline after 20 years of containment laws, with complaints continuing to rise. Similarly, in the Mornington Peninsula Shire, which has had a 24/7 cat curfew in place since 1997, impoundments rose by 119% from 2013 to 2017 (2017–2021 DAMP), with the most recent reporting (2022–2025 DAMP) indicating a further 60% increase. These cases highlight the failure of mandatory approaches to reduce cat nuisance or intake.

Instead, APWF recommends promoting low-cost, voluntary strategies such as bedtime feeding, which encourages owners to bring cats inside at night by feeding them and closing doors and windows. This is an effective, low-cost method that protects wildlife and reduces nuisance behaviours like fighting and roaming. Promoting night-time containment, without

mandating it, is more likely to succeed, especially when supported by practical, accessible information and resources.

A more effective long-term solution involves community-based, microtargeted desexing programs that support low-income pet owners and semi-owners. In the city of Banyule, such a program desexed semi-owned and owned cats in high-need areas, resulting in a 66% reduction in impoundments, 82% reduction in euthanasia, and a 36% drop in cat-related complaints and 51% reduction in target area. These outcomes demonstrate that proactive, supportive approaches are far more effective than punitive ones.

To genuinely reduce free-roaming cat numbers, we need solutions that are feasible for all community members. APWF recommends a combination of promoting bedtime feeding, exploring subsidies for affordable enclosures, and implementing targeted desexing programs. These strategies offer a more compassionate, inclusive, and effective path forward. Please read more on our position statement and key issues on cat containment [Cat Containment: Position on Safe Pet Management – APWF](#)

Community Cat Programs

The APWF supports the expansion of innovative desexing initiatives such as that implemented in the city of Banyule (Cotterell 2024). These programs must include clearly defined, measurable objectives over 3–5 years and be targeted to suburbs with high shelter intakes or cat-related complaints. Within these areas, microtargeting specific streets or neighbourhoods where cats are most at risk of impoundment or surrender ensures greater impact. Effective programs also require sufficient intensity desexing 30 cats per 1,000 residents annually in targeted suburbs or 10 per 1,000 with microtargeting, otherwise objectives are unlikely to be achieved.

Strong local partnerships are essential for success in Community Cat Programs. Collaborating with veterinarians and welfare agencies can expand low-cost or free desexing, particularly for people who cannot access or afford private clinics. Programs should be adapted to local needs and barriers. A limiting factor is veterinary capacity, which constrains broader rollout. High-volume clinics offering early-age desexing should be supported, and animal welfare agencies encouraged, potentially funded, to develop such facilities for public access. Effective cat management requires coordinated community-wide efforts and cannot rely on a single agency.

Cat impoundments are highest in low-income areas (Chua 2023, Albertson 2016), where veterinary services may be inaccessible. These areas need affordable desexing options. Desexing and transport services should be supported by partnerships with local veterinary practices.

To reduce unwanted cats, economic barriers to desexing must be addressed, particularly for low-income households or to assist residents with financial stress. This requires affordable programs and grants targeted to vulnerable Victorians. Success depends on microtargeting based on data from cat-related calls and impoundments. Positive, assistive AMO engagement with people who own undesexed cats, especially those experiencing disadvantage, is essential. The Banyule model (Cotterell 2024) demonstrates how such engagement in disadvantaged areas can reduce shelter intake and euthanasia. Most carers of semi-owned cats will take full ownership of them if provided the support to do so (Zito 2015)

Many cat carers struggle, especially during the current cost-of-living crisis, cannot afford desexing, especially when managing multiple cats. These individuals require fully subsidised or very low-cost services. Council grants to enable AMOs to facilitate desexing for such cases would be highly effective. Transport assistance may also be required, and using AMOs to support transport to surgery is a more constructive use of their time than impoundment.

While general desexing promotion is helpful, programs not targeted to those most in need may have limited impact (Frank 2007), often subsidising those who would have desexed their pets anyway. Programs must be place-based, microtargeted to areas of need, and free from access barriers such as requiring pension or concession cards. Vouchers for local clinics may not be effective due to vet shortages and rising service costs. Based on RSPCA NSW experience (Ma 2023), only half of participants in microtargeted programs held benefits cards, highlighting that many who need help fall outside traditional criteria.

Addressing cat overpopulation effectively requires community partnerships and tailored, microtargeted responses. The APWF strongly supports place-based desexing programs that combine suburb-level targeting based on nuisance cat reports and impoundments, with local outreach by program staff. This dual approach, targeting where the problem is greatest and providing direct support to residents, offers the best chance for lasting, measurable impact on cat overpopulation and welfare.

Conclusion

Introducing a cat curfew in Glen Eira would be a costly misstep, punitive, ineffective, and out of step with the evidence. There is no scientific basis to support the claim that cat containment laws reduce free-roaming cat populations or improve community amenity. In fact, the opposite is often true: curfews create unrealistic public expectations, increase complaints and impoundments, and lead to greater euthanasia of healthy cats, particularly those who are semi-owned or unowned, and thus not subject to enforcement. These laws also risk harming vulnerable residents who are least able to comply, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.

Glen Eira now faces a critical choice: follow the flawed path of curfews that punish responsible owners and ignore the root causes of the issue, or take a compassionate, evidence-based approach that actually works. Community-based desexing programs, microtargeted to areas of highest need, combined with support for carers, low-cost transport, and assistance and support, not enforcement, are proven to reduce nuisance complaints, shelter intake, and euthanasia rates. Glen Eira has the opportunity to lead not through restriction, but through innovation, equity, and science backed solutions.

We urge Council to reject any proposed cat curfew and instead invest in strategies that uplift both community and animal welfare. The evidence is clear: if Glen Eira wants fewer roaming cats, it must remove barriers, not build them.

Email 39:

Firstly, I don't care what other council's are doing as each one is different, comprising different people, environments and situations.

Secondly, is there any research, in East Bentleigh, about the destructive behaviour of registered domesticated cats towards our native birds?

I have lived in the area since 1984 and the population of native birds is definitely on the increase, particularly larger birds like cockatoos, coming in from the country areas plus bats.

Thirdly, birds are much faster than most domesticated cats that are well fed.

Fourthly, the feral cats and foxes need to be dealt with first. They are out hunting, mostly at night, for possums and birds. Any actions there?

I do not see the point of the question that asks me to identify with, indigenous etc. All my great great great grand parents were born in Australia, living off the land, supporting our nations development!!! How I **identify** is not relevant to the reality of cat interaction with the local environment.

Email 40:

Hello in response to Cat Curfew.

Night time Curfew.. from Dusk till Dawn.

Email 41:

In short, **we do not agree to a cat curfew of any kind.**

(1) People who have indoor cats because of the particular breed, or because they choose to, are free to do so.

(2) The neighbourhood has a surplus of possums and birds of all kinds.

(3) While I am sure that on occasion, cats do catch a bird or two, anecdotally, this would be the exception rather than the rule. We have never seen a cat in this neighbourhood appear with a bird or possum. The sheer number of possums and birds in this LGA are evidence of that.

(4) The proposal smacks of a revenue-raising exercise and will just cause friction among neighbours.

The council should be looking to minimise unnecessary regulatory burdens which have the potential to cause uncomfortable conflict and relations between neighbours. Life is hard enough as it is with issues of tree branches, tree roots, fences, proposal for multi-level apartments etc.

(5) It is cruel to cats insofar as it deprives them of natural vitamin D, with knock-on effects, as well as weakening their muscles, impacting their fitness etc. Such a proposal will end up impacting on the cat's health and ultimately resulting in additional vet bills.

(6) If owners wish to keep their cats safe, then they can keep them indoors *if* they honestly feel there is a risk. No regulation is needed for a self-imposed decision.

(7) Just because other councils do it, doesn't make it appropriate for Glen Eira. Other areas may face different road etc risks.

(8) Most people's cats tend to be inside most of the night anyway, especially in the colder months.

(9) If council and indeed, the state government, are so genuinely concerned about wildlife numbers, then stop urban sprawl, focus on a sustainable development and sustainable population policy.

Don't lock up cats (causing them physical deconditioning etc) just to raise revenue, while pretending that *this measure* is going to/intended to save wildlife (an inconsequential & miniscule number of birds/possums) when the **real and biggest threat is unchecked/unsustainable development**, cutting down bush and habitats where these poor creatures used to live and rely on for their food!

We vote NO to a curfew.

Email 42:

Domestic Animal Management Plan – Feedback

Introduction Thank you for inviting feedback in preparation for Council to develop its draft DAMP.

I am providing feedback in relation to two areas:

- [Cat curfew](#) – do not support, as there is no evidence these are beneficial to the community, wildlife or to cats
- [Free and targeted cat desexing program](#) – encourage Council to implement. Research from around the world has shown that these programs reduce costs, complaints and the numbers of outside cats.

I am also providing factual information on the [interaction of cats \(and dogs\) and wildlife](#), based on field research, not computer guesstimates generated by the ‘war on cats’.

Request to present to councillors I would also like to present my submission to councillors at a meeting (by phone) and look forward to information on how I can register to do this

About me I have:

- worked with Australia’s foremost expert in companion animal management, Emeritus Professor Jacquie Rand, and am familiar with research on best-practice companion animal management.
- Attended conferences at which national and international experts on companion animal management present their latest research, including in pound/shelter management
- been heavily involved with animal rescue since 2012.

This has enabled me to develop an understanding of the main issues facing councils with respect to animal management and an

understanding of how Councils can improve animal management, based on facts rather than reactive policies that don't work.

**Incorrect
website
commentary**

I note that Council website alleges this.



Following the lead from other councils

We're exploring cat curfews because because they have been shown in other parts of Victoria, Australia and the world to keep cats and other animals safe, while also making neighbourhoods feel safer and more liveable. In our neighbouring councils like Port Philip and Bayside, cat curfews are already in place.

This information is incorrect.

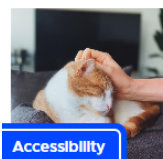
No parts of Victoria, Australia and the world have shown that curfews keep cats and other animals safe. No parts of Victoria, Australia and the world have shown that curfews make neighbourhoods feel safer and more liveable.

Cat curfews are not an element of best-practice in cat management. Council considering a cat curfew is not following leaders.

It is regrettable that Council has included incorrect information on the matter on which it is seeking people's feedback. Doing so will clearly skew the feedback Council receives.

I encourage Council to follow data, evidence and best practice, instead of following other councils in a race to the bottom of companion animal management.

I encourage Council to include factual information on its website in future, especially in relation to policies that have the potential to have a major detrimental impact on residents and their family members.



Keeping cats safe

Cat curfews keep cats safe from traffic accidents, fights or unwelcome encounters with other animals, or exposure to harmful diseases, especially overnight. This means curfews have been shown to lead to longer, healthier lives for cats.

This, too, is incorrect.

Curfews are not borne out of a desire to improve cat wellbeing. If a person chooses to confine their cat, that is their choice, just like if a parent chooses not to feed their kids McDonald's or have them drink alcohol. Mandated curfews do not achieve improvements in cat wellbeing.

Curfews are known to have led to the surrender, and possible killing, of cats.

This does not equate to 'longer, healthier lives for cats'.

Data shows that they do not reduce the number of outside cats.

Contents

Topic

[Cat curfews – What does the data show?](#)

[Benefits of free and targeted cat desexing programs](#)

[Cats, dogs and wildlife – it's not what people think](#)

Cat curfews – What does the data show?

Introduction

Thank you for inviting feedback on Council's draft DAMP, including whether or not Council should introduce a cat curfew.

Below, I detail:

- data from other councils that have gone down this route
- the many problems it has caused
- the significant – and permanent – increase in complaints
- its unenforceability
- the lack of benefit it will achieve for wildlife, cats and residents
- that curfews are a reactive proposal that don't achieve what people anticipate and which cause many additional problems and costs.

No Australian or international research or council has shown any benefit of a cat curfew - only problems and dramatically higher costs. As a result, they have been rescinded in some areas.

I summarise information you may not be aware of below. I trust this will assist you in making a decision that is based on the best interests of all.

I encourage you to base your decision on evidence, not emotion and incorrect perceptions and what other councils are doing.

**Known
curfew
outcomes –
in brief**

Based on data and experience of other councils that have imposed a night or 24 hour cat curfew:

- **costs and complaints will increase significantly**, forever
- **council can't, and won't have the resources to, enforce it**
- **curfews are ineffective**, as confirmed by the RSPCA
- **residents will become frustrated** with council for not enforcing it
- **three councils have rescinded curfews**
- **curfews don't benefit wildlife**. Wildlife will be assisted more with habitat protection, restoration and targeted free desexing campaigns to cost-effectively and humanely reduce the number of stray cats, long term
- **people are harmed**: owners when their cats don't cope with confinement and they have to surrender; AMO's; vets and council's pound staff; ratepayers from a new tax that achieves nothing
- **No impact on stray cat populations** - research shows they require targeted free desexing
- **Lost cats may be impacted** by worsening vigilante action
- **Duplication of Victorian Domestic Animals Act**, which caters to people who are displeased with a cat visiting their property
- **Old fashioned and reactive cat management strategies, such as curfews, impounding, and fines, are known to be costly and ineffective** (Cotterell et al, Rethinking Urban Cat Management—Limitations and Unintended Consequences of Traditional Cat Management). More economical and effective approaches are proven, both in Australia and the world
- **RSPCA acknowledges the lack of evidence of any benefit to wildlife, and the risks to cat welfare, from curfews** (RSPCA's *Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia* 2018)

- **RSPCA acknowledges that curfews are ineffective** RSPCA's *Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia* (2018) has stated that councils with curfews have not shown measurable reductions in cat complaints or roaming cats [8]
- **Increased community tension** The RSPCA acknowledges that curfews can increase community tension without delivering long-term solutions.
- A 24 hour curfew would **unfairly impact**:
- People who rent
- People who are financially disadvantaged and who can't afford cat enclosures
- People with disability and mental health issues for whom their cat may be their sole companion
- Cats are not little dogs. **Dogs were originally confined as they can attack and kill people.** Cats don't do this. The 'dogs are confined; why shouldn't cats' argument is based on a false premise
- Confining a cat is far more difficult and expensive than confining a dog
- Cats who cannot adjust will be surrendered and, possibly, killed
- Cats who do not cope may be abandoned to the streets, increasing the stray cat population
- If curfews reduced the number of outdoors cats, as is anticipated by some, we would expect a near-zero number of complaints in councils with 24 hour curfews, not an ongoing three-fold increase after 20 years

No known benefit

- No well-designed research has shown that curfews reduce cat-related complaints or the number of outside cats
- **RSPCA Australia** has acknowledged that councils with 24 hour curfews have not shown any reduction in cat complaints or cats being outside
- Councils with 24 hour curfews have a **significant and ongoing increase in cat-related complaints.** This is due to

community expectation they will see no outside cats and that council will enforce its policy

**More costs,
more
complaints,
forever**

Data from councils that have imposed a cat curfew show significant increases in costs, complaints and impoundment. Analysis of the kill rate before and after curfew imposition has not been conducted. However, as pounds have limited space, it is likely that this, too, increases

- **Maroondah** After Maroondah introduced a night time cat curfew, cat-related calls to council nearly doubled (183% increase). The number of cats impounded more than doubled (107%).

Financial year	Calls related to cats	Cats impounded
2012/2013 (before night curfew)	92	75
2016/2017 (after night curfew)	260	155
% increase	183	107

- **Yarra Ranges and Casey:** Despite 24 hour cat curfews, no reduction in outside cats or associated complaints ([Cotterell et al #2, 2025](#))
- **Yarra Ranges:** three years after 24 hour curfew imposed, cat complaints increased by 143%, impoundments by 68%, and killing by 18%, despite minimal human population growth
- **Casey:** after 20 years of 24 hour curfew, costly cat impounds remained nearly 300% higher than baseline levels, with no meaningful reduction in nuisance complaints ([Cotterell et al #2, 2025](#))
- **Strain on council resources:** 24 hour curfews strain council resources due to increased complaints and impoundments [Cotterell et al, [33,34,35](#)].

- Each **cat-related call may cost around \$750-800** (reception staff and AMO time [\[29\]](#) plus pound charges
- **Fines don't recoup costs** Minimum income is generated from fines associated with curfew breaches [\[42,43\]](#)
- **Traps** More traps will be needed to be purchased, supplied, disinfected after each use and stored. This will all cost money

Increased time by AMOs responding to cat-related calls

- Once a resident calls the council re a visiting cat, an AMO will need to lend a cat trap to the complainant or attend the property and trap the cat
- In Victoria, cats found to be “at large” on private property must be handed to an AMO who then impounds them at the pound contractor [\[Cotterell et al, 1, 2025\]](#)
- If the cat is not reclaimed by an owner within the legal timeframe, they are rehomed or killed
- This method has not been effective in addressing cat-related issues. **Many councils have seen steady increases in cat-related calls and impoundments over time** [\[3,16\]](#)
- Constant responding to complaints has been found to **negatively impact the job satisfaction and psychological well-being of AMOs** [\[4\]](#).
- Killing cats and ineffective laws that aren't based on evidence contribute to more **distress and burnout among veterinarians** [\[9,10,11,12\]](#), **animal shelter staff, and council officers.**

Unenforceable

- Curfews lead to an expectation that Council can, and will, enforce it [\[42\]](#)
- Victorian councils with curfews have acknowledged that mandating confinement is unenforceable [\[42,43\]](#). The RSPCA has acknowledged the same
- three Victorian councils have rescinded curfews

- Few or no additional further resources are provided to undertake enforcement [\[42\]](#)
- Enforcement is placed in the hands of disgruntled residents and vigilantes who are under the false impression that cats are impacting wildlife populations. This increases the risk of cruelty to companion cats, lost cats and stray cats

Increases in cruelty

- The **RSPCA has expressed concern** that 10 years of anti-cat headlines, due to the 'war on cats', which has consistently conflated feral cats with domestic cats, has led to **an increase in cruelty** [personal communication]
- A curfew further implies that cats are impacting wildlife populations and may lead to both lost owned cats and semi-owned or unowned stray cats being subjected to cruelty and torture.

My experience of lack of enforcement

- I know people who live in councils with cat curfews. Curfews are not enforced. Residents are frustrated that Councils don't enforce them. They had expected to see no cats outside either at night or ever. This isn't happening
- This further erodes the community's perception and respect of councils

Duplication of existing state law

- Under the Victorian Domestic Animal Act 1994 [\[12\]](#), residents who are displeased with a neighbour's cat visiting them, one of whom spoke at the planning meeting, **already have the legal ability to act upon visiting cats**
- They may borrow a trap from council, trap the visiting cat and take them to the council's pound contractor, CPS
- A 24 hour cat curfew, which isn't going to be enforced and which is extremely costly, is largely a duplication of this law.

Recommendation:

Instead of imposing a curfew on the whole community, and increasing

costs and complaints, educate people that state law allows for them to humanely trap and impound a cat who are on *their* property.

**No reduction
in stray cats**

- Curfews do not help manage stray or abandoned cats
- Research shows that free and targeted desexing programs are crucial in reducing the number of stray cats ([Cotterell et al, 2025](#))
- Reactive trapping and killing leads to most cats being killed (stray cats are often fearful of humans and require a specific socialisation program to build their trust in humans. This takes time. Few pounds are willing to invest the time to save these cats' lives.
- See '[Benefits of free, targeted desexing programs](#)'

**Costs of
compliance
for cat
owners**

- Australia is experiencing a cost of living crisis, with increasing rates of homelessness
- Costs of cat-proof fencing or enclosures may be more than \$2000 – if landlords agree. Again, cost-of-living crisis means this is unlikely.

**Loss of sole
companion
and anchor
to life**

- Many people adopt cats as they may be disabled and socially isolated, so that a cat companion better suits them than a dog
 - A cat who can't cope with confinement inside a building, or with a small enclosure outside, and who develops health or behavioural issues is likely to be surrendered to a pound, with devastating consequences to the person of losing what may have been their sole companion and 'anchor to life'. One councillor of a council that rescinded their 24 hour curfew stated that "the financial cost burden the policy would have imposed upon residents... may have required them to give up their cat, which in many cases may be their only companion. That's not something I could support, particularly in a cost-of-
-

living crisis” [48].

Mandated curfew will increase number of abandoned and surrendered cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cats who don't cope with confinement will may lead to people having to give up their cat who, in many cases, may be their only companion▪ Loss of a key family member may have a significant impact on people, especially children, during a challenging cost of living crisis▪ If surrendered to the pound, this will again cost Council, as the pound charges Council per impounded cat <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instead of a mandated curfew, encourage people to feed their cat at bedtime and have them stay inside at night
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Harm to humans and risk to life of pound staff

- If a cat curfew is imposed, evidence from other councils shows that cat impoundment rate will significantly increase, in perpetuity
- Killing of these cats is more likely
- People who kill companion animals as part of their job have amongst the highest workplace suicide rate of any profession
- Some have stated, 'each animal I kill takes a part of my soul'.
- A curfew risks the lives of pound workers
- Killing of animals, particularly healthy and treatable animals, has adverse effects on the psychological health of the staff involved [4,5,6,7].

Cat parks

- Dogs are provided with ratepayer-funded dog parks, poo bags, behavioural training etc
- If cats are subject to a 24 hour curfew, where will the cat parks be located, so that they can have quality of life? How much will they cost to build and maintain?
- They will need to:

quiet, pleasant areas away from traffic

10m exclusion zone from dogs

large enough to permit running at speed and climbing on trees and stumps

enclosed with four walls, a roof, cat-netting on the inside and sturdy cyclone fencing on the outside

double electronic doors so that only one door can be opened at a time

inspected regularly for accidental or malicious damage

Lost cats may be targeted for cruelty

- 24 hour curfews don't prevent 'door dasher' cats getting out
- Research shows that 41% of lost cats were indoor-only who escaped through windows, doors and garages [51]
- 22% of lost cats who were inside-only in the previous six months had previously escaped at least once [52],
- 5% of inside-only cats had escaped in the previous two weeks [11]

Impact on Council staff

- Ineffective regulations, such as curfews, have failed to reduce cat-related concerns. They may lead to abandonment, reduced community participation in management efforts, more complaints, more killing, **less job satisfaction and harm to involved staff** [4,33,34,35].

- ‘War on cats’**
- Initiated in October 2015 by Minister Greg Hunt
 - Originally, it seemed to be aimed at killing wild cats
 - However, most of the media-friendly computer modelling estimates it has generated has consistently conflated wild cats with domestic cats. It is well known that these populations have different management needs
 - This has led to people developing an inaccurate perception that domestic cats are impacting wildlife. All field-based research has shown they have no impact. See Appendix 1.

Free, targeted desexing programs

Evidence-based programs that reduce stray cat numbers, complaints and costs

Introduction Providing free desexing, targeted to areas of high intake, is known to:

- Reduce calls to Council regarding cats
- Reduce animal management costs
- Increase desexing rates
- Increase responsible pet ownership rates
- Reduce stray cat numbers
- Reduce number of cats impounded
- Reduce killing in pound and shelters

With fewer stray cats, this naturally reduces any wildlife predation (even though research has found that cats in urban and semi urban areas have no impact on wildlife populations).

Contents

Topic

[‘Who’s for Cats’ program did not work](#)

[Free, affordable and accessible desexing is more successful](#)

[Free cat desexing improve people’s mental health](#)

[Case study – Banyule City Council’s free desexing program](#)

Banyule's cost savings and reductions in impounds

Current research project into free cat desexing

References

‘Who’s for cats’ program did not work In 2007, the Victorian government launched the ‘Who’s for cats’ program, which later went national. It encouraged people who were feeding stray cats to either officially adopt them (and get them desexed, microchipped and registered) or take them to a council pound.

It did not succeed in reducing stray cat numbers or intake, because people who are feeding stray cats :

- care about them
- often don’t have the funds to get them desexed
- derive health benefits from caring for and interacting with them
- do not wish the cats to be killed at the pound, which will likely occur at most pounds, as the cats will take time to be sufficiently socialised to people before they can be adopted. Few shelters/pounds provide the necessary time.

Free, targeted desexing – the many benefits

Free, affordable and accessible desexing is more successful than curfews Free and affordable desexing has been found to increase desexing rates (Chadwich, Emancipet, AIAM 2019 conference).

If Council wishes to reduce:

- costs
- impound numbers
- number of undesexed cats
- number of stray/semi-owned and unowned cats

providing free or affordable desexing in high intake or socioeconomically disadvantaged areas is a worthwhile investment. It is a better use of money and resources than a curfew.

Overcoming other barriers to desexing, such as lending cat carriers, helping to catch the cat if needed and transporting them to/from the vet may also be needed.

**Free cat
desexing
improves
people's
mental
health**

90% of people who brought their cat to a free desexing program in Queensland said their cat helps them get through tough times (Australian Pet Welfare Foundation 2021).

One person said, 'I love my cats with everything I have. And now that they're safe, desexed, and healthy, it's bettered my mental health a lot knowing this. So I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart and my little cats' hearts too'.

People who have low incomes want to do the right thing in caring for pets. High desexing rates can be achieved when voluntary, free/affordable and accessible desexing programs are available, together with information on why it is important to desex.

Continued on next page

Free, targeted desexing – the many benefits, Continued

Case study – Banyule City Council In 2013, Banyule City Council implemented a free desexing to residents in high intake areas. The council organised the desexing, provided carriers and transported the cat, if required.

The benefits of this program have been documented in a [research paper](#).

Between **2013 and 2020, 780 cats** were desexed, microchipped and vaccinated for free (Banyule Cat Management Case Study, 2020).

The program:

- led to these 780 semi-owned cats becoming fully-owned and registered
- reduced wandering
- reduced the number of unwanted kittens
- reduced impounds
- reduced euthanasia rates
- reduced costs.

Banyule uses their pound provider, the Cat Protection Society, and a nearby private vet clinic for desexing.

Banyule also:

- issued excess animal permits to reduce the possibility of nuisance complaints
- investigated nuisance cat complaints, including letterbox drops to homes surrounding that of the complainant, instead of just lending traps
- worked with residents experiencing mental illness/animal hoarding to gradually reduce the number of pets they have and ensure those they keep are healthy, manageable and registered
- worked with the Department of Housing to ensure compliance in relation to their properties and known hoarders.

The program manager did not impose a cat curfew, as they knew it would be difficult and costly to enforce. Instead, Banyule encouraged people to confine their cat to their property and was proactive in addressing nuisance complaints.

Continued on next page

Free, targeted desexing – the many benefits, Continued

**Banyule's
cost savings
and
reduction in
impounds**

Between 2013 and 2020, **cat impounds reduced by 62%**, from 396 cats to 152 per year (Cotterell J 2020). The free desexing program has saved the council \$337,500 in impound costs.

Year	Cats impounded	Cost (at \$150 per cat)
2012-2013	396	59,400
2013-2014	359	53,850
2014-2015	481	72,150
2015-2016	487	73,050
2016-2017	284	42,600

2017-2018	274	41,100
2018-2019	217	32,550
2019-2020	152	22,800
Total impound costs		397,500
Less cost of desexing		-60,000
Cost savings		337,500
Decline in impounds	61.6%	

Current research project into free cat desexing

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation is currently [conducting research on providing free cat desexing – for both owned and stray cats](#).

This, too, has shown significant reductions in costs, impounds and killing.

Interested Council staff and councillors who wish to follow the progress of the research can email info@petwelfare.org.au with subject line of 'request for email updates on CCP'.

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Cats, dogs and wildlife – it’s not what people think

Introduction

- People’s beliefs that urban and peri urban cats impact wildlife are not based on fact
- Council staff, and the community’s beliefs, have likely been informed on computer-modelling guesstimates generated by the ten-year-long ‘war on cats’. This is specifically designed to demonise, scapegoat and kill cats
- Field-based research has shown that urban and peri urban cats **do not impact wildlife populations** (despite ‘war on cats’ guesstimates)

Urban cats do not affect wildlife populations

Not a single peer-reviewed research project has found that the presence, or absence, of cats impacts wildlife populations in urban and peri urban parts of Australia.

Studies have, however, found that wildlife are heavily affected by us destroying their habitat.

Dogs are also known to be an issue.

Cats and mammals

Medium-sized mammals are not impacted by cats; Antechinus are more prevalent when cats are present

A 10 year Perth study (Lilith et al 2010) investigated species diversity across three different bushland areas where cats were either:

- prohibited;
- required to be inside at night and wear a bell; or
- unregulated.

The study found that medium-sized mammals, such as Brush-tailed Possums and Southern Brown Bandicoots, were *not impacted by the presence or absence of cats*.

The smaller Mardo (*Antechinus flavipes*), which is highly susceptible to cat predation, was in *higher numbers in areas where cats were unregulated*.

Cats and birds Increased housing density and distance from bushland causes declines in bird populations, not cats

A Perth study found that cat density has no effect on passerine bird populations.

Decreasing bird populations were associated with *increasing urbanisation and housing density*, and increasing distance from bushland. The study concluded that *habitat destruction and degradation*, rather than cats, were the main factors impacting on birds (Grayson et al 2007).

Cats protect nests

A Sydney study of nest predation in 24 forest patches in the Sydney metropolitan area found that *no nests were attacked by cats* (Matthews et al 1999). Black Rats, Ringtail Possums, Antechinus species and other birds were the main predators. Nest predation was *reduced when cats were present*.

Many birds killed by cats would not survive to breed

Most of the bird species that cats kill have an average life span of 2-4 years in the wild. This means that 25-50% are dying of other causes every year and would not survive to the next breeding season (Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy, 2017).

Cats do not cause additional deaths, as most birds caught by cats are unhealthy

Research also shows that birds caught by cats in urban areas are on average less healthy than birds killed by flying into windows and cars (Baker et al 2008, Møller and Errøtzøe 2000). The researchers concluded that most cat-related bird deaths are not additive to the

number dying each year. That is, *cats did not cause additional deaths of birds than would have occurred through other means*, in most cases.

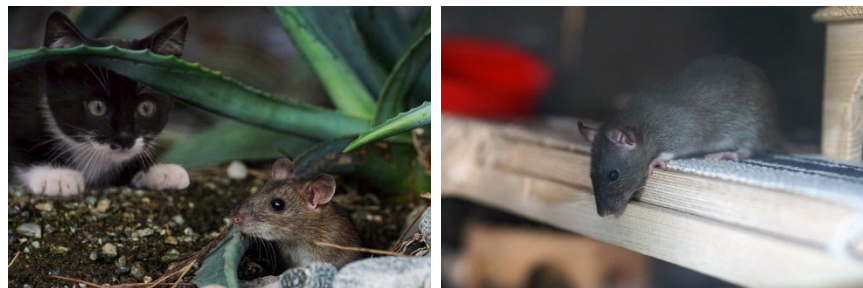
Most birds caught by cats would have died from other means

In the UK, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has similarly concluded that there is no scientific evidence that cats are causing bird populations to decline. It, too, highlights that most birds who were killed by cats would have died from other causes before the next breeding season.

Habitat loss is affecting bird populations

Just as in Australia, UK research has found that declines in bird populations are usually caused by habitat change or loss.

Cats mainly predate introduced and common species



A further study (Franklin et al 2018) found that the main prey items of cats are mice, followed by rats, small lizards, then common species of birds.

A Brisbane City Council analysis of the stomach contents of 25 cats found only one species – the Black Rat (Brisbane City Council 2015).

Curfew will increase secondary poisoning of wildlife



If cats are subjected to a curfew, predation of mice and rats in neighbourhoods will reduce. Whilst mice and rats are usually nocturnal, cats do catch and kill them during the day.

Most people are intolerant of mice and rats in their homes or, if they have chickens, on their properties at all.

Whilst there are recommended strategies that will prevent mice and rats coming inside or entering chicken coops, a review of social media posts in relation to mice and rats shows that very few people implement them. Instead, they resort to using rodenticide – either by themselves or by hiring an ‘exterminator.’

Species affected by secondary poisoning

Rodenticides kill native wildlife through secondary poisoning. This includes [Barn Owls](#), Boobook Owls (Lohr 2018), Kites, Tawny Frogmouths, Kookaburras, Wedge-tailed Eagles (Pay et al, 2021), other meat-eating birds and likely reptiles (Lettoof, 2020).

In autumn and winter, when mice and rats may come inside warm homes, wildlife rescuers see a spike in the number of poisoned wildlife coming into care. Most die. Very slowly. Very painfully.

Research has indicated that anticoagulant rodenticides pose a serious threat to native predators in Australia, particularly in species using urban and peri-urban areas, such as those in Frankston, and species with large home ranges. (Lohr 2018).

Rodenticides also build-up in animals over generations, with one generation passing on the poison to their young.

Other research doesn't measure actual impact

Other than the research studies cited, existing research related to cat predation is based solely on modelling or hypothetical predation studies.

It does not measure the *actual* impact companion cats may have on native wildlife populations.

Funding is needed to conduct this research. Funding for research is difficult to obtain and is mostly from the government.

Given the 'war on cats', this is unlikely to be forthcoming. Most current research related to cats would seem to be solely to provide justification for the 'war on cats'. This is why research related to the 'war on cats' is more recent than many other research papers.

Cat – and wildlife - behaviour is unlikely to have changed since research that was not part of the 'war on cats' was conducted.

In the absence of any data that urban and peri urban cats impact on native wildlife populations, it would be inappropriate to introduce a curfew on the basis of the 'cats kill wildlife' argument.

Dogs more of a threat than cats



Research has found that dogs are responsible for more reported attacks on wildlife than cats (Holderness-Roddam et al, 2014). They concluded that dogs are a significant, but poorly recognised, threat to native wildlife in natural urban areas, second only to vehicles.

Data provided by Healesville Sanctuary's Australian Wildlife Hospital found that, of wildlife injured by a dog or cat, 59.3% were injured by a dog and 40.7% by a cat.

As there is no current 'war on dogs', the impacts of dogs on wildlife are not regularly highlighted in the media. This is leaving people with the false impression that dogs have no impact on wildlife when, in fact, research suggests that they harm wildlife more than cats.

Other studies have also determined that dogs may play a significant role in impacting wildlife, through disturbance and killing (Doherty et al 2017, Hughes and MacDonald 2013, Twardeck et al 2017).

This impact of dogs on wildlife is occurring in spite of existing laws that require dogs to be confined to their properties and to be walked on a lead except in off-lead areas.

Changes that actually would help wildlife

Summary

If the council and its residents truly care about wildlife, we would:

- **protect remaining habitat** – protect all remaining wildlife habitat. This would mean prohibiting subdivisions and destroying native trees. Frankston would need to not approve any subdivision or tree destruction and applicants would need to take all refused planning applications to VCAT

- **mandate indigenous plants** - require all residents to only have indigenous plants on their properties. Mandate that residents replicate, as far as possible, the mix of canopy trees, shrubs, under storey and ground covers that would have existed before their homes, workplaces and schools were built. Whilst this doesn't compensate for the building footprint, it would provide some wildlife habitat that our buildings and roads have destroyed. Lack of habitat (and water) is a key determining factor of whether wildlife can live in an area or not
- **mandate wildlife-safe water** - require all properties to have wildlife-safe sources of water at all times
- **prohibit residents from feeding wildlife**, as it:
 - disrupts animals' natural fear of humans
 - affects foraging behaviour
 - leads to unnatural groupings of animals close together
 - leads to unnatural behaviours
 - can lead to dependence on human-provided food sources
 - usually entails feeding food that is dangerous or unhealthy
 - can lead to spread of contagious diseases like beak and feather disease in parrots
 - can lead to lumpy jaw in macropods
 - can spread zoonotic diseases to people
- **mandate bird-safe windows** - require that all windows in all buildings are made bird-strike proof, as [New York City has done](#). Australian data is lacking, but in the US, an estimated one billion birds die from hitting building windows
- **prohibit rodenticides** - prohibit the use of rodenticides, which cause secondary poisoning to wildlife
- **mandate litter collection** - mandate that all residents must pick up any littered items they see which could harm wildlife (eg

looped items such as face masks, plastic rings, elastic hair ties, fishing line), cut them and bin them

- **minimise new roads** - not build roads through wildlife habitat
- **enforce rendering assistance** - enforce the state law that anyone who hits wildlife with their vehicle must render assistance
- **prohibit new trails** – not build walking/cycling trails through habitat, due to the disturbance it causes to wildlife
- **reduce night time speed limits on wildlife roads** – reduce the speed limit of all local roads that cut through wildlife habitat to at least 40 km/h, as is done when children arrive at and leave school
- **include wildlife crossings and fences** - on wildlife roads, install wildlife crossings that are suitable for each species, with the associated necessary habitat to encourage their use, with land modifications and fences to direct wildlife towards the crossings

When reading this list, I expect councillors, and most people, would likely not support these provisions, even though they would do more to protect wildlife than a curfew will, as it would impact our own lives.

If so, perhaps any concerns about wildlife only apply when it doesn't impact us and that the argument seeking a curfew to 'protect wildlife' is based on flawed premises and double standards - one for us so that our lives aren't impacted, one for other animals whose lives will be impacted significantly.

Companion cats are affected by the 'war on (wild) cats'

'War on (wild) cats'

Urban cats are being affected by the federal government's so-called 'war on cats', which it devised in July 2015. I have been informed by a reliable source that this concept was devised by a group of politicians over lunch – not by scientists.

It aimed to kill 20 million wild cats, under the guise of protecting wildlife. Modelling later indicated that this is nearly 10 times the number of cats who may live Australia at any one time (Legge et al, 2017).

This highlights the lack of scientific rigour of this plan.

Since the 'war on cats' began, many attention-getting headlines of the estimated total number of animals (both introduced and native) that wild cats who live in the bush are believed to kill each year in Australia have been published.

These **estimates are based on modelling and hypothetical situations**, not actual numbers. The numbers aren't tailored to specific habitats, climates etc.

People's companion cats have been affected by this 'war', as people now believe that cats in urban and peri urban areas are impacting wildlife populations.

This is not true.

Unfortunately, the 'war on cats' research has also failed to indicate whether this total number is significant for each species.

For example, each day, we all likely kill ants and other small insects, in large quantities. Is this having an impact on the overall population of ants and other insects?

Possibly not.

In some cases, wild cats are listed as a threatening process for some species. But for most species, habitat loss and climate change are the key threatening processes.

The regular headlines have led to people confusing the possible impact of wild cats with companion cats. They have also led to people failing to reflect upon the impacts to wildlife of our constant destruction of their habitat, to the extent that [Koalas are likely to be listed as an endangered species in NSW, ACT and Qld.](#)

Key threatening processes are not being addressed

Governments of all stripes, both state and national, have taken no meaningful action on the threatening process that affects most native species: degradation and destruction of habitat and climate change.

In fact, Australia continues to have the worst worldwide rate of deforestation amongst developed nations (World Wildlife Fund, 2021). It is the only developed nation on the World Wildlife Fund's global list of deforestation hotspots.

Rates of deforestation and habitat destruction are so high that Koalas are predicted to become extinct in NSW (New South Wales Legislative Council, 2020).

One could therefore wonder what prompted the government to put cats in its spotlight, when taking action on deforestation would achieve far more for wildlife. Could it be that cats are being scapegoated, to earn 'green points'?

Council, too, is suffering loss of habitat, due to increased development and population growth.

As the research previously cited shows, it is this loss of habitat that is having the greatest impact on wildlife populations in urban areas – not cats.

Suppression of research is occurring



Scientists have raised the alarm that research findings that are not in accordance with governments' environmental policies are being suppressed, on a large scale (Driscoll et al 2021). They have stated

that this is particularly occurring in relation to habitat loss and climate change.

What the public hears in terms of threats to wildlife is therefore very much focused on whether it aligns with government priorities, not whether it is the most significant environmental impact.

Because of the 'war on cats', cat-related information is more often being heard by people than research about the impacts of habitat loss and climate change, which are the key threatening processes for most wildlife.

This is likely further skewing people's perceptions of companion cats and wildlife.

**Threatened
Species
Commissioner**

The government created a new role, the Threatened Species Commissioner (TSC). In line with government priorities, the TSC has focused heavily on cats, ignoring the more pressing issues of land clearing and climate change.

One of the TSC's KPIs was to 'increase Australians' acceptance of killing cats.'

It is questionable whether the TSC has achieved much for threatened species. It has, however, achieved the KPI of scapegoating and vilifying cats.

The first person appointed to the role of TSC was Mr Gregory Andrews, a government employee and not a scientist.

Mr Andrews concocted information and asked to be hidden and have his voice when giving false information to the ABC program Lateline, alleging that indigenous children were being used as 'sex slaves'.

A long police investigation later found no evidence of his allegations.

He was forced to apologise for misleading a federal Senate inquiry into petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities.

His concocted statements led to the government's so-called 'intervention' in the NT.

It is interesting that someone with this history would be appointed to a newly-created role of TSC.

One of the KPIs for the TSC role is to 'increase Australians' acceptance of killing cats'.

**Effect of
constant
vilification and
scapegoating**



Any person, animal or minority group that has been targeted with vilification knows the outcomes: persecution, hatred, scapegoating and, ultimately, killing.

This is occurring right now with cats.

It is not cats who are causing the sixth wave of mass extinctions in the world. It is us, through our destruction of habitat and carbon emissions.

Although we know this, governments of all types continue to fail to take meaningful action. Instead, they scapegoat other animals.

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Email 43:

I am emailing regarding the current cat curfew consultation. As a resident of Glen Eira, I am strongly in favour of introducing a 24 hour cat curfew.

I work in environmental conservation and community engagement at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. I am involved in educating the local community about cat containment for the wellbeing of both cats and wildlife. Some of my work on the topic can be seen on here:



[Keep cats contained and dogs on leads](https://rbg.vic.gov.au)

rbg.vic.gov.au

If possible, I would love to have the opportunity to speak at the OGM on September 25th before the vote is made to offer a few points of consideration. I can present some (summarised) research on roaming pet cats' impact on Australia's wildlife, and the risks we face by continuing to let our cats roam. I can also touch on some of the amazing work the RSPCA have done to encourage cat owners to give their cats a safe life at home, with research to show that indoor cats live on average twice as long as their roaming counterparts, and guidance on how, according to experts, a cat's needs can be met with a life indoors.

Please let me know if you would be open to this suggestion, or if you would like any further information.

Email 44:

I was unable to contribute to the cat curfew survey in time, but I want to register my strong support for a **24-hour curfew** whereby cats must stay on their owner's property at all times.

In light of the millions and millions of animals that are killed in Australia every year by cats, I am very surprised that the options of no curfew or a night-time curfew are even offered. Cats should be kept inside or in a 'catio' at all times.