

# DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERIOD

## WHAT WE HEARD (NOVEMBER 2021)



In June and July 2021, Council sought feedback from both pet and non-pet owners throughout Hobsons Bay to capture community concerns and thoughts surrounding pet ownership, animal and community welfare and the environmental impact caused by domestic pets.

Feedback informed the development of a draft **Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25** which was placed on public exhibition in September and October 2021. During the public exhibition period, 16 September to 14 October 2021, Council asked the community to review the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and submit their feedback for consideration.

### The community engagement process

Due to COVID 19 social gathering restrictions, community consultation was restricted to

- **an online survey** on the project's website on Participate Hobsons Bay
- **email and phone calls** to share feedback

These community engagement opportunities were primarily shared via Council's digital platforms.

### Who got involved?

As part of the consultation, 29 submissions and two emails were received. The project's website on Participate Hobsons Bay received 453 site visits from 398 individual site visitors during the engagement period. We received 29 submissions over this time via Participate and we received two email submissions, one of which from the Animal Justice Party.



**HOBSONS BAY  
LANGUAGE LINE**

**9932 1212**

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES  
Your Council in your language

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**



# DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERIOD

## WHAT WE HEARD (NOVEMBER 2021)

### What we heard

During the public exhibition period we heard feedback on the following themes and objectives;

#### Dogs

Submissions in relation to dogs included topics such as more investigations regarding dog barking disputes, off leash areas for smaller dogs, the inclusion of mandatory muzzling and areas for greyhounds.

#### Cats

Submissions regarding cats include desexing and keeping cats indoors, education programs, implementing a cat curfew, proactive cat desexing, advertisement of desexing vouchers and mandatory cat desexing.

#### Resourcing

Submissions in relation to resourcing and enforcement include increasing the number of animal management officers, more resourcing for the animal management department, more enforcement in conservation areas, monitoring of dog litter offences and a Council run pound.

#### Dogs in prohibited areas

Submissions concerning conservation outlined acknowledging the natural environment as a key community asset to provide context setting for the DAMP and more monitoring and enforcement in conservation areas.

#### Pet registration & Policy

Submissions in relation to pet registration & policy include exhibiting how fees are calculated including options for low income households, discounting fees for indoor only cats, mandatory public reporting of shelter animal euthanasia statistics, more promotion campaigns for responsible pet ownership and prohibiting euthanasia of animals in pounds or shelters where a rescue group is willing to take on it's care.

### Next steps

Thank you to all community members who got involved and shared valuable feedback. For further project updates or questions please visit Council's website [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) or email [projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

A number of issues raised during the consultation process do not relate to the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25, or are not managed by the Animal Management unit. Submissions made regarding off leash areas, parks, open space and conservation areas have been forwarded to the relevant departments for consideration. We are pleased that Council has already implemented a number of suggestions including community education, discounted desexing and partnerships with local rescues.



**HOBSONS BAY  
LANGUAGE LINE**

**9932 1212**

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES  
Your Council in your language

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**

