CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
(OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING)

TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2016

AT 5.00 PM

THE MISSION

Our mission is to ensure good governance of our capital City.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

about people	We value people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
professional	We take pride in our work.
enterprising	We look for ways to create value.
responsive	We're accessible and focused on service.
inclusive	We respect diversity in people and ideas.
making a difference	We recognise that everything we do shapes Hobart's future.

HOBART 2025 VISION

In 2025 Hobart will be a city that:

- Offers opportunities for all ages and a city for life
- Is recognised for its natural beauty and quality of environment
- Is well governed at a regional and community level
- Achieves good quality development and urban management
- Is highly accessible through efficient transport options
- Builds strong and healthy communities through diversity, participation and empathy
- Is dynamic, vibrant and culturally expressive

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BUSINESS LISTED ON THE AGENDA IS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH IT IS SET OUT UNLESS THE COMMITTEE BY SIMPLE MAJORITY DETERMINES OTHERWISE

I, Nicholas David Heath, General Manager of the Hobart City Council, hereby certify that:

1. In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993, the reports in this agenda have been prepared by persons who have the qualifications or the experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendations included therein.
2. No interests have been notified, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, other than those that have been advised to the Council.

N.D. HEATH
GENERAL MANAGER

CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA (OPEN)

Committee Members
Briscoe (Chairman)
Ruzicka
Burnet
Denison
Aldermen
Lord Mayor Hickey
Deputy Lord Mayor Christie
Zucco
Sexton
Cocker
Thomas
Reynolds
Harvey

City Planning Committee (Open Portion of the Meeting) - Tuesday, 14 June 2016 at 5.00 pm in the Lady Osborne Room.

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Alderman H C Burnet.

CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY

Where a vacancy may exist from time to time on the Committee, the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the Council Committees may fill such a vacancy.

1. MINUTES OF THE OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 30 MAY 2016 AND A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2016

2. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Committee, by simple majority may approve the consideration of a matter not appearing on the agenda, where the General Manager has reported:

(a) the reason it was not possible to include the matter on the agenda, and
(b) that the matter is urgent, and
(c) that advice has been provided under Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1993.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the General Manager in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

3. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (7) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the chairman of a meeting is to request Aldermen to indicate whether they have, or are likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda.

In addition, in accordance with the Council's resolution of 14 April 2008, Aldermen are requested to indicate any conflicts of interest in accordance with the Aldermanic Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 27 August 2007.

Accordingly, Aldermen are requested to advise of pecuniary or conflicts of interest they may have in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with, in accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

4. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Are there any items which the meeting believes should be transferred from this agenda to the closed agenda or from the closed agenda to the open agenda, in accordance with the procedures allowed under Regulation 15 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015?

5. PLANNING AUTHORITY ITEMS – CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS WITH DEPUTATIONS

In accordance with the requirements of Part 2 Regulation 8 (3) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the General Manager is to arrange the agenda so that the planning authority items are sequential.

In accordance with Part 2 Regulation 8 (4) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Committee by simple majority may change the order of any of the items listed on the agenda, but in the case of planning items they must still be considered sequentially – in other words they still have to be dealt with as a single group on the agenda.

Where deputations are to be received in respect to planning items, past practice has been to move consideration of these items to the beginning of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Regulation 8 (4) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the Committee resolve to deal with any items which have deputations by members of the public regarding any planning matter listed on the agenda, to be taken out of sequence in order to deal with deputations at the beginning of the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ACTING AS PLANNING AUTHORITY

In accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 25 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the intention of the Committee to act as a planning authority pursuant to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 is to be noted.

In accordance with Regulation 25, the Committee will act as a planning authority in respect to those matters appearing under this heading on the agenda, inclusive of any supplementary items.

The Committee is reminded that in order to comply with Regulation 25(2), the General Manager is to ensure that the reasons for a decision by a Council or Council Committee acting as a planning authority are recorded in the minutes.

7. GLENORCHY TO HOBART PUBLIC TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT – FILE REF: 36-20-1

14x's

Report of the General Manager of 19 May 2016, and attachment.

DELEGATION: Council

TO : City Planning Committee

FROM : General Manager

DATE : 19 May, 2016

SUBJECT : GLENORCHY TO HOBART PUBLIC TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT

FILE : 36-20-1 jmc:M (o:\council & committee meetings reports\cpc reports\2016 meetings\14 june\word version of report\glenorchy to hobart transit corridor project -- progress report -- june 2016.docx)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report provides Council with an update on the progress of the Glenorchy to Hobart Public Transit Corridor Project.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. At its meeting on 9th February 2016 Council considered a report in relation to the utilisation of the Glenorchy to Hobart public transit corridor (former rail corridor) and the economic benefits that could flow from greater utilisation of the land along the corridor.

2.2. At that meeting Council resolved as follows:

1. The Council initiate a Public Transit Corridor Urban Utilisation and Economic Benefit project for the current rail corridor, based on the proposal titled 'Shaping the Cities of Hobart and Glenorchy – Determine the Benefits of Enhanced Land Value through Investment in a Public Transit System', marked as Attachment A to supplementary item 11 of the Open Governance Committee agenda of 2 February 2016, in partnership with the Glenorchy City Council.

2. Subject to the matched support of the Glenorchy City Council, the following actions be implemented:

(i) A Memorandum of Agreement be exchanged between both councils to proceed with this project with the terms and conditions determined by the respective General Managers.

(ii) A joint City of Hobart /Glenorchy City steering group be established to oversee and manage the Public Transit Corridor Urban Utilisation and Economic Benefit project including overseeing the expressions of interest, tendering and contract review process. Membership of the steering group be determined by the respective General Managers.

(iii) A brief be prepared, requesting expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced public transport and urban

development consultants demonstrating their capacity to fully develop a report and recommendations satisfying the combined requirements of the City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council.

(iv) Tenders be requested from consultants who have demonstrated through their expressions of interest submissions that they have the capacity to provide a report capable of satisfying the requirements of the brief.

(v) The Council allocate $75,000 as the City of Hobart's contribution to the cost of engaging a consultant, subject to Glenorchy City Council agreeing to allocate $75,000 with the total fee for the consultancy not to exceed $150,000.

(vi) Consultants be asked to comment on the synergies of conjoining the main road and rail corridor projects.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1. It is proposed that this progress report be received and noted.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. At its meeting on 25 January 2016 the Glenorchy City Council agreed to participate in the project and allocated up to $75,000 towards the funding of the project.

4.2. A Memorandum of Agreement has been exchanged between both Councils in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed by the respective General Managers.

4.3. The Project Steering Committee is the Glenorchy and Hobart City Council Rail Corridor Working Party which is comprised of the following members:

4.3.1. Alderman Damon Thomas, Hobart City Council

4.3.2. Alderman Anna Reynolds, Hobart City Council

4.3.3. Alderman Jenny Branch-Allen, Glenorchy City Council

4.3.4. Deputy Mayor Harry Quick, Glenorchy City Council

4.4. The General Managers of the Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils attend Working Party meetings as observers and will attend meetings of the Project Steering Committee in the same capacity.

4.5. Furthermore it is suggested that MONA's Creative Director Mr Leigh Carmichael also attend meetings of the Project Steering Committee as an observer given MONA's interest in the Macquarie Point site and their location at Berriedale.

4.6. The Project Steering Committee considered the draft project brief at its meeting on 4th March 2016 and the final version (***Attachment A***) was subsequently sent to 3 consulting firms with the capacity to undertake the work inviting quotations in accordance with the project specification.

4.7. The brief identified the following key objectives for the project:

4.7.1. Examine the potential for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy capitalising on public transit corridor use;

4.7.2. Identify a Vision for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy arising from use of the public transit corridor, including visualisations to assist with communications;

4.7.3. Understand planning changes required to facilitate urban regeneration along the public transit corridor;

4.7.4. Focussed engagement to understand potential private sector investment interest along the public transit corridor;

4.7.5. Identify economic development opportunities arising from urban regeneration along the public transit corridor.

4.8. All of the consulting firms invited to quote did so. All proposals complied with the project specification and were evaluated by officers from each Council against the selection criteria. The proposals and evaluation were considered by the Project Steering Committee at its meeting on 18 May 2016. The Steering Committee resolved that GHD Pty Ltd be commissioned to undertake the project.

4.9. The GHD Pty Ltd proposal provides a strong project team that has planning, urban design, economics, transport planning, engineering, demography, property consulting, landscape architecture and stakeholder engagement skills.

4.10. The Steering Committee held a project inception meeting with the GHD Project Manager on 31 May 2016. It is anticipated that the project will be completed within a 3 month timeframe.

5. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

5.1. In considering this matter, the Council are directed to Strategic Objective: 1.1 of the City of Hobart's Capital City Strategic Plan 2015-2025 which provides for partnerships to create city growth and Strategic Objective; and 2.1 which provides for a fully accessible and connected city environment.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Funding Source(s)

6.1.1. At its meeting on 9th February 2016 Council resolved to make a budget allocation of $75,000 for this project.

6.2. Impact on Current Year Operating Result

6.2.1. As above.

6.3. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

6.3.1. Not applicable.

6.4. Asset Related Implications

6.4.1. Not applicable.

7. COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Council could make a media release in relation to the commencement of this project should it wish to do so.

8. DELEGATION

8.1. This matter is delegated to Council.

9. COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT

9.1. The Department of State Growth – Infrastructure Tasmania has been informed in relation to this project.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1. This report provides Council with an update on the progress of the Glenorchy to Hobart Public Transit Corridor Project.

10.2. At its meeting on 9th February 2016 Council resolved to initiate a project in relation to the utilisation of the Glenorchy to Hobart public transit corridor (former rail corridor) and the economic benefits that could flow from greater utilisation of the land along the corridor. Glenorchy City Council agreed to participate in the project and has matched the Hobart City Council funding.

10.3. The Project Steering Committee subsequently endorsed the project brief (***Attachment A***) and 3 consulting firms were invited to submit proposals.

10.4. The proposals were considered by the Project Steering Committee at its meeting on 18th May 2016 and it resolved that GHD Pty Ltd be commissioned to undertake the project.

11. RECOMMENDATION

That:

11.1. The report jmc:m(o:\council & committee meetings reports\cpc reports\2016 meetings\14 june\word version of report\glenorchy to hobart transit corridor project -- progress report -- june 2016.docx) be received and noted.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

(Nick Heath)
GENERAL MANAGER

Attachment(s) A - Glenorchy to Hobart Transit Corridor Project Brief

Hobart City Council

Attachment A

SCHEDULE 3 – SPECIFICATION
PROJECT BRIEF – GLENORCHY TO HOBART PUBLIC TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR CONTRACTOR SELECTION

In addition to any mandatory criteria specified by Council, when your company's submission is assessed by Council, the following evaluating criteria and weightings will be taken into consideration:

Item No.	Criterion Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Value for Money (Price) Total cost to Council over the entire duration of the Contract giving consideration to the impact of any qualifications, omissions or clarifications included in the quotation submission or other matters evident from the quotation having an impact on the quotation sums.	50
2.	Experience & Capability Relevancy and currency of your company's past experience, the delivery team experience and qualifications to meet the requirements of the brief, including meeting critical deadlines, and have an understanding of the environment in which the City of Hobart operates.	20
3.	Demonstrated understanding of the task Your company understands the required tasks, the suitability and rationale of the proposed method of approach, managing the process, ability to work and share knowledge with Council officers.	20
4.	Proposed Personnel Your company's access to the management and physical resources required to provide the services to a level of quality acceptable to Council. The collective suitability of team members (including any sub consultants if applicable) proposed in the quotation, including: • technical, management and professional capabilities; • degree, appropriateness and currency of experience; and • team composition, size and appropriateness.	10

REQUIRED EVALUATION RETURNS

Decisions on contractor selection will be made based on the information submitted with the quotation.

Assessment of the quotations and selection of the successful consultants will be by the project steering committee as outlined in the Project Brief.

The successful Consultant will be notified in writing of the outcome of the request for quotations process as soon as possible after 20th April 2016.

Unsuccessful consultants will be notified at the conclusion of the procurement process.

In order to enable evaluation of your company's submission, ensure the following information is submitted with the quotation:

Item	Return Description
1.	Lump sum fee proposal for the services. Itemised breakdown of the total project costs, including stages, key tasks, personnel hours and rates, and any expenses.
2.	Concise statement of your company's capabilities and experience against each non-price criterion.
3.	An explanation of the skills and experience of all personnel nominated to work on the project/undertake the services (Curriculum vitae).
4.	Details of three (3) projects similar to that required by Council, including project description, name of organisation for whom the work was undertaken, referee contact name and telephone number. Council may, at Council's absolute discretion rely on internal referee checks where companies have been previously engaged by Council to undertake services of a similar nature.
5.	Disclosure of any matters that could ultimately lead to a conflict of interest in undertaking the service.
6.	Details of the proposed methodology, including the timing of key tasks, stages, milestones, deliverables and key dates.
7.	Details of the Contractor's Representative

STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS

1. DESCRIPTION

The Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils are seeking to engage a suitably qualified and experienced Contractor to undertake an investigation of the potential for activation of the Glenorchy to Hobart public transit corridor to be a catalyst for urban renewal.

2. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The Contractor is required to commence work in early May 2016 with completion of all deliverables by 30 July 2016.

3. PROJECT BUDGET

The budget for the project is up to a maximum of $150,000.

4. BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2009, various ideas around developing public transit along the now unused public transport rail corridor between Hobart and Brighton have attracted significant interest. A number of independent consultancies have examined the economic viability of a light rail service, under a range of operational scenarios. These include preparation of two business cases by ACIL-Tasman (2011 and 2013), a peer review by AECOM (2012) and a project evaluation by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) (2014).

Infrastructure Tasmania undertook a review of the consultancy reports to date and in January 2016 provided recommendations including;

Appropriate additional work be undertaken to improve understanding of how land use adjacent to the corridor can be shaped to support a public transit service, including the level and nature of interest from private sector investment in and around the areas.

The existing rail corridor from Macquarie Point to Granton be retained, and that the use of this corridor for a light rail, and other potential public or passenger transport uses over the long-term, be fully explored.

The recommendations recognise that prior consultancy reports did not look at the potential for activation of the public transit corridor as a catalyst for urban regeneration; or engage with the private sector regarding investment interest; or look at implementation of planning and regulatory changes to support more complimentary land uses adjacent to the corridor.

It is these complimentary changes, and their impacts on the viability of utilising the Public Transit Corridor that forms the basis for the outcomes of this brief.

Under the oversight of the Joint HCC/GCC Rail Corridor Steering Committee, further investigation is requested to satisfy the objectives listed as follows;

5. OBJECTIVES

i. Examine the potential for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy capitalising on public transit corridor use;

ii. Identify a Vision for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy arising from use of the public transit corridor, including visualisations to assist with communications;

iii. Understand planning changes required to facilitate urban regeneration along the public transit corridor;

iv. Focussed engagement to understand potential private sector investment interest along the public transit corridor;

v. Identify economic development opportunities arising from urban regeneration along the public transit corridor.

6. STUDY AREA

The extent of the study area is within the 'walkable catchment' of the public transit corridor (the previous rail corridor) between Granton and Macquarie Point and includes potential public transport interchanges in the Hobart central business area.

7. SCOPE

Key Tasks:

1. Examine the potential for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy capitalising on public transit corridor use;

   1.1. Identify environmental and built form characteristics, constraints and opportunities for urban regeneration including;

   - All potential locations for high-density residential and mixed use development;
   - Estimate an initial floor space ration or development or aspirational density target for the corridor;
   - Prepare an initial estimate of the ultimate dwelling and employment yield.

   1.2. Undertake a high level infrastructure capacity analysis;

   1.3. Forecast appropriate housing and economic growth to 2036 taking into account scenarios for regional population growth distribution inclusive of potential induced effects of a public transit system along the corridor;

   1.4. Identify the infrastructure required to support projected growth;

2. Identify a Vision for urban regeneration in Hobart and Glenorchy arising from use of the public transit corridor, including visualisations to assist with communications;

2.1. Develop a high level structure plan for the public transit corridor that;

- Facilitates high-density urban infill
- And investigate the conversion of industrial land to residential uses.
- Provides visualisations of what the corridor might look like if developed.

3. Understand planning changes required to facilitate urban regeneration along the public transit corridor;

3.1. Develop a framework of land use controls to guide future land use change to achieve optimum land value uplift that includes;

- Suggested planning scheme provisions to facilitate ease of re-zoning and future development;
- Streamlined approval processes across all regulatory entities, to deliver greater certainty to developers and increase the attractiveness of investment.

4. Focussed engagement to understand potential private sector investment interest along the public transit corridor;

4.1. Targeted engagement with the investment industry to explore development opportunities associated with public transit corridor proposals.

5. Identify economic development opportunities arising from urban regeneration along the public transit corridor.

5.1. Undertake a high level investigation of market demand and undertake economic feasibility analysis of developing along the corridor, taking into account;

- Increased and commercial and residential densities;
- Identification of the capacity for land value uplift and opportunities that may lead to uplift;
- Development opportunities that would benefit from enhanced demand and through-traffic, including services and commercial activities supported by high population density;
- Windfall capital gain benefits accruing to property owners achieved as a direct result of the infrastructure provision;
- Conduct a preliminary assessment of how Local Government and the State Government might capture some of the value increases (via land and property based taxes) to contribute to the financing of a public transit project.

5.2. Main road corridor;

- Comment on the potential synergies along the public transit corridor that includes the rail corridor and main road.

8. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS

Project Outputs:

- The project output is a report that clearly presents the results of the tasks outlined in section 7.
- The report is to be submitted via email in PDF and Microsoft Office Word format to the Project Manager.
- 2 hard copies of any display documentation produced are to be provided.
- In addition to the written report, the Contractor is required to provide the steering committee and each of the Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils with a detailed and comprehensive presentation of its findings, including conclusions and recommendations.
- Presentations are to be in Microsoft Power Point (or equal alternative) format and will, in addition to providing a comprehensive summary of the key report items, include explanatory notes and observations.

9. REQUIRED CONSULTANT PROFILE

The Contractor is responsible for the provision of suitably skilled, experienced and qualified personnel. Personnel engaged in the provision of this service must have proven experience in this field. The Contractor must ensure that:

- it has a firm culture to ensure that the personnel involved in the project have the skills and competencies to ensure quality work and ability to work collaboratively with a diverse range of people;
- there are processes and quality systems in place to ensure the quality of the work performed, that the work meets current better practice thinking, particularly in the area of community and survey practices, processes and methodologies;
- there is a high level of supervision over the project, including appropriate level of expertise within the company involved in the review processes to ensure high standard of outputs; and
- it has a strong understanding and/or knowledge of the business of the Council and local government.

10. COUNCIL'S INPUT

The Councils will provide:

- Copies of or access to any relevant reports, plans or files;

- Relevant property data contained within the Councils property information databases;
- GIS data held in the Councils GIS systems;
- Organisation of meetings with the steering committee and the Councils.

11. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The project will be overseen by a joint HCC / GCC steering committee comprised of:

- Alderman Damon Thomas, Hobart City Council
- Alderman Anna Reynolds, Hobart City Council
- Alderman Jenny Branch-Allen, Glenorchy City Council
- Deputy Mayor Harry Quick, Glenorchy City Council
- Nick Heath, General Manager, Hobart City Council
- Peter Brooks, General Manager, Glenorchy City Council

The steering committee will be assisted by the following:

- James McIlhenny, Manager Planning Policy and Heritage, Hobart City Council
- Tony McMullen, Acting Director Community, Economic Development & Business, Glenorchy City Council
- Leigh Carmichael, Creative Director, MONA

James McIlhenny, Manager Planning Policy and Heritage, Hobart City Council will be the Project Manager and primary contact for the Contractor.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor is to provide a fortnightly verbal progress report to the Project Manager and a written progress report to the Steering Committee every 4 weeks.

13. PROJECT MEETINGS

An initiation meeting will be held with the Contractor and the steering committee to discuss the brief and provide clarification of any issues prior to the project commencing.

A monthly progress meeting is to be held with the Contractor and the steering committee.

14. NOMINATED CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE.

The Contractor will be expected to appoint a Project Manager who will be the main contact point for the project and be responsible for organising project team meetings with the clients.

15. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

A range of previous reports relevant to the current project have been published by the Department of State Growth and by the Councils. These include:

Department of State Growth:

2009 - Parsons Brinckerhoff

(This consultancy supported development of the Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Framework 2010. Light rail was considered as part of a package of final recommendations. A rail alignment to UTAS in Sandy Bay was considered at a high level only).

Review of Passenger Travel Demand Measures, Greater Hobart. Final Stage 1 Report. April

Review of Passenger Travel Demand Measures, Greater Hobart. Final Stage 2 Report. April

Review of Passenger Travel Demand Measures, Greater Hobart. Final Stage 3 Report. June

2011 - ACIL Tasman

Hobart to Northern Suburbs Light Rail Business Case. A report providing a summary of the findings of all three stages of the project. August

Hobart to Northern Suburbs Light Rail Business Case. A report detailing the findings of the third stage of the project. July

2012 - AECOM

Hobart northern suburbs light rail. Business case peer review. December

2013 -

ACIL Tasman Stage 1 Light rail business case. Hobart to Glenorchy. May

Developable Sites Analysis – Main Road,

2014

Wider economic benefits and funding options. Final report. February

Riverline - Hobart light rail preliminary plan. March

Riverline - Hobart light rail strategic assessment. March

Infill Development within Greater Hobart.

2016

Review of a proposed light rail system in Hobart. January

These reports are available at:

http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/passenger/framework/transit-corridors/background_information

http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/passenger/framework/infill-development

http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/passenger/light-rail

http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/129613/Light_Rail_Strategy_210116.pdf

http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/89154/Appendix_D_Attachment_A_developable_sites_report.pdf

Glenorchy City Council Reports:

Interim Land Use Planning Strategy (2010)

Glenorchy CBD Strategic Framework

City of Hobart reports:

Inner City Action Plan http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Hobart/A_City_with_People_in_Mind

Hobart 2010 Public Spaces and Public Life - A city with people in mind (Ghel Architects) http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Hobart/A_City_with_People_in_Mind

Sustainable Transport Strategy 2009-2014
http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Transport/Sustainable_Transport_Planning

Southern Tasmania Regional Planning Project:

Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy http://stca.tas.gov.au/rpp/southern-tasmania-regional-land-use-strategy/

Regional Land Use Strategy background reports including *Dwelling Yield Analysis* and *Providing for Housing Needs* http://stca.tas.gov.au/rpp/background-reports/

Planning scheme related information is available at
http://iplan.tas.gov.au/Pages/XC.Home/Home.aspx

8. DRAFT CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN – FILE REF: 17-4-2

72x's

Report of the Director City Planning and Manager Development Compliance of 7 June 2016, and attachments.

DELEGATION: Council

TO : Council

FROM : General Manager

DATE : 7 June 2016

SUBJECT : **DRAFT CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FILE : 17-4-2:RR (document2)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider a draft submission in relation to the draft Cat Management Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The Cat Management Act 2009 commenced in 2012 ("the Act"). The Act is administered by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

2.2. Local government does not have any legislative responsibilities to control cats under the Act although there are provisions which allow Councils to take action by appointing authorised officers and creating by-laws.

2.3. DPIPWE have released the draft Cat Management Plan ("draft Plan") for comment (see **Attachment A**).

2.4. The purpose of the draft Plan is to improve the management of feral and domestic cats in Tasmania, and reduce the negative impacts they have on the environment, agriculture and human health.

2.5. The draft Plan contains 7 objectives including:

2.5.1. Objective 1: Encouraging responsible ownership of pet cats

2.5.2. Objective 2: Promoting best practice techniques to guide the planning, management and control of stray and feral cats

2.5.3. Objective 3: Increasing community awareness and involvement

2.5.4. Objective 4: Improving the knowledge about feral cats to better inform management

2.5.5. Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas of high conservation value and agricultural assets

2.5.6. Objective 6: Undertake legislative amendments to facilitate and support other objectives

2.5.7. Objective 7: Clarify roles and responsibility of Local Government and State Government regarding cat management.

2.6. The objectives set out in the draft Plan have the potential to impact on Council firstly by imposing new responsibilities and secondly in Council's management of extensive areas of bushland, which support numerous native animal species which are threatened by cats.

2.7. **New Obligations**

2.7.1. While the Act provides for the involvement of Local Government in cat management, the background paper (**Attachment B**) identifies that Latrobe Council is the only local government area to establish cat management by-laws.

2.7.2. The draft Plan suggests that responsibilities between local government and state government is not clearly defined and Objective 7 of the draft Plan is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local government and state government regarding cat management.

2.7.3. In addition, a significant number of draft actions against the other 6 objectives identifies Local Government as one of the key stakeholder groups responsible for implementation.

2.7.4. When the Act was drafted the State Government made it clear that there was a clear intention not to impose new obligations on Councils. While the Act allows Councils to take action, the provisions are permissive and there is nothing which imposes an obligation on Local Government with respect to implementation and/or enforcement.

2.7.5. Responsibility for cat management should remain with the State Government and any proposed transfer of responsibility to councils is opposed.

2.7.6. The draft Plan includes a number of actions which will impact on Local Government.

2.7.7. If Councils are to become responsible for control of cats, additional resources will be required for effective implementation and enforcement.

2.7.8. As the responsibility for cat management is currently the responsibility of the State Government, any transfer of responsibility to local government would need to be accompanied by on-going and recurrent financial assistance to ensure that councils can increase their resources to meet the increase in responsibilities. A transfer of responsibilities without recurrent financial commitment would amount to cost-shifting from the state to local government.

2.8. Bushland Management

2.8.1. The Council is responsible for the management of 2966 ha of bushland reserves, equating to 38% of the total area of the city. Council also manages a further 1623ha of bushland in adjacent municipalities, largely as part of water catchment protection. Together these bushland tracts support a rich array of native plants, birds, lizards, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates.

2.8.2. Over more than twenty years Council has developed a range of on-ground and strategic management initiatives within its bushland reserves, including supporting community bushcare activities, running educational programs, installing and upgrading recreational infrastructure, removing environmental weeds, restoring habitats, conducting ecological and fuel reduction burns and, in recent years, developing a wildlife monitoring program.

2.8.3. This wildlife monitoring program has highlighted that cats (domestic and wild) are a regular presence within the City's bushland reserves, a major concern given the impacts - directly, through predation; indirectly through toxoplasmosis and other diseases - that cats are known to have on native wildlife, in particular, lizards, certain bird species and smaller mammals.

2.8.4. The timely implementation of the draft Plan will assist biodiversity management by the Council by reducing the impacts domestic and feral cats have on native wildlife in the city.

2.9. A draft submission addressing the matter outlined in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 has been prepared for consideration of the Council (see **Attachment C**).

3. PROPOSAL

3.1. It is proposed that the Council resolve to provide the draft submission included at **Attachment C** to DPIPWE.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. The draft submission will be finalised and signed by the General Manager and submitted to DPIPWE.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The draft submission addresses the following Strategic Objectives:

5.1.1. Strategic Objective 3.2: strong environmental stewardship

5.1.2. Strategic objective 3.3: a highly valued natural and cultural open space network

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Funding Source(s)

6.1.1. Not applicable

6.2. Impact on Current Year Operating Result

6.2.1. Not applicable

6.3. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

6.3.1. If local government are to become responsible for implementation and enforcement of cat management, financial resources will be required to increase Council's administrative and regulatory capacity to meet the additional responsibilities.

6.4. Asset Related Implications

6.4.1. Not applicable

7. DELEGATION

7.1. This matter requires consideration by the Council.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1. Executive Leadership Team

8.2. Parks and City Amenity Division

9. COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENT

9.1. DPIPWE is seeking public comments on the draft Cat Management Plan. It is proposed the attached draft submission (**Attachment C**) be provided as part of that process.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1. The draft Cat Management Plan has been released for public comment.

10.2. The draft Plan contains 7 objectives designed to achieve better cat management in Tasmania.

10.3. One of the objectives is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of Local Government and Statement Government in relation to the management of cats and a number of draft actions identifies Local Government as a key stakeholder responsible for implementation.

10.4. In addition the draft Plan, if implemented effectively, will assist the Council's biodiversity management by reducing the impacts of domestic and feral cats on native wildlife in the Council's bushland.

10.5. It is recommended the Council make a submission as part of the consultation process and a draft submission has been prepared.

11. RECOMMENDATION

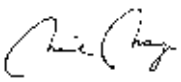
That:

11.1. The report :rr(document2) be received and noted.

11.2. The Council resolve to provide the draft submission included at Attachment C to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in response to the Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.

(Kirsten Turner)
MANAGER DEVELOPMENT COMPLIANCE



(Neil Noye)
DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING

Attachments

Attachment A	Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan April 2016
Attachment B	Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan – Background Paper
Attachment C	Draft City of Hobart Submission

Attachment A

Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan

April 2016




Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government

CONTENTS

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The development of this plan has been overseen by the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group and includes significant writing contributions from Tom Jackson, Sue Robinson, Eric Schwarz, Jack Davey, Craig Elliott and Michael Askey-Doran.

ACKOWLEDGEMENTS

This *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* has been developed with the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group. In May 2015, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Jeremy Rockliff invited a number of organisations with a direct interest in the management of cats in Tasmania to be represented on a Reference Group, with the primary task of developing this draft Plan. Those organisations include:

The Hobart Cat Centre

The RSPCA

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust

The Australian Vets Association

The Cat Association of Tasmania

Landcare Tasmania

Local Government Association of Tasmania

Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional bodies (represented by NRM South)

University of Tasmania

In addition to the Reference Group members a number of individuals with expertise in particular areas were also invited to participate in working groups to look at the issues related to socialised cats and feral cats – The contributions from Nick Mooney, Eric Woehler (Birds Tasmania), John Toohey (Clarence City Council), Kaylene Allan (Kingborough Council), Bruce Jackson (DPIPWE), Sue Robinson (DPIPWE) and Danielle Madden-Hallett on the working groups and the members of the Reference Group is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Jack Davies who wrote much of the information on cat-borne diseases as part of a study placement to DPIPWE from the Charles Sturt University.

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The material for this consultation comprises three elements:

- This Draft Management Plan, detailing the proposals and recommendations of the Reference Group
- A Summary Document
- A Background Paper, including detail on the evidence base behind the proposals in the Draft Management Plan

All documents are available on the DPIPWE website:
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/catmanagementplan.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by phoning 03 61653085;

or by emailing: catmanagementplan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

If you would like to comment on any information or recommendation in these documents, please forward your written submission, with your name and contact details, to:

Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan
Biosecurity Tasmania, DPIPWE
GPO Box 44
HOBART TAS 7001

The closing date for submissions is **30 June 2016**.

All submissions will be treated as public documents and made available on the Department's website. If you wish your submission to be treated as confidential, either in whole or in part, please note this in writing at the time of making your submission (however, see below on the *Right to Information Act 2009*).

The *Right to Information Act 2009* and confidentiality

By law, information provided to the Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009*. If you have indicated that you wish all or part of your submission to be confidential, the statement that details your reasons will be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of a right to information application for the assessed disclosure of the submission.

1. INTRODUCTION

This draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan (the "Plan") describes how the management of cats in Tasmania should occur. It has been prepared with consultation and input from a range of stakeholders, including recommendations provided to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) from the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group, and addresses the management of feral (wild), domestic and stray cats.

Supporting this *Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* is a separate document, the *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan - Background Paper*, which provides important additional information on all of the issues covered in this Plan and in particular, additional detail relating to the recommendations proposed in this Plan. The *Background Paper* is also available on the *Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* web-page.

This Plan and the *Background Paper* have been prepared to be consistent with the Australian Government's *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (Department of Environment 2015a), which establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of feral cats on biodiversity.

This Plan recognises that cats are an integral part of Tasmanian society but the role they play is a complex one. This one species can be many things to different people, including much-loved pets; useful animals that control vermin; nuisance animals that annoy neighbours, and invasive animals that spread disease and impact on native wildlife and agriculture. The polarised view of cats in the community makes cat management a difficult and often emotive issue.

The Plan also recognises that the community plays a key role in the management and control of stray and feral cats. In fact without community support and participation, the stray and feral cat problem will remain a significant one. The Plan also recognises that Tasmania has a self-sustaining feral cat population, therefore, eradication of feral cats state-wide is not feasible with current resources and techniques. Whilst removing the feral cat threat is an important objective, so too is putting in place other measures that protect the values and assets that feral cats threaten. The need to more clearly identify roles and responsibilities of both State and Local Government in the management of cats are considered as a key objective in the Plan.

Substantial gaps exist in our knowledge of the role and impacts of cats, particularly stray and feral cats, in the landscape. This limits the effectiveness of attempts to manage many cat-related issues. Addressing these knowledge gaps is a key element of this Plan because understanding how cats interact and relate to wildlife and agriculture is integral to designing effective programs to manage cats, and protect vulnerable species and agriculture.

2. OVERVIEW and SCOPE

This Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan ("the Plan") sets out a range of actions that aim to increase the levels of responsible ownership, clarify roles and responsibilities, improve our knowledge and understanding of various aspects of cats, and improve the effectiveness of legislation. Actions that will contribute to achieving improved management of cats in the areas of the environment, agriculture and human health are described. For further detail regarding any of the issues discussed in this Plan refer to the *Background Paper*.

This Plan is built around seven objectives, although a number of the issues identified in this Plan cross multiple objectives. The objectives are summarised below, and discussed in detail in Section 4.

Objective 1: Encouraging responsible ownership of pet cats

Objective 2: Promoting best practice techniques to guide the planning, management and control of stray and feral cats

Objective 3: Increasing community awareness and involvement

Objective 4: Improving the knowledge about feral cats to better inform management

Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas of high conservation value and agricultural assets

Objective 6: Undertake legislative amendments to facilitate and support other objectives

Objective 7: Clarify roles and responsibility of Local Government and State Government regarding cat management

Categories of cats

It is important for public debate that it is recognised that all cats in Tasmania are the same species (*Felis catus*) and the categorisation of domestic, stray and feral are labels of convenience. The categories and definitions used in this Plan are:

- Feral cats are those that live and reproduce in the wild, largely or entirely removed from humans, and survive by hunting or scavenging; none of their needs are satisfied intentionally by humans.
- Stray cats are those found in and around cities, towns and rural properties; they may depend on some resources provided by humans but have no identifiable owner.
- Domestic cats are those which are identifiable as owned; most of their needs are supplied by their owners. They may roam beyond their owner's property, including into bush and park land, but they spend most of their time with a specific person/family/property.

3. ACHIEVING BETTER CAT MANAGEMENT in TASMANIA

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Key to improving levels of responsible cat ownership in Tasmania, and being able to implement an effective legislative framework, will be ensuring there is a clear understanding and agreement about roles and responsibilities. In particular, the roles that State (including statutory land management authorities) and Local Government have with regards cat management need to be clearly identified and consensus reached.

3.2 Managing Environmental Impacts of Cats

All cats, domestic, stray and feral, can have some level of environmental impact. Consequently, in developing management responses for cats it is essential to acknowledge the polarised views of the community towards this animal. Whilst some in the community regard cats (particularly feral cats) negatively due to environmental concerns, others have a positive perception of cats due to their role as a companion animal and predator of other invasive species.

Tasmania has a self-sustaining feral cat population. Eradication of feral cats state-wide is not feasible with current resources and techniques although eradication may be achievable in limited circumstances such as offshore islands or fenced (predator proof) reserves. Therefore, the focus for managing and controlling feral cats is on 'asset protection': this Plan identifies a key management priority is to suppress or eradicate (in the case of offshore islands) cats in areas containing high priority assets. This includes high conservation value areas, where measurable declines in native fauna populations have occurred (e.g. burrowing seabird colonies and coastal strips with shore birds).

In parallel with managing impacts, this Plan aims to limit the number of cats entering the feral population through a range of community education and awareness programs, and enforcement of effective cat management legislation.

The *Background Paper* to this Plan provides a fuller discussion of the environmental impacts of cats and the current knowledge of managing the environmental impacts of cats.

3.3 Managing the Impacts of Cats on Agriculture

As a host to a number of significant diseases, which impact on stock and human health, management of the interactions between cats and agriculture (i.e. livestock) is an important component of cat management in Tasmania.

Common disease-causing parasites utilize the cat as a host to reproduce and propagate disease: *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*), *Sarcocystis* and *Cryptosporidium* species are the most prevalent of the various cat-borne diseases affecting livestock. These parasites have a range of negative effects on the livestock industries. Consequently, a focus of this Plan is on increasing the awareness of appropriate management strategies and control programs that the community, and particularly farmers, can implement.

3.4 Reducing the Adverse Impacts of Cats on Human Health

In terms of the human impact, *T. gondii* is probably the most noteable cat-borne parasite that has significant potential disease implications. Cats are the primary (or 'definitive') host for this parasite and therefore the Plan recognises that the appropriate management of all cats (feral, stray and domestic cats) is important in the control of *T. gondii*. However, control programs must be implemented on a strategic, systematic and ongoing basis to be effective. A number of other parasites can also be transmitted to humans *via* cats, including *Cryptosporidium* (*C. felis*) and *Giardia*. Cats can also be a source of cat scratch disease (*Bartonella henselae*), ringworm and roundworm (Toxocariasis).

3.5 Recommendations for Future Regulatory Change

A number of regulatory changes have been identified as necessary to facilitate improved outcomes for cat management in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group reviewed the existing legislation and has put forward recommendations that will improve the effectiveness and functionality of the regulatory arrangements governing cat ownership. The proposed amendments to the *Cat Management Act* are detailed in Section 4.6 of the Plan with additional information in the *Background Paper*.

3.6 Guidelines for More Effective Decision-Making

It is important that where public funds and resources are allocated to projects and programs that there are clear and achievable outcomes identified. It should be demonstrable that proposed management actions are capable of delivering the planned outcomes and they are sustainable into the long term.

This Plan will seek to ensure formal criteria are used to guide decision-making based on appropriate principles. This Plan will also seek to ensure government, community and community stakeholders use the criteria in undertaking project development and when seeking funding.

4. OBJECTIVES and ACTIONS

There are seven broad objectives in this Plan (summarised in Section 2). Actions have been developed to achieve the seven objectives. Performance indicators are given for each objective.

It is recognised that some actions, such as effective monitoring and control activities, are reliant on others such as the delivery of research projects and high levels of community support. The objectives and actions should be considered and implemented recognising these dependencies.

Please note: following this public consultation phase, in developing the final Cat Management Plan priorities will be given to each action and categorised as 'very high', 'high' or 'medium'. The prioritisation will be done in conjunction with the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group and take into account the public feedback on this Draft Plan. Timeframes will also be determined. The stakeholders responsible for each action are proposed at a sectoral level with identifiers as listed in the Table 1.

Table 1 Stakeholder categories

ID	STAKEHOLDER
1	State government
2	Landholder, owner or manager (private and government)
3	Industry and conservation groups
4	Cat owners, breeders and sellers
5	Local Government
6	Animal welfare organisations
7	Research institutions
8	Australian Government

4.1 Objective 1: Encouraging responsible ownership of pet cats

This objective focuses on education of cat owners about their responsibilities and the potential impacts of their pets on the environment. This objective is also linked to Objective 6 and some of the amendments being proposed to the *Cat Management Act*.

Desired Outcome: Pet cat owners have a high level of awareness of the potential negative impacts of stray cats and act responsibly to prevent their cats contributing to those impacts.

Performance indicators

1. The incidences of domestic and stray cats roaming and complaints about nuisances declines.

2. Pet cat owners have high levels of awareness of the requirements of the *Cat Management Act 2009* and their responsibilities as cat owners.

3. State and Local Governments are actively using their regulatory powers under the *Cat Management Act 2009* and *Local Government Act 1993* to respond to community concerns.

Action		By Whom
4.1.1	Develop and distribute information material in relation to responsible pet ownership, including protecting the health of the cat; understanding the meaning of responsibility; awareness of the impacts cats can have and how to minimise their impact.	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
4.1.2	Encourage owners to ensure that cats are microchipped, desexed and are kept within property boundaries – where necessary enforce statutory requirements that support this action.	1, 5, 6
4.1.4	Councils encouraged to develop by-laws to manage and control cats at the municipal level, with support of State Government.	1, 5

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

4.2 Objective 2: Promoting best practice techniques to guide the planning, management and control of stray and feral cats

This Plan will facilitate the adoption of best practice decision-making and control methods for stray and feral cat management programs, and will contribute to achieving more effective and sustainable outcomes. It is important that management and control programs consider all options and have a good understanding of the extent and nature of the impacts being caused, the likely outcomes of any given program, and the most effective and efficient methods to employ.

This Plan will seek to ensure formal criteria are used to guide decision-making based on appropriate principles, and this Plan will also seek to ensure relevant government,

community and industry are aware of, and implement, the criteria in undertaking project development and funding.

Desired Outcomes: Effective, efficient and humane control techniques are developed and implemented.

Performance indicators

1. Strategic, long-term approaches are increasingly adopted for feral cat control programs focusing on reducing or eliminating the impacts of feral cats.

2. Appropriate criteria are used to guide decision-making for undertaking cat management and control projects and funding by government, community and industry groups.

3. The *Model code of practice for the humane control of feral cats*[1], including related standard operating procedures are promoted and adopted.

4. Alternatives to lethal control techniques are promoted where appropriate.

Action		By whom
4.2.1	Develop code of practice for the operation of cat management facilities.	1, 5, 6,
4.2.2	Ensure cost-effective methods for monitoring the level of impact on affected species before, during and after stray and feral cat control actions are available and being used.	1, 3, 7,
4.2.3	Adoption of model codes of practice for the humane treatment of stray and feral cats promoted.	All
4.2.4	Development and adoption of criteria to guide decision-making for project development and funding by government, community and industry groups.	1, 2 ,3, 5, 7, 8,
4.2.5	Effective and efficient alternatives to trapping and shooting, such as exclusion fence designs, innovative traps are promoted to land owners and managers where appropriate.	1, 3, 6, 7, 8
4.2.6	Research, management and control programs underpinned by "before and after" monitoring.	All
4.2.7	Programs to manage and control feral cats occur within a coordinated, cross land-tenure framework.	All
4.2.8	Training and education is provided for landowners and community in the humane and effective methods of controlling feral cats.	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

[1] Sharp, T. and Saunders, G. (2012). *Model code of practice for the humane control of feral cats*. Invasive Animals CRC (available from the PestSmart website).

4.3 Objective 3: Increasing community awareness and involvement

Successful management of cat impacts needs effective community support and involvement. The nature of the issue requires the community to understand the most effective approaches to managing the impacts from the feral, stray and domestic cat populations in Tasmania. This in turn relies on an awareness of those impacts, the range of techniques available and ultimately adoption of those techniques and responsible pet ownership.

This objective is closely linked with the other objectives of this Plan. The actions to achieve this objective focus on integrating effective information development and delivery.

Desired Outcome: The Tasmanian community is aware of this Management Plan and how they can help manage the impacts of cats

Performance indicators

1. Increased community awareness of the nature and scale of impacts of cats.

2. Increased community awareness of the Management Plan.

3. 'Responsible cat ownership', as defined by this Plan, becomes widely accepted and implemented by the Tasmanian community.

Action		By Whom
4.3.1	Information materials are developed and distributed to support and promote: • a better understanding of the role cat owners can play to reduce problems associated with stray and feral cats. • a broad understanding of the threat to biodiversity and the agricultural sector posed by stray and feral cats and support for their control. • the specific actions to be implemented under this Plan • humane practices for managing and controlling stray and feral cats.	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

4.3.2	Investigate opportunities to provide training to community and volunteer groups involved in managing stray and unwanted cats.	1, 5, 6
4.3.3	Develop specific communication plans to accompany cat control programs to address public sensitivities about cat control	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

4.4 Objective 4: Improving the knowledge about feral cats to better inform management

The depth of knowledge of the role cats play in the Tasmanian environment is not strong. This has significant implications for the efficacy of cat management projects: projects are currently often based on assumptions rather than facts thereby limiting the value, certainty and reliability of projects and their outcomes, and inhibiting effective management planning.

A key objective of this Plan is improving the knowledge of feral cats and their impacts and the most effective control techniques, both direct and indirect, to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Desired outcome: Knowledge gaps about the distribution, impacts and behavior of feral cats are addressed.

Performance indicators

1. Feral cat management projects involve pre- and post-control monitoring of:
   (a) Feral cat distribution, abundance and movement.
   (b) Feral cat impacts on native species and other values.
   (c) Other invasive species.
2. Identify pathways of disease transmission.
3. Key research priorities and knowledge gaps identified.
4. Research published in peer-reviewed journals and available through local information resources for adoption in control activities by stakeholders.

Action		By whom
4.4.1	Encourage and facilitate research into the interactions between stray and feral cats and: • native carnivores • other invasive mammals to improve understanding of the relationship of feral cats with these species (and vice versa) in terms of competition and predation.	1, 3, 7, 8
4.4.2	Develop and use monitoring strategies that can be employed before, during and post management or control activities to ensure impacts of feral cat control are clearly understood.	All
4.4.3	Encourage and support the development and trialling of alternative methods to lethal control of feral and stray cats.	1, 3, 5, 7
4.4.4	Research the role of feral and stray cats in the transmission of disease to livestock and native species, identify pathways and effective methods of limiting transmission.	1, 3, 7, 8
4.4.5	Value the costs to primary industry caused by feral cats.	1, 3, 7, 8
4.4.6	Publish and promote research findings relating to feral cats.	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
4.4.7	Promote the use of reporting portals such as FeralCatScan for monitoring feral cats and to facilitate community data collection.	1, 3, 5, 7, 8

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

4.5 Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas of high conservation value and agricultural assets.

High value environmental assets will be assessed and, where they coincide with the presence or likely occurrence of feral cats, become priorities for cat management programs. A similar process will be undertaken for agricultural areas that are particularly sensitive to cat-related impacts. Consulting with industry groups, in relation to protecting primary industry assets, and environmental stakeholders, in relation to protecting high conservation value assets, will be initiated.

Once priority areas have been identified, control actions can be implemented over time. Community-led action has a clear role in ensuring this objective can achieve the on-ground objective of protecting values and assets.

Desired Outcomes: The impact of feral cats on areas of high conservation value and priority agricultural assets is greatly reduced.

Performance indicators

1. Priorities are established for High Conservation Value Assets (HCV) and agricultural assets .

2. Land owners and land managers are active and supported in managing cats within identified priority areas and using approaches consistent with the principles identified in this Plan.

3. No new establishment of feral cat populations occurs on HCV islands.

Action		By Whom
4.5.1	Analysis undertaken to identify priority conservation values and where cats are known to, or likely to have, a significant impact.	1, 7, 8
4.5.2	Analysis undertaken to identify high value agricultural assets in areas where cats are known to, or likely to have, a significant impact.	1, 3, 5, 7, 8
4.5.3	State and Local Governments liaise with relevant landholders and managers with a view to facilitating targeted control activities.	1
4.5.4	Feral cat control for off-shore islands will, where practical, occur within an integrated pest management framework.	1, 2, 5, 7, 8
4.5.5	DPIPWE will seek to work with Federal agencies, local government and landowners to develop localised cat management programs.	1,2,5,8
4.5.6	Monitoring and evaluation is to be a key part of developing new localised cat management programs to ensure the effectiveness of feral cat controls.	All
4.5.7	Undertake education and awareness activities with farmers regarding cats / livestock interactions to minimise parasite transmission.	1, 3, 5, 6, 8,

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

4.6 Objective 6: Undertake legislative amendments to facilitate and support other objectives

A number of amendments to the *Cat Management Act* have been identified and will be implemented to facilitate better management outcomes for all stakeholders. Proposed amendments to the legislation are listed below, and detail on the specific changes, and the background to those changes, are provided in the *Background Paper*.

Desired Outcome: To improve the legislative framework that informs all aspects of cat management so as to facilitate better and more effective outcomes for the Tasmanian community and environment.

There are a number of amendments to the *Act* being proposed in this plan. Feedback is now being sought on those proposed amendments. Once the consultation period is complete and the finalised Cat Management Plan is released, the steps to amend the *Cat Management Act* will be commenced, in line with the normal legislative process.

Compulsory desexing of cats

This change would require that all cats, unless otherwise prescribed, must be desexed and will provide for clearer penalties where the owner of the cat fails to do so.

Amending the age to desex

The legislation currently prescribes the maximum age (six months) at which cats should be desexed. However, cats are capable of breeding once they reach puberty, which may be as young as four months of age. This amendment would allow for early-age desexing.

Compulsory microchipping of cats

This change would require that all cats, unless otherwise prescribed, must be microchipped and will provide for clearer penalties where the owner of the cat fails to do so.

Remove the option of a Care Agreement

Care agreements allow for the sale of a cat to occur without the animal being desexed or microchipped on the understanding the new owner will ensure it happens. Agreements are difficult to enforce and create a loop-hole and it is recommended they are removed from the legislation.

No compulsory registration of cats

It is recommended that if cats are compulsory microchipped and required to be confined to the owner's property, that the need for registration of cats will be redundant.

Confining cats to premises

There is nothing preventing cats from roaming, and this can cause a nuisance to neighbours, impact on native wildlife and put the cat's health at risk by being injured or killed by traffic

or other animals. This change to the legislation would require owners confine their cats to their properties.

Limiting the number of cats allowed at a property without a permit
As with the *Dog Control Act*, the number of cats allowed on a single property would be limited. The number has been proposed to be between 3-5 cats, and a permit would be required to keep more than the prescribed number, such as in the case of registered cat breeders. Costs associated with the permits also need to be considered.

Improve arrangements to support landholders undertaking cat management actions
Recommended amendments to the protection of property from roaming cats would include:

- on any land used for primary production cat management action (trap, seize, humanely destroy) can be undertaken regardless of proximity to nearest residence;
- on any other private property type the affected landowner is able to trap/seize a cat, but not destroy.
- exceptions would be on prescribed land such as reserves and cat prohibited areas where cat management action could be undertaken regardless of proximity to nearest residence.

Improving arrangements for registered cat breeders
The breeding of cats by unregistered breeders is an offence under the current legislation. Those wishing to breed cats can either be registered by the cat breeder associations, which focus on pedigree animals or by the State Government, which focuses simply on the breeding of cats, pedigree or non-pedigree. The current arrangements are not effective and difficult to enforce.

Development of a code of practice for the operation of a cat management facility
A code of practice would formalize the operation of cat management facilities, better defining their roles and responsibilities and operational requirements in relation to legislation. The code of practice could also provide guidance for the operation of cat refuge and rescue organisations.

Amendments to the *Act* covering administrative components
The changes aim to improve administrative operation of the *Act* and in some cases make their intent clearer.

- Amend the definitions for feral cats and stray cats.
- Define the term “breeding”.
- Commence section 24 of the *Act*, under which cats are to be microchipped and desexed before being reclaimed from a cat management facility.

- Simplify minimum holding time requirements at cat management facilities.
- Remove reference to 'working days' for holding times at cat management facilities.
- Notification of owners in writing by cat management facilities to be amended to verbal notification.
- Define what is meant by the term primary production as it relates to undertaking cat management action.
- Provide for a person acting on behalf of a landowner to trap, seize or humanely destroy a cat found on private land under certain conditions.
- Provide for authorised persons to issue a notice requiring a person to undertake cat management action.

Performance indicators

1. There is community support for amendments to the *Cat Management Act.*
2. Amendments to the *Act* occur within an acceptable timeframe.
3. Roles and responsibilities in relation to the *Act* are understood and accepted.

Action		By Whom
4.6.1	Commence the process to amend the *Cat Management Act* based on the outcomes of public consultation	1
4.6.2	Develop and implement a public awareness program that informs the owners of cats of their responsibilities under the *Act.*	1, 5, 6
4.6.3	State and Local Governments ensure that the *Act* is complied with, i.e. there are compliance programs in place.	1, 5
4.6.4	Councils supported in the development of by-laws that improve the effectiveness of the *Act.*	1, 5

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

4.7 Objective 7: Clarify roles and responsibilities of local government and state government regarding cat management

Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various layers of Government - State and Local, is a key objective of this Plan. Currently, responsibilities between these two levels of Government, in relation to the management of cats, are not clearly defined. Additionally,

the State Government and its statutory land management authorities (including business enterprises) have responsibility for the management of substantial areas of land, including environmental matters such as feral cats. This objective aims to address the complex mosaic of administrative and management arrangements that this circumstance produces to achieve more effective cat management across Tasmania; in part by liaising with the relevant agencies to facilitate a better understanding and recognition of their roles and responsibilities relating to cat management on their estate or area of responsibility.

Desired Outcome: There is clear understanding and agreement regarding the specific roles and responsibilities that State and Local Government have with regards cat management; and appropriate cat management actions are proactively undertaken by relevant government bodies.

Performance indicators

1. Discussions are initiated with and between State and Local Governments to identify and clarify specific roles and responsibilities for cat management.

2. Roles and responsibilities in relation to the *Cat Management Act* and this Plan are understood and accepted.

Action		By Whom
4.7.1	State and Local Government, as a matter of urgency, clarify roles and responsibilities in relation to cat management.	1, 5,
4.7.2	Identify roles and responsibilities for statutory land management authorities in relation to cat management.	1

Stakeholder Group ('by whom') Codes – 1-State Government; 2-Land owner or manager; 3-Industry & community groups; 4-Cat owners, breeders and sellers; 5-Local Government; 6-Animal welfare organisations; 7-Research institutions; 8-Australian Government

Attachment B

Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan

Background Paper

April 2016




Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government

CONTENTS

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The development of this *Background Paper* has been overseen by the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group and includes significant writing contributions from Tom Jackson, Sue Robinson, Eric Schwarz, Jack Davey, Craig Elliott and Michael Askey-Doran.

ACKOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* has been overseen by the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group. In May 2015, the Minister for Primary Industries, Jeremy Rockliff invited a number of organisations with a direct interest in the management of cats in Tasmania to be represented on a Reference Group, with the primary task of developing this draft plan. Those organisations include:

The Hobart Cat Centre

The RSPCA

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust

The Australian Vets Association

The Cat Association of Tasmania

Landcare Tasmania

Local Government Association of Tasmania

Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional bodies (represented by NRM South)

University of Tasmania

In addition to the Reference Group members a number of individuals with expertise in particular areas were also invited to participate in working groups to look at the issues related to socialised cats and feral cats – The contributions from Nick Mooney, Eric Woehler (Birds Tasmania), John Toohey (Clarence City Council), Kaylene Allan (Kingborough Council), Brian Baxter (Landcare Tasmania), Bruce Jackson (DPIPWE), Sue Robinson (DPIPWE) and Danielle Madden-Hallett on the working groups and the members of the Reference Group is greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Jack Davey who wrote much of the information on cat-borne diseases as part of a study placement to DPIPWE from the Charles Sturt University.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cats are an integral part of Tasmanian society but the role they play is a complex one. This one species can be many things to different people, including much-loved pets valued for enjoyment and companionship; useful animals that control rats and other vermin; nuisance animals that annoy neighbours, and invasive animals that spread disease and impact on native wildlife and agriculture. The polarised view of cats in the community makes cat management a difficult and often emotive issue.

Despite cats being in Tasmania for approximately 200 years, the depth of understanding of the role cats play as a predator and competitor with other species, native and introduced to Tasmania, is not strong. This limits the effectiveness of attempts to manage many cat-related issues.

In Tasmania initiatives to improve awareness about the issues associated with the ownership and management of cats have been underway through a range of public awareness programs. This includes use of television media, published information and web-based information. Some councils, vets and volunteer organisations have supported discounted and free microchipping events for cat owners. However, there is still much to do, especially in increasing levels of responsible ownership of cats and in defining roles and responsibilities.

State and Local Government are the two tiers of Government that can support regulatory actions related to the management of cats. State Government has a role administering the *Cat Management Act 2009*, but Local Government is able to appoint authorised officers under the *Act* and can create by-laws covering cats. However, the roles and responsibilities for State and Local Government in relation to cat management are not clear and need to be better clarified.

Non-government organisations such as the RSPCA and the Hobart Cat Centre play a central role in managing unwanted and stray cats. Not only do both organisations play a role in finding new owners for unwanted animals, they also play a crucial role in educating people about their responsibilities as pet owners.

There are gaps in our knowledge of the actual impacts of cats, especially that of stray and feral cats. Understanding how cats behave and respond to the presence of prey and other predators (including other cats) is integral to designing effective programs to protect vulnerable species and control feral cats. The approach to improving the way in which we manage cats in Tasmania and addressing the gaps in knowledge is intended to be collaborative with the aim of bringing the community, different levels of Government, industry and research institutions together.

Nationally, the Australian Government has published the *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (Department of Environment 2015a). This plan establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of feral cats on biodiversity. This plan identifies a range of actions, including research needs, that are required to help ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities that are being impacted upon by feral cat predation. Supporting this plan is the *Background Document for the Threat Abatement Plan for the Predation by Feral Cats* (Department of Environment 2015b). The background document contains information on feral cat characteristics, biology and distribution; impacts on environmental, social and cultural values; and current management practices and measures. The *Threat Abatement Plan* is linked closely to the Australian Government's *Threatened Species Strategy* (Department of Environment 2015c).

The *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* and this supporting *Background Paper* describe how the management of cats in Tasmania should occur. They have been prepared with extensive consultation and input from a range of stakeholders, including recommendations provided to the DPIPWE from the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group, and addresses the management of feral (wild) and domestic cats.

2. OVERVIEW and SCOPE

This Paper provides background to the management and impacts of cats in Tasmania and supports the objectives and recommendations of the *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan*. That draft plan aims to increase the levels of responsible ownership, clarify roles and responsibilities, improve our knowledge and understanding of various aspects of cats, and improve the effectiveness of legislation.

The *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* is built around seven objectives, although a number of the issues identified in this plan cross multiple objectives. The draft plan's objectives are summarised below:

Objective 1: Encouraging responsible ownership of pet cats

Objective 2: Promoting best practice techniques to guide the planning, management and control of stray and feral cats

Objective 3: Increasing community awareness and involvement

Objective 4: Improving the knowledge about feral cats to better inform management

Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas of high conservation value and agricultural assets

Objective 6: Undertake legislative amendments to facilitate and support other objectives

Objective 7: Clarify roles and responsibility of Local Government and State Government regarding cat management

Categories of cats

It is important for public debate that it is recognised that all cats in Tasmania are the same species (*Felis catus*) and the categorisation of domestic, stray and feral are labels of convenience. The categories and definitions used in this *Background Paper* are:

- Feral cats are those that live and reproduce in the wild, largely or entirely removed from humans, and survive by hunting or scavenging; none of their needs are satisfied intentionally by humans.

- Stray cats are those found in and around cities, towns and rural properties; they may depend on some resources provided by humans but have no identifiable owner.

- Domestic cats are those which are identifiable as owned; most of their needs are supplied by their owners. They may roam beyond their owner's property, including into bush and park land, but they spend most of their time with a specific person/family/property.

3. CAT MANAGEMENT in TASMANIA – CURRENT SITUATION

As a species that is both a widespread introduced pest and a much loved companion animal, cats play a complex role in the Tasmanian community. This one species fulfils numerous roles including valued pets; useful animals that control rats and other vermin; nuisance animals that annoy neighbours, and invasive animals that spread disease and impact on native wildlife and agriculture. The formal management structures around cats reflect these contradictory roles.

In July 2012 the *Cat Management Act* 2009 was proclaimed, along with the *Cat Management Regulations 2012,* with the aim of achieving the following objectives:

- promote the welfare and responsible ownership of cats;
- provide for the effective management of cats, allowing for the humane handling and management of unidentified, stray and feral cats; and
- reduce the negative effects of cats on the environment.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), has primary responsibility for administration of the legislation, but the legislation also provides for the involvement of Local Government through the appointment of authorised officers (under this *Act* or under the *Dog Control Act 2000*) and the ability to make by-laws under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Currently Latrobe Council is the only Local Government area to establish cat management by-laws, but a number of other councils are currently exploring their options. Some councils have or are in the process of establishing prohibited areas on land they manage. This will give councils the capacity to trap and seize stray and feral cats.

The legislation identifies the RSPCA and Hobart Cat Centre as cat management facilities and details their management responsibilities, including the management of seized, unclaimed and surrendered cats. These two organisations bear the majority of the daily cat management responsibility and are usually the first contact for cat management in Tasmania.

Community groups and councils have initiated a number of cat management projects in recent years. Kingborough Council, in partnership with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has hosted a Cat Management Officer. That initiative has delivered several valuable outcomes including: a responsible cat ownership awareness campaign focusing on microchipping; desexing and confining cats to their owner's property; community attitudes survey; and projects to reduce the impacts of cats on the environment (Boronia Reserve and Bruny Island).

Community feral cat trapping programs have been undertaken in a number of areas around the State including the Upper reaches of the Meander Catchment and in the Weymouth and Bellingham areas of the north-east. Tamar NRM has been active in promoting the problems caused by feral cats by sponsoring a number of forums on feral cat management and control.

In recent times there has also been significant amount of research undertaken into the impacts of feral cats on native fauna, feral cat behaviour and feral cats and the spread of toxoplasmosis. This research has provided us with important insight into how feral cats behave across different landscapes and how that might influence the success or failure of control and trapping programs. Nonetheless, further research is required to address a variety of cat-management related issues.

3.1 Owned Cats

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, and cats are the second most common pets with 29% of households owning a cat (Animal Health Alliance 2013). This equates to 15 in every 100 people in Australia having a cat. In Tasmania, it is estimated that 34% of households own a cat, the highest rate in Australia (Roy Morgan Research 2014). This highlights the fact that cats play an important role in the social fabric of Tasmanians.

This relationship between cats and people, as with other companion animals, is complex and often conflicting. Cats provide companionship for their owners and are valued as animals that will also help control rats and mice. However, cats are also inherent wanderers and their agility allows them to move easily between different properties. Cats that roam can be a nuisance and the cause of conflict between neighbours. They can bother and even attack other people's pets, including other cats; defecate in other properties; risk spreading diseases such as toxoplasmosis; and kill native wildlife.

Cats that roam persistently effectively become stray cats and may be fed by and/or even live with multiple owners. Stray cats, as opposed to feral cats, remain at least partly habituated to humans but can be found hunting in adjoining bush and reserve areas where they kill native wildlife and contribute to the spread of various cat-borne diseases.

3.1.1 Principals of responsible ownership

A key objective of improving the way in which cats are managed in Tasmania is to ensure that cat ownership occurs in a responsible manner. It is important that people who choose to own a cat understand what their responsibilities are. The notion of being "responsible" relates to many different aspects of owning cats. It includes being responsible for what your

cat does, including impacts on wildlife and the nuisance it may cause to other people and their properties. Being responsible also includes the health and wellbeing of the cat. Cats that are allowed to wander may not only create a nuisance but are also at risk of being injured by vehicles or other animals, of contracting diseases or becoming pregnant. Desexing helps prevent unwanted pregnancies and microchipping ensures a lost animal can be returned to its owner. By providing a safe environment within the property and confining the cat so it doesn't wander helps protect the animal's well-being.

3.1.2 Cats kept for breeding purposes

An important aspect of cat ownership relates to cats that are kept for breeding. Breeding of cats occurs for a range of reasons – personal ownership of particular breed types; showing of cats; and commercial breeding for sale. In Tasmania, breeders of cats are required to be registered, and this can occur either through the recognised breeder associations or with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE). The breeder associations play a different role to that of DPIPWE in terms of the requirements for registration and the type of breeders registered. The breeder associations have a strong focus on protecting the integrity of breeds and encouraging responsible ownership, whereas DPIPWE's focus is more towards preventing uncontrolled breeding of cats and the risk of un-desexed and non-microchipped cats being sold. For those who wish to breed non-pedigree cats, the opportunities outside of the DPIPWE registration process are more limited, especially if the breeder believes the formal cat breeder associations are not appropriate to their needs.

The breeder associations operate under a constitution with a code of ethics and a defined set of rules and regulations. The associations have the power to cancel the membership of any member who breaches the code of ethics or rules and regulations. Whilst the DPIPWE can de-register breeders it has registered, it has no power to de-register those breeders registered with a cat association.

In the interests of encouraging responsible cat ownership, there is a need for a clearer framework to be established for the registration of breeders that covers non-pedigree breeding and reduces the level of uncontrolled cat breeding.

3.1.3 Animal welfare

The *Cat Management Act* requires that cats be treated humanely whenever they are the subject of cat management actions. These actions include the trapping, seizing and humane destruction of cats. Currently cats can be trapped and/or euthanased when found on properties involved in livestock grazing for primary production, or are more than one

kilometer from the nearest residence, or are found on prohibited land. The destruction of an animal must occur quickly and without causing the cat undue suffering.

The welfare of a cat is also protected through the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* – Part 2 of this *Act* covers the welfare of animals including duty of care, management of animals, cruelty and the use of traps.

3.2 Feral Cats

3.2.1 Introduction

Cats were introduced to Tasmania in 1804 (Abbott 2008) and by the 1840s were reported as '*feral in some parts of the Colony*' (Breton 1846). Records of predation by cats on native animals were first made in the 1840s and 1850s (Abbott 2008). Recent genetics studies (e.g. Spencer *et al*. 2015) have determined that cats took approximately 70 years to spread across mainland Australia; they can therefore be assumed to likely have occupied all suitable habitat in Tasmania fairly rapidly. Cats are now considered firmly established across the state and eradication of cats from mainland Tasmania is not considered feasible with the tools and techniques currently available.

While the impacts of feral cats on (small) island environments are well documented and understood, the impacts of feral cats on 'mainland' environments (including big islands such as Tasmania) are generally poorly understood. Therefore a key challenge for cat management in Tasmania is addressing the extensive knowledge gaps regarding the impact of feral cats on wildlife and agriculture. Potential impacts on the environment are likely to be wide ranging and include livestock and poultry losses from predation and disease transmission, and wildlife impacts from disease transmission, competition and predation of native species. Diseases associated with feral cats, such as toxoplasmosis, are known to affect humans. These issues will be discussed in detail in the subsequent relevant sections.

3.2.2 Distribution

The distribution of feral cats in Tasmania is effectively statewide. Cats are now considered to be widely distributed throughout all ecosystems in the state with the highest densities in urban and peri-urban areas, particularly around Hobart and Launceston, and lowest in the more remote and wetter regions of the southwest. There are no accurate population estimates for feral cats in Tasmania, and limited value in making them as from a management perspective, the density and the potential impact of cats are more important considerations. There is, however currently limited data available on both of these factors.

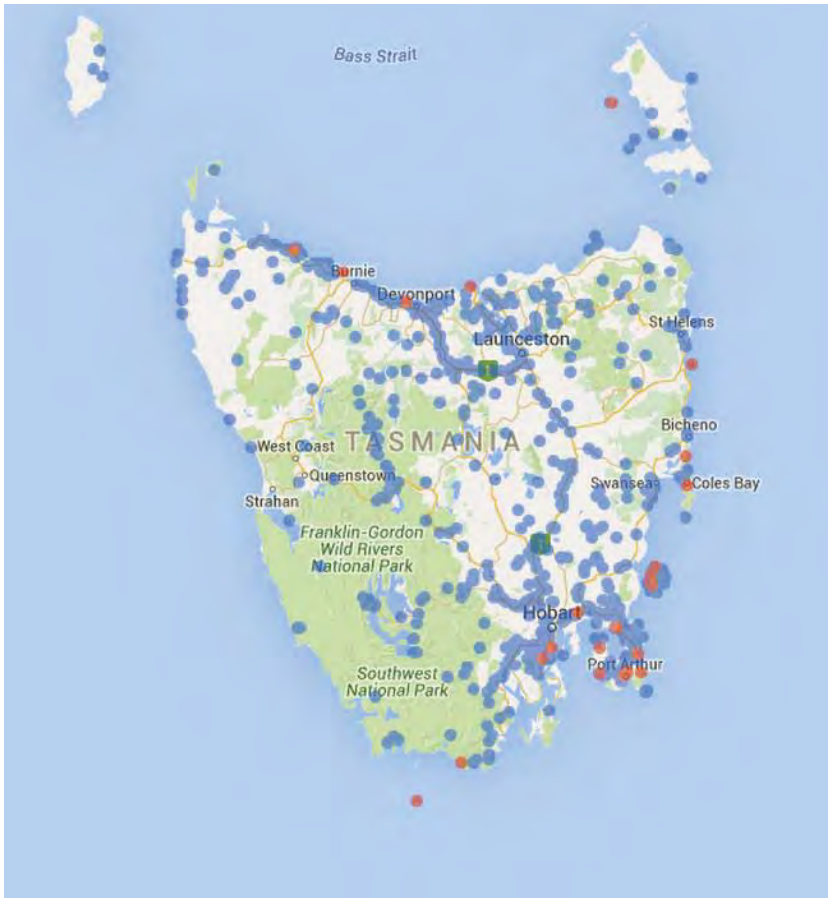

Figure 1. Feral cat records (red dots are spatially suspect) for Tasmania from the Atlas of Living Australia database (www.ala.org.au). Image produced on 1st March 2016.

3.2.3 Feral cats and Tasmania's natural environment

The problem

Feral cats are generally considered to be a serious and widespread vertebrate pest in Australia, and have been linked to the decline and extinction of a number of species of fauna. There is substantial evidence of cats predating on a range of Tasmanian species, however there is little clear data on whether cats have had a significant impact on any species, at a state-wide level. While there have been no extinctions of potential prey species in Tasmania, there is substantial anecdotal evidence of cats having significant effects on vulnerable wildlife populations at a local level.

Management of vertebrate pests needs to take into account the capacity to achieve effective outcomes and to direct efforts to those priorities where the greatest gains can be made. The "invasion curve" provides a means by which realistic priorities can be established for the control of introduced vertebrate pests, including cats. After an initial incursion of an animal(s) there may be a brief window of opportunity where eradication is achievable. However, over time that initial population will grow and may eventually reach a level where eradication is no longer feasible. At this point management switches to containment and then, at some point, to asset protection.

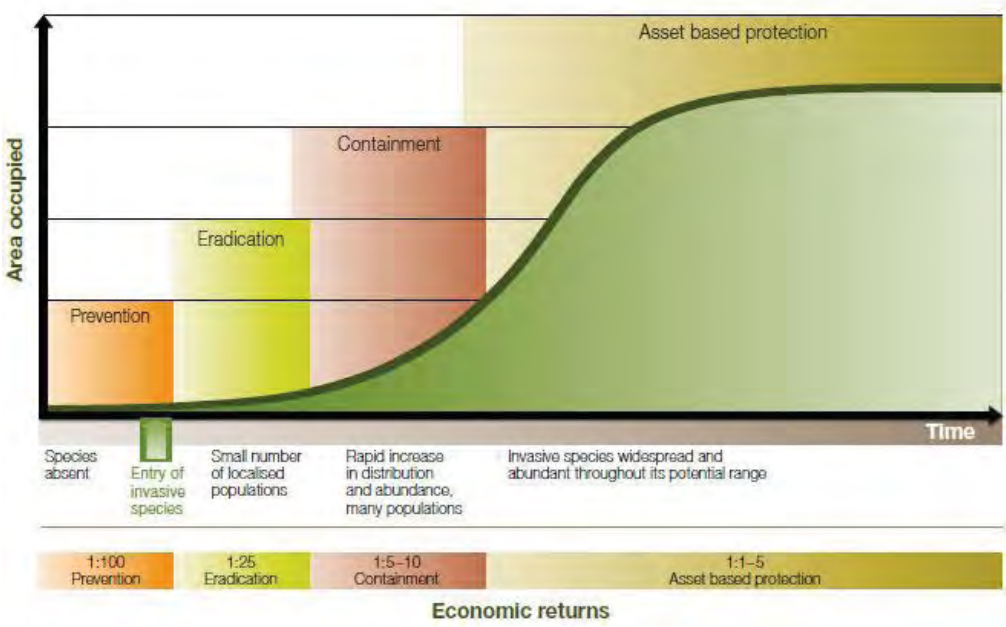

Figure 2. Species Invasion Curve (Agriculture Victoria 2015)

The invasion curve also provides a guide to the costs of control compared to the amount of effort required to control the pest. This 'return on investment' diminishes the further along the curve you go. In Tasmania, in terms of cat management, we have progressed towards the further end of the curve; i.e. cats are established across the state and should be managed on the basis of 'asset protection' with a focus on reducing the *impact* of cats, rather than focusing on the *numbers* of cats.

As previously discussed, eradication of cats from mainland Tasmania is not considered feasible with the tools and techniques currently available. Consequently strategic targeting of priority areas, such as areas with specific vulnerability to cat impacts (e.g. shearwater colonies) and offshore islands is appropriate. An additional and significant component of managing feral cats will be the effective regulation of the domestic and stray cat populations and a concurrent change in cat owner behaviours.

Realistically, the greatest benefit will come from targeted and well planned programs that may reduce the impacts of feral cats in areas where natural values or agricultural assets need to be protected. Local councils, rural stakeholder groups, and regional natural resource management groups should be encouraged to develop local or regional feral cat management strategies to assist with coordinating activities and reducing impacts over the longer term.

The Impacts

The knowledge and level of understanding of the dynamics of feral cat impacts in non-island environments, such as mainland Tasmania, is not great. However, Tasmania has been settled by Europeans for over two hundred years and the domestic cat can be assumed to have been present in most areas for much of that time, yet Tasmania has a relatively intact native fauna, including several species that have become extinct or extremely rare on the mainland. The two major differences between the settlement process in Tasmania and the Australian mainland are a lower level of habitat clearance and the absence of the fox.

Considering this, there is therefore strong evidence that Tasmania's indigenous fauna can cope with the presence of the domestic cat as long as the original habitat is reasonably intact. While there is ample evidence that predation by feral cats does have an impact on Australia's native fauna and has caused local if not total extinctions (e.g. Dickman1996), the absence of cat-related extinctions in Tasmania's fauna indicates that the distribution and abundance of species in this state is largely determined by factors other than predation by cats; the most typical being habitat availability (Frith 1979). However, as land is cleared or the native vegetation becomes degraded, resulting in smaller more isolated populations, the impact that cats have is likely to increase. In this situation predation by cats may become the proverbial "last straw", driving the species to local extinction. There are a number of other potential "last straws" however, including wildfire (an increasingly significant factor given climate predictions), disease, and in the longer term, inbreeding (King 1984).

Cats are considered opportunistic carnivores, with a diverse diet, although one Tasmanian study found indications of selective predation on small native marsupials (Schwarz 1995). Cats are generally considered to directly predate on vertebrates weighing up to 3kg (Dickman 1996), and there is limited evidence that individuals may occasionally take prey up to approximately 4 kg in weight (e.g. Fancourt 2015). However, mammals weighing up to 220g and birds less than 200g are likely most impacted by cats (Dickman 2015). Bird species which forage or nest on the ground are the most vulnerable. Cats may also kill and eat a broad range of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates (Dickman 1996).

Much of the Tasmanian fauna, particularly mammals less than 3kg and burrowing seabirds, are considered to be key targets for predation and notwithstanding the absence of extinctions, feral cats are likely to contribute to localised extinctions of fauna under certain

circumstances, including (i) of burrowing sea bird colonies and (ii) through exacerbating the effects of habitat loss by preying on vulnerable remnant populations (Schwarz 1995).

The impacts of feral cats on native fauna are thought to be wide ranging and not restricted to predation, with competition and associated changes in ecosystem function also being significant consequences of their presence. The potential risks to native wildlife are clear though and have resulted in 'predation by feral cats' being listed as a Key Threatening Process under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The interaction between cats, *T. gondii*, and native wildlife are not understood although it has been surmised that there may be negative impacts in terms of recruitment, health and/or survivorship for some species as a consequence of infection with *T. gondii*. The potential impact of *T. gondii* needs to be considered on a species-by-species basis as the impact is likely to vary considerably. Overall, marsupials are considered highly susceptible to toxoplasmosis and infection can cause a range of symptoms including lethargy, unnatural daytime activity, loss of appetite, respiratory distress, neurological disturbances, and death (Eymann *et al*. 2006). These symptoms may change the potential vulnerability of individuals and/or species to predation; research is required to assess the impacts on species of conservation significance.

A relatively recent complication in cat management is the impact of the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). First observed in the late 1990s in north east Tasmania, DFTD has led to total population of >60%, and in some instances, such as the northeast, in excess of 90% (McCallum *et al*. 2009). The broader impacts stemming from this require substantial research to ascertain if and how it has changed relationships between Tasmanian devils, cats and the rest of Tasmania's fauna.

Indirect changes in the environment can potentially alter environmental relationships, and consequently inter-species interactions. For example it has been suggested that declines in Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) populations, due to the DFTD, have released cats from competitive suppression resulting in increased predation on species, by cats, such as eastern quoll (Fancourt *et al*. 2015) and has also led to an increased spread of toxoplasmosis (e.g. Fancourt and Jackson, 2014).

3.2.4 Feral cats and Tasmanian agriculture – cat-borne diseases

Introduction

The cat's distribution now includes all of Tasmania's agricultural areas. As a host to a number of significant diseases, which impact on stock and human health, management of the interactions between cats and agriculture needs to be a major component of cat management in Tasmania.

Common disease-causing parasites utilize the cat as a host to reproduce and propagate disease: *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Sarcocystis* and *Cryptosporidium* species are the most prevalent of the various cat-borne diseases affecting livestock. Not only do these parasites affect the livestock industries through direct economic impacts from lost production, but also through a number of indirect impacts such as increased meat inspection, herd health management, feral cat control and even the potential impacts on human health. As a result, management strategies and control programs are required to mitigate these deleterious effects. Each of these three parasites will be individually addressed in the following sections.

Background

The increasing rural-urban interface has resulted in a large overlap between the territory of cats (feral and domestic) and agricultural land. Subsequently, a number of infective diseases transmitted by the cat are being more readily identified in Tasmania.

Toxoplasmosis, the disease caused by *T. gondii*, can cause sheep and goats and occasionally pigs to abort. Contaminated meat can lead to infections in humans consuming undercooked meat. Sheep can become infected with toxoplasmosis if they eat feed or drink water contaminated with cat faeces. The level of toxoplasmosis in feral and stray cats in Tasmania is some of the highest in Australia and worldwide (Fancourt and Jackson 2014). Other pathogens that cats can transmit include sarcosystosis (sarcosporidiosis) and cryptosporidiosis which can infect cattle and sheep.

In recent years outbreaks of *T. gondii* infections have been identified with cases of 'abortion storms' causing severe impacts on affected farmers and many subclinical losses going unnoticed. Equally, detection of the presence of *sarcocystis* by abattoirs during processing has resulted in the need for carcass trimming and even entire carcass condemnation resulting in substantial financial losses. Management of feral, domestic and stray cats needs to account for these impacts on Tasmania's agricultural industry.

Feral cats are not commonly recognized by national environmental legislation as an agricultural pest, although the Tasmanian legislation does permit primary producers and private land holders to manage cat populations, including destruction of the animal(s) if the

land is used for livestock grazing or more than one kilometer from any place genuinely used as a place of residence.

Toxoplasma gondii

T. gondii, commonly known as 'Toxo', is a parasitic protozoa in which the cat is required for sexual reproduction (i.e. it is the definitive host). As a result only the cat can excrete environmentally resistant oocysts (Dubey 1995). Whilst it occurs globally, Tasmania has high rates of *T. gondii* infection; reports of greater than 60% of Tasmanian blood donors had antibodies to the parasite compared with Australia's national average of 30 to 50% of the adult population (Milstein 1997). A study of feral cats sampled from Tasmanian sheep grazing areas found 96% tested positive (Gregory 1976), while a second study found 84% of feral cats tested across the state were carrying *T. gondii* (Fancourt and Jackson 2014). Sheep and pigs have been identified as more susceptible to infection than cattle with antibodies titres significantly greater than those of cattle (Munday 1970, Munday 1975). Tasmania's cool climatic conditions have been shown to be favourable for *T. gondii* oocyst survival in the environment, potentially being a major contributor to the increased prevalence in Tasmania's livestock (25.7% of sheep) compared to that of other states (Munday 1970, Fancourt and Jackson 2014).

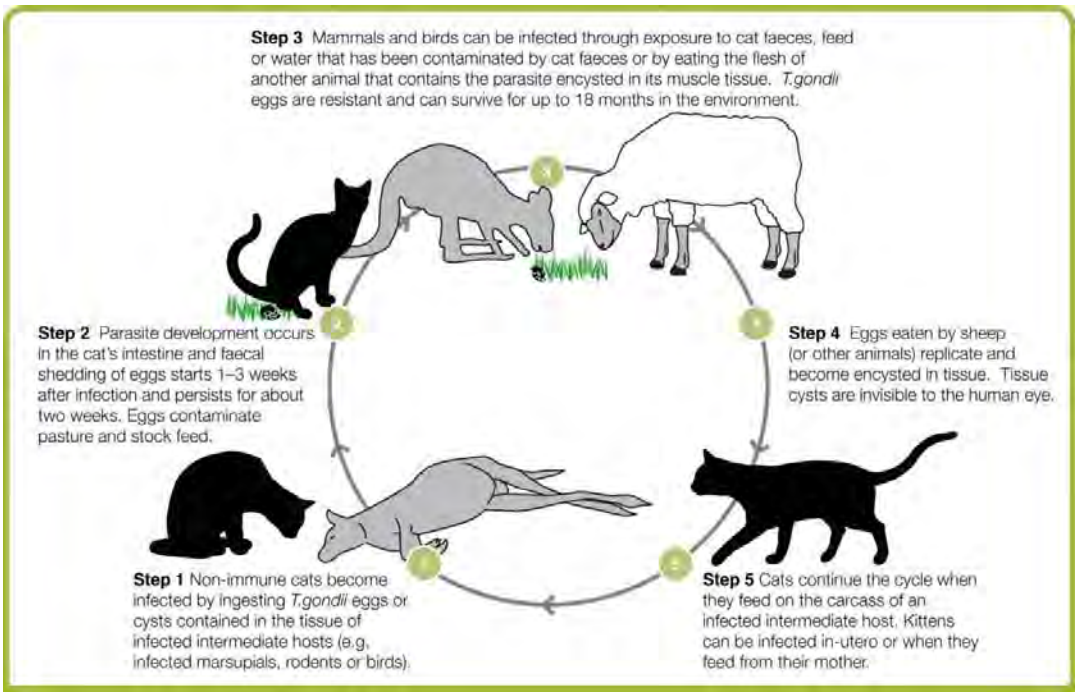

Figure 3. *Toxoplasmosis* life cycle (source Jackson Fact Sheet no. 10)

Even though the lifecycle of *T. gondii* relies on the cat as its definitive host, the parasite has been found to infect almost all warm blooded animals (Ferguson 2009, Berfer-Schoch 2011). The intermediate host becomes infected by consuming infective oocysts on contaminated

food, soil, or water (Dubey 2004, Dubey & Jones 2008, Elmore et al., 2010). The parasite further develops in the infected intermediate host finally forming latent tissue cysts (Dubey and Frenkel 1976).

Clinical toxoplasmosis can occur in susceptible species, or immunocompromised animals resulting in acute signs however most healthy, non-pregnant individuals remain asymptomatic. Within 1-2 weeks of tissue cysts being consumed by the cat, millions of oocysts are passed into the environment through the faeces, completing the lifecycle (Dubey et al 1970, Buxton et al 2007, Fancourt and Jackson 2014). If infection occurs during pregnancy, the parasite may be transmitted vertically from the mother to the progeny (Figure 1) (Langham and Charleston 1990, Tenter et al 2000, Buxton et al., 2007).

Disease impact: *Toxoplasma gondii*

Infection of *T. gondii* is typically asymptomatic (no signs) although infection of naïve (un-exposed) animals, including humans, can result in a number of deleterious effects. If naïve animals become infected with the parasite during pregnancy vertical transmission (from mother to progeny) may occur resulting in abortion, still birth, or congenital disease leaving the neonate weak (Jackson and Hutchinson 1989, Charleston 1994, Tenter et al., 2000). In addition to the obvious detrimental effects on humans, this process can result in large losses in livestock. An early study conducted in the mid 1960's indicated toxoplasmosis contributed to a large proportion (46%) of outbreaks of ovine abortion/neonatal death in Tasmania (Munday 1970).

A number of papers have assessed potential risk factors for stock including farm size, feed storage, animal gender, animal age, and housing with varied results (Berger-Schoch *et al*., 2011, Buxton *et al.*, 2007, Klun *et al*. 2006). It was implied by Klun, *et al.* (2006) that although these variables may have been shown to have significance, it is still merely the presence of infected cats and rodents that results in disease spread (Klun *et al*. 2006). An unpublished DPIPWE (2015) assessment of the costs imposed by *T. gondii* in Tasmania estimated annual economic losses of approximately $1.7 million. This compares with an extensive study conducted in Uruguay, which estimated the annual economic losses to be approximately US$1.4-4.7 million (Freyre *et al*. 1997).

Sarcocystis

There are currently over 100 species of Sarcocystis described in the literature with most species relying on an obligatory two-host life cycle. The lifecycle relies on the transmission of the parasite between the cat and the sheep via faecal-oral transmission from the cat to the sheep and then back to the cat *via* consumption of the developed cysts within the sheep. It should be noted that these feline species of sarcocystosis cannot be transmitted to humans *via* either route.

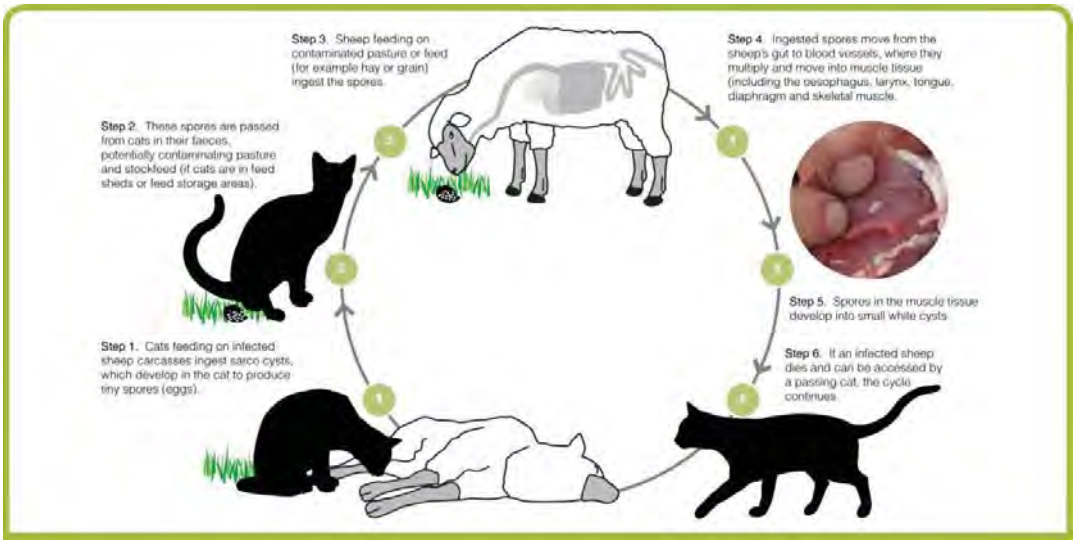

Figure 4. *Sarcosystis* life cycle (source Jackson Fact Sheet no. 9)

The two species most relevant for cat management purposes are *S. ovifelis* (formerly *S. gigantean*) (Formisano 2013) and *S. medusiformis*, both of which rely on the cat as the definitive host and the sheep as the intermediate host in which macroscopic sarcocysts may be seen (Charleston 1994). The two cat-borne species may potentially be carried by foxes (Levine 1986).

In comparison with many other internal parasites, *sarcocystis* is remarkably resilient to environmental conditions making the management of pastures, feed and carcasses more difficult. Infected cats shed large numbers of sporocysts in their faeces (up to 7000 cysts per gram) commencing around 10 days after consuming infected sheep tissues. These cysts have been shown to survive a wide range of environmental conditions including various disinfectants. In contrast, extensive heating (over 50-60°C), ultraviolet radiation (4000 ET), or prolonged storage in water (at 24°C) either killed the cysts or reduced their ability to encyst (McKenna and Charleston 1992). To a lesser extent, freezing (-18°C) and desiccation reduced the survival of the sporocysts with an inverse relation between survival and humidity. Other research has demonstrated that the macrocycts can withstand heating to 50 and 52.5°C and still possess the ability to infect kittens (Collins and Charleston 1980). Likewise, metabolic activity of the parasite was not compromised after freezing cysts at minus 14°C for two months.

The survivability of faecal cysts should be considered when reviewing management and grazing strategies. Equally, cat management strategies should consider the prevalence and survivability of the sarcocysts in sheep carcasses in order to prevent the continuation of the life cycle.

The small macroscopic sarcocysts that develop throughout the sheep appear as small 'grains of rice' visible to the naked eye around 10 to 14 months after infection with cysts reported

as early as 8.5 months (Ford 1986, Munday and Obendorf 1984). Sites include muscles of the esophagus, tongue, masseter, larynx, pharynx, diaphragm, and abdominal muscles (Charleston 1994, Lindsay *et al*. 1995). Due to the slow growing nature of the parasite within the sheep the cysts are typically seen in sheep greater than one year of age (Ford 1986).

Disease impact: *Sarcocystis*

Unlike *T. gondii*, the cat-borne species of *Sarcocystis* does not cause clinical disease in sheep, rather the cysts render parts or all of the carcass unacceptable. The cysts themselves must be removed during carcass processing to ensure meat and offal products comply with market standards. This results in increased carcass trimming, downgrading, or condemnation of carcasses and/or offal. Research has suggested that over 90% of Tasmanian sheep and cattle are infected by *Sarcocystis* spp. which possesses negative implications for the carcass quality of older stock (Munday 1975b). Research through a Tasmanian abattoir identified between 6 to 21% of stock slaughtered had visual evidence of *Sarcocystis* cysts in the carcass, and hence trimming or condemnation was required (Hernandez-Jover and Jackson 2014). On Kangaroo Island (South Australia) an abattoir estimated $15,000 worth of stock has been condemned due to excessive contamination with sarcocysts. The same abattoir estimated trimmings to cost on average $1.50 per sheep across a total of 150,000 head equating to $225,000 or $2,000 per average flock in 2003 (Kangaroo Island Cat Control Committee).

Indirect effects of *Sarcocystis* can be identified in both abattoirs and by primary producers. In 1994 an assessment of the financial impact of sarcocysts on abattoirs in New Zealand revealed cost of the labour required to detain and re-inspect carcasses was on average NZD$0.17 per carcass resulting in a national cost of NZD$100,000 per year (Charleston 1994). It was described that the economic loss due to detained and devalued carcasses was difficult to accurately determine as a large number of variables were involved. Likewise, the indirect costs of managing cats, both feral and 'barn cats', is difficult to directly assess: many difficult to measure factors, such as the farmers' labour, resources, infrastructure, and even the health care of 'barn cats', would contribute to such costs.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium species are parasites which have the ability to infect many species of mammals, birds, and reptiles, with zoonotic potential (i.e. they can be passed between animals and humans) (Angus 1983, Juranek 1995). This pathogen typically manifests in scours (diarrhea), mild fever, dehydration, acid-base deficits, and sometimes lethargy (Fleming *et al*. 1997). Typically young stock is the most susceptible with infection of calves commonly occurring after two weeks of age. *Cryptosporidium* has been shown to be transmitted through a large number of methods including surface water (opposed to ground water), manure, sewage treatment plant discharge, wildlife, treated drinking water, and

other sources of sewage (Fleming *et al*. 1997, Wallis *et al*. 1996). Contact with livestock is an important risk factor for zoonotic transfer of *cryptosporidium* (Savioli 2006), opposed to companion animals (dogs and cats) which were identified as having a negative association (Hunter and Thompson 2005). Other commonly handled hosts shown to carry the parasite include mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, foals, parrots, snakes, and monkeys (Angus 1983).

3.3 Adverse Human Health Impacts from Cats

Of the different cat-borne parasites, *T. gondii,* has the most significant, potential disease implications for humans. Cats are the primary host for the parasites *T. gondii*.

Toxoplasmosis can have detrimental effects on pregnant women and immune compromised people. Toxoplasmosis can cause illness in the very young, the old, and those who are immunosuppressed. Pregnant women who become infected with *T. gondii* can suffer miscarriages or pass the infection onto the unborn infant resulting in problems for the new born later in life. Nationally, an estimated 520-650 babies are born each year with congenital toxoplasmosis (Gideon Online 2012).

Recent work in Tasmania by Fancourt and Jackson (2014) found 84 per cent (224 of 266) of feral cats trapped from across the state tested positive for *Toxoplasma* antibodies. This level of toxoplasmosis is some of the highest in Australia and globally (Fancourt and Jackson 2014).

Research over the past 20 years has indicated that toxoplasmosis can cause changes in human behaviour in those who are infected (Flegr 2007, 2013, Flegr *et al*. 2003, Havlicek *et al*. 2001). Toxoplasmosis has also been implicated in the development of schizophrenia (Celik *et al*. 2015, Webster *et al*., 2012) and a prevalence to self-harm (Pederson *et al*., 2012).

A number of other parasites can also be transmitted to humans *via* cats, including *Cryptosporidium* (*C. felis*) and *Giardia*. Cats can also be a source of cat scratch disease (*Bartonella henselae*), ringworm and roundworm (Toxocariasis).

4. ACHIEVING BETTER CAT MANAGEMENT in TASMANIA

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Tasmania has a two-tiered Government system, with a State Government structure and a Local Government structure composed of twenty-nine councils. Responsibilities between the two levels of Government in relation to the management of cats is not clearly defined.

The *Cat Management Act* reaffirms that councils can make by-laws under the *Local Government Act 1993* in relation to the management of cats within its municipal area. Local councils may also declare council-controlled land as "prohibited areas", or declare "cat management areas" to support local management initiatives. There is also nothing in the *Act* that prevents council officers from being authorised under the *Act*.

Additionally, the State Government and its statutory land management authorities (including business enterprises) have responsibility for the management of land including environmental matters such as feral cats. This broad range of organisations that have responsibility for the management of different land tenures and implementation of different pieces of legislation creates a complex mosaic of responsibilities that limits the effectiveness of cat management in Tasmania.

4.2 Managing Environmental Impacts of Feral Cats

Any management response adopted for feral cats must acknowledge the polarised views of the community towards this animal. Whilst some in the community regard cats negatively due to perceived environmental and other impacts, others have a positive perception of cats due to their role as a companion animal and predator of other invasive species. Some may also be generally opposed to control activities on animal welfare grounds.

Observational data indicates that feral cats are widely established in Tasmania and consequently eradication state-wide is not considered feasible with current resources and techniques. Eradication on mainland Tasmania is not possible due to the inability to prevent recruitment from within the feral and domestic cat populations during the process, the high costs and extreme difficulty associated with attempting eradication of a large well-established feral cat population from across an extensive area. Once feral cat populations have become established and widespread, focus for management and control becomes largely focused on asset protection. In addition, the eradication of feral cats may be achievable in limited areas such as offshore islands or fenced (predator proof) reserves where biosecurity may be achievable.

For the most effective outcomes when managing widespread feral cat populations, management must focus on mitigating impacts in specific areas such as islands and small reserves (Dickman *et al*. 2010) or on protecting priority species where there are significant threats to biodiversity (or agricultural production). The key priority is to suppress or eradicate (in the case of islands) cats in areas containing high priority assets that cats can directly affect.

In areas of high conservation value, where measurable declines in native fauna populations have occurred (e.g. burrowing seabird colonies and coastal strips with shore birds), protection and improved breeding success can be achieved through programs aimed at controlling several threats at the same time (e.g. rats and mice, vehicle and dog access, habitat loss, weeds) as well as feral cats.

The most effective pest management option is not always focused solely on the destruction of the target species. Trapping and shooting can be effective whilst baiting is considered to have had variable success as a control measure (Denny and Dickman 2010) and can be a risk to non-target species.

Progress in control programs must be monitored to ensure that objectives of the program are being achieved and to allow management actions to be adapted to changing circumstances. The importance of this with regard to cat management was highlighted in a recent study (Lazenby *et al*. 2014) assessing the impact of low intensity cat control, which found that the removal of dominant adult cats from a wild population actually resulted in a significant increase in the local cat population; the perceived 'benefit' achieved by control was, in fact not achieved and instead significantly increased the number of cats, and therefore potential predation levels, in the study areas. Unfortunately, what constitutes an effective or worthwhile level of control was not determined.

In parallel to managing impacts, it is a desirable aim to limit the number of cats entering the feral population through a range of community education and awareness programs, and enforcement of effective cat management legislation.

Controlling Feral Cats

A number of new technologies are currently being developed that will potentially provide more humane and effective means of trapping and humanely destroying feral cats. The *Background Document for the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (Commonwealth of Australia 2015b) provides detailed information on the range of different options for controlling feral cats, including determining feasibility of eradication. Information on the different methods covered in the *Background Document* include trapping, shooting, exclusion fencing, baiting, alternative methods to deliver toxins, lures, other predators as deterrents, biological control, fertility control and habitat management. Consequently, only some of the newer methods are detailed in this *Background Paper*.

Development work and trialling is currently occurring with a number of new and innovative methods. Grooming traps provide a target-specific trap that uses sensors to detect the presence of a feral cat and sprays a lethal dose of toxic gel onto its fur from up to four meters away. The feral cat ingests the gel when it is grooming. New options for baiting have been developed and registration for use in Australia is being sought. *Curiosity®* uses para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) which is encapsulated in a hard plastic pellet and is inserted into a small meat-based sausage. Feral cats, which are highly susceptible to PAPP tend to swallow without chewing, whereas native animals tend to chew and will reject the capsule. Unfortunately, PAPP may not be suitable for use in Tasmania as trials have shown Tasmanian devils will take up the capsules. An alternative bait known as *Hisstory*, which, as with Curiosity®, also uses a hard plastic pellet, but with sodium monoflouroacetate (compound 1080) rather than PAPP is being field trialed. Native Tasmanian carnivores such as quolls and Tasmanian devils have a high tolerance to 1080 poison and would need to be exposed to a substantial number of baits in a short period of time to be at risk of poisoninng.

Best Practice Control and Management of Cats

There is a demand in Tasmania for the use of traps to catch stray or feral cats but not everyone understands what their obligations are with regards the welfare of the trapped animal, which at times will include non-target species such as native animals. The development of codes of practice around the handling, trapping and humane destruction of stray and feral cats will provide a mechanism to ensure the humane treatment of cats occurs. In relation to feral cats, the *Model code of practice for the humane control of feral cats* (Sharp and Saunders 2012) could be adopted.

The adoption of best practice control methods will produce more effective and sustainable outcomes, especially where land managers work together. The success of control activities can be assessed by monitoring invasive and native species populations or disease transmission before, during and after control activities.

4.3 Managing the Impacts of Cats on Agriculture

The diseases described in section three have unique host relationships and modes of transmission, and therefore control may be achieved through effective cat management programs and appropriate livestock programs that reduce disease transmission rates between cats and livestock. Control methods to reduce the spread of Toxoplasmosis, Sarcosystis and Cryptosporidium are outlined below.

Toxoplasmosis

The control of this parasite is important not only for the economic impacts on primary producers but also for the impacts on human health. The life cycle of this parasite allows for management strategies to be implemented for both the cat and livestock which may reduce the spread of this disease.

The management and control of cats may significantly reduce the prevalence of this disease by reducing the environmental contamination by oocysts (Buxton *et al*. 2007). This can be achieved through methods that reduce the number of cats around grazing areas. Feral cats may be controlled by limiting their breeding, limiting the spread of cats, and limiting the total number of cats around grazing areas.

It is important to adopt an integrated approach that includes several control strategies to minimise the risk of Toxoplasmosis because relying on the lethal control of the feral cat population alone is unlikely to be effective in preventing *T. gondii* spread and outbreaks of abortions (Tracey *et al*. 2015).

Socialised and semi-socialised cats can be managed by feeding parasite-free commercial diets or processed food (cooked or frozen) and hence breaking the lifecycle of the parasite. Although farm cats may be beneficial at deterring feral cats, they may in fact be a source of *T. gondii* due to consumption of infected rats, mice or rabbits, and hence propagating the disease (Charleston 1994) – consequently, feeding them “safe” food can reduce this risk. Since cats are territorial animals, in some cases ‘immune’ desexed cats can be utilised around barns, food stores, and other places that may otherwise attract feral and potentially infected cats (Abu-Dalbou *et al*. 2010).

In other countries such as New Zealand and the United Kingdom the use of Toxovax® has significantly reduced losses to the sheep industry from congenital toxoplasmosis (Charleston 1989; Mévélec *et al*. 2010). The vaccine has been developed to utilise a strain of *T. gondii* (strain 48) that is able to produce immunity in sheep but is unable to form cysts or complete the life cycle (Wilkins and O’Connell, 1992). As a result there are no potential human health effects of eating the meat of sheep that received the live vaccine. Reports indicated an average increased lambing percentage of 3% and decrease in dry ewe percentage of 13.5% (Wilkins and O’Connell, 1992; Charleston 1994). The vaccine is currently not registered

under the APVMA. And therefore, until such time as it becomes available, alternative strategies are required. Ultimately, a large proportion of control and management strategies rely on the efforts of primary producers and the rural communities around them, therefore education of both groups is fundamental in achieving a significant level of control.

Sarcocystosis

Due to the two host lifecycle, it is possible to break the spread of feline Sarco through two major pathways; (1) through the faecal-oral route from the cat to the sheep, and (2) through the consumption of ovine cysts by the cat. Theoretically, if the faecal contamination of pastures could be prevented the lifecycle would no longer continue in livestock, but without this ability other methods must be employed in addition to control of cat populations (Collins and Charleston 1979). In addition to controlling cat numbers, the access of cats to livestock feed stores should be stopped to prevent supplementary feeds becoming a vector for infection. This is particularly important in drought years as the proportion of supplementary feed use increases, hence increasing the potential spread of *Sarcocystosis*.

There is currently no available vaccination available for the *Sarcocystosis* species for either cats or sheep.

Emphasis should be placed on the prevention of feline infection. This crucial step in the lifecycle may be prevented through removing carcasses from paddocks or other areas accessible by cats. Cat proof carcass pits, bins, or containers may be used in an effort to completely prevent feral cat infection. Socialised and semi-socialised cats may be fed commercial feeds or animal meat cooked so that all parts are exposed to at least 60°C for 20 minutes (Collins and Charleston 1980).

Cryptosporidium

Due to the large number of hosts and transmission methods, it is unlikely that the control of feral cats will significantly reduce the spread of *cryptosporidium* and hence reduce the number of cases of cryptosporidiosis in livestock. There is therefore, little that can be done to manage this species, in respect of cats.

4.3.1 Recommendations to reduce disease spread

- Feral cat control should be systematic, strategic and ongoing.
    - Limiting the presence of feral cats on and around grazing land should be considered as a method of reducing the prevalence of these diseases but first the viability of such an effort should be assessed.

- Promptly dispose of carcasses preventing cats (and other animals) from consuming the meat. Carcasses should be buried, burnt, or suitably disposed of to minimize access to this potential source of infection (Scott *et al*. 1993).
- Government and industry to investigate the introduction of the Toxovax® vaccine in high risk areas for Toxoplasmosis to reduce losses to the sheep industry from congenital toxoplasmosis (Mévélec *et al*. 2010).
- Management of socialized and semi-socialized cats
    - Cats can be used to protect barns, food stores, and other places that may otherwise attract feral and potentially infected cats (Abu-Dalbou *et al*. 2010).
    - Feed commercial diets or processed food to domestic or 'barn cats'
    - If animal meat is to be fed to cats it should be cooked so that all parts are exposed to at least 60°C for 20 minutes (Collins and Charleston, 1980).
    - Ensure cats are desexed to prevent the repopulation of feral cat populations.
    - Rodent control using rodenticides containing diphacinone or coumatetralyl should be part of a cat control program
- Ensure owned cats are desexed.

4.4 Reducing the Adverse Impacts of Cats on Human Health

In order to reduce the risk of being exposed to or infected by a cat-borne disease and in conjunction with control programs to reduce the prevalence of diseases such as Toxoplasmosis, the following measures should be implemented to prevent the spread of the *Toxoplasma* parasite to humans:

- Handling of potentially infected cats, particularly their faeces, should be done with caution (Hill and Dubey 2002). Gloves should be worn while handling faeces, litterboxes, and any faecal contaminated items which may extend to gardens, children's sandboxes, and livestock feed.

- *T. gondii* oocysts can survive for months in faeces or water (Dumètre and Dardé 2003) and require constant freezing (for 1 or 7 days at -21°C and -6°C respectively) (Frenkel and Dubey 1973), or heating to 60C for 1 minute (Dubey 1998).

- Pregnant women, children and immunocompromised individuals should not handle high risk items such as cat litterboxes due to the increased likelihood of infection occurring (Hill and Dubey, 2002).

- Contaminated meat can lead to infections in humans consuming undercooked meat. Undercooked and raw meat should not be consumed.

4.5 Guidelines for More Effective Decision-Making

Governments at both a state and national level are increasingly focused on the impacts of cats, especially feral cats. The Australian Government, in supporting the delivery of the *Threatened Species Strategy* and other similar initiatives along with investments at the State level are potential sources of funding and resources to encourage responsible cat ownership and tackle feral cats. However, it is important that where public funds and resources are being allocated to projects and programs that there are clear and achievable outcomes identified. Management actions need to be able to demonstrate that they are capable of delivering the planned outcomes and they are sustainable into the long term. For example, projects that aim to protect particular native species should be able to clearly demonstrate that those species will actually benefit from the proposed management actions; or projects that aim to reduce the incidence of toxoplasmosis in sheep can demonstrate that the proposed management actions will be effective. To achieve these outcomes alternative solutions may be required, such as; establishing feral cat exclusion areas; habitat modification to favour native species; or vaccinations to protect stock from disease (when available).

It is important to consider all options and have a good understanding of the extent and nature of the impacts being caused. Only limited benefit may accrue if the strategy defaults to simply 'culling' a feral cat population without first identifying the impacts of the target species and the most effective and efficient methods to nullify those impacts. Often the focus is only on trapping and shooting but the use of alternatives to lethal control measures such as managing farm cats and exclusion fencing should be considered. Activities that lead to more resilient native species populations or encourage post-control recovery of the native species have a role to play.

Over-arching principles that underpin a planned approach to feral cat management include:

- Identification of the actual problem.
- Identification of natural values to be protected including areas of high conservation value and threatened species impacted by feral cats.
- Identification of agricultural assets to be protected.
- Identifiable human health issues.
- Clear and measureable methods to be able to demonstrate that the expected outcomes are being achieved.
- Evidence that the proposed activities represent the most effective means of achieving the expected outcomes.

The criteria would seek to ensure that effective, sustainable long-term solutions are implemented; that projects can demonstrate "value for money" and in general have support

of governments, the community and industry. These criteria would not over-ride criteria that have been established for specific funding programs, but should help to inform them.

4.6 Recommendations for Future Regulatory Change

As part of the development of the *Draft Tasmanian Cat Management Plan* a review of the existing legislation was undertaken. From that review, which includes feedback from a range of stakeholders and community members, as well as the members of the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group recommendations for regulatory changes have been developed. Whilst these recommendations will have an impact on cat owners it is considered that these changes will importantly, improve the effectiveness and functionality of the regulatory arrangements governing cat ownership. The proposed amendments and inclusions to the *Act* are detailed below.

Compulsory desexing of cats

It is recommended that compulsory requirements are introduced for a cat owner to have their cat desexed by a certain age with penalties for non-compliance. Currently there are no such penalties, making compliance difficult to enforce. Two exceptions are provided for:

- if a vet has certified that desexing would affect the health and welfare of the cat; or
- if the cat is owned by a registered breeder for the purpose of breeding.

This recommendation contributes to preventing unplanned breeding and unwanted litters, and works to prevent unwanted cats which are abandoned or destroyed. It also removes the ambiguity in the existing desexing arrangements by clearly establishing what the cat owner is required to do and the penalties that apply for failing to do so..

Age to desex

The *Act* currently prescribes the maximum age (six months) at which cats should be desexed. However, cats are capable of breeding once they reach puberty, which may be as young as four months of age.

Consideration should be given to better defining the most appropriate age or age range (eg. 4-6 months) at which compulsory desexing should occur. Necessary welfare provisions would also need to be considered, such as where a vet has certified that desexing would adversely affect the health and welfare of the cat. This would ensure that necessary welfare and ethical standards are incorporated into management provisions.

Compulsory Microchipping of cats

Under the current legislation there are no penalties that would ensure it is compulsory for a cat to be microchipped. This recommendation would require that all cat owners must have their cat microchipped once their cat reaches a certain age. It also includes the provision of penalties to assist enforcement. It is proposed that one exception be provided, and that is where a vet has certified that microchipping would affect the health and welfare of the cat. This recommendation is expected to help ensure that cats can be identified and returned to their owner if they are found away from their home property. It also helps to prevent cats being unnecessarily re-homed, sold, or destroyed at cat management facilities because their owner cannot be identified; and additionally it supports cat management more broadly by determining whether a cat is feral or not.

Furthermore, this recommendation removes the existing ambiguity of the current microchipping arrangements by clearly specifying what cat owners must do.

Remove the option of a Care Agreement

Under the existing legislation, a person may sell a cat that is not desexed or microchipped by entering into a care agreement. A care agreement is a written agreement made between the seller and the buyer to have the cat desexed or microchipped at a later date. Care agreements are not easily monitored nor are they registered with any organisation. As such, these agreements are difficult to enforce and have been identified by stakeholders as an ineffective management strategy.

It is recommended that all provisions for care agreements are removed from the legislation. This will remove the existing loophole by which a person can claim they will enter into a care agreement to microchip or desex a cat at a later date in order to buy or sell a cat. It also supports the recommendations regarding enforceable microchipping and desexing.

This recommendation provides for greater control over the sale of cats but it does not mean that all cats sold have to be microchipped or desexed.

No compulsory registration of cats

Based on stakeholder advice through the Cat Management Reference Group, the registration of cats is considered to be an ineffective way of controlling the roaming of cats. The issue of securing roaming cats and then identifying them and their owner is very difficult, and a different proposition to dogs. Feedback from Local Government indicates that dog registration fees do not cover the costs to operate the service. However, the option for individual councils to register cats should continue to be available.

If other measures recommended here are adopted, such as compulsory microchipping, limiting the number of cats at a property (see below) and the requirement to confine a cat

to the property (see below) the issue of roaming cats and the need for registration should become less of an issue.

Confining cats to premises

Cat owners are not required to contain their cat within their property under the current arrangements unless required by a local council by-law. Some current provisions of the *Act* provide restrictions on cats (eg. prohibited areas and cat management areas) but do not impose requirements on cat owners to prevent their pet leaving their property.

This recommendation introduces the requirement that the owner of a cat(s) confine their cat(s) to their property. Non-compliance could result in enforcement action including seizure of the cat(s) and fines.

This recommendation supports cat welfare measures and helps to stop cats wandering from an owner's property, and potentially being injured or killed by traffic, or suffering injuries from other animals. It also takes measures to prevent cats becoming a nuisance within neighbourhoods, such as fouling gardens, creating noise, odour, damage, attacking other pets, or impacts on native wildlife, or spreading diseases such as toxoplasmosis.

It can be expected that the introduction of such requirements will require a significant shift in attitude the owners of cats that currently allow their animals to roam. Whilst constructing outdoor cat runs or enclosures may pose a challenge and cost to the owner, it should be noted that there are several good examples of cost-effective enclosures available.

It is recommended that if this measure is adopted that it is phased in over time and is supported by an education and awareness strategy. The length of phase-in period is still to be discussed in detail.

Limiting the number of cats allowed at a property without a permit

There is currently no limit to the number of cats a person may keep in the absence of a by-law by a local Council. This recommendation limits the number of cats a person may keep. The number of cats is not specified here (suggested limits have ranged from 3-5 cats per property). A person would only be able to keep more than the specified number of cats if they had a permit to do so or if they were a registered breeder.

This recommendation supports existing management measures by reducing the number of cats per owner. It discourages hoarding of cats and recognises the financial and animal welfare implications associated with responsible cat ownership. It does not prevent people from having more than the prescribed maximum number of cats, but requires that they have a permit to do so or otherwise are a registered breeder.

This recommendation would have a direct impact on registered breeders of cats, all of who are required to properly house their animals as part of membership to a breeders association. Registered breeders would need to be able to obtain a permit to keep more than a prescribed number of animals in order to ensure genetic diversity is maintained. Costs associated with the permits also need to be considered.

Improve arrangements to support landholders undertaking cat management actions

Under the current legislation only primary producers involved in livestock production can trap, seize, or humanely destroy a cat on their property, all other primary producers are required to be at a least a kilometre from the nearest residence before they can undertake cat management actions. This proposal allows all landowners involved in primary production to be able to undertake cat management actions. Additionally, landowners not involved in primary production were also constrained by the one kilometre rule and this proposal removes that distance criteria but only allows for trapping and seizing of a cat found on their land.

Recommended amendments to the protection of property from roaming cats would include:

- on any land used for primary production cat management action (trap, seize, humanely destroy) can be undertaken regardless of proximity to nearest residence;
- on any other private property type the affected landowner is able to trap/seize a cat, but not destroy [1].
- Exceptions would be on prescribed land such as reserves and cat prohibited areas where cat management action could be undertaken regardless of proximity to nearest residence.

Improving arrangements for registered cat breeders

In Tasmania, breeders of cats can be registered by cat breeding associations as well as the State Government. The cat breeding associations have a focus on pedigree cats, and are particularly interested in protecting the pedigree lines for the various breeds. The role of the State Government in the registration of breeders differs to that of the breeder associations in that its primary interest is to reduce the level of unregulated breeding and by that reduce the numbers of unwanted cats. This potentially brings the Government into conflict with the cat breeding associations.

The role of State Government in registering breeders potentially creates a number of other problems. The capacity of Government to properly regulate the breeders that are registered through its process is limited. This includes both undertaking the proper checks of individuals applying for registration as well as the capacity to ensure compliance. There

have been instances where the Government registration has been advertised as part of the sale of cats that appear to be being mis-represented as a pedigree breed. The current arrangements are not effective and difficult to enforce.

Development of a code of practice the operation of cat management facilities

Currently there is no code of practice to guide the operation of cat management facilities. Two organisations operate cat management facilities in Tasmania, the RSPCA and Hobart Cat Centre. The development of a code of practice would codify the manner in which existing and future cat management facilities are expected to operate from both an animal welfare perspective and in relation to the legislation. A code of practice would also provide a framework around which animal refuges that deal with cats could operate.

Amendments to the *Act* covering administrative components

In addition to the changes and amendments listed above, a group of amendments were identified from a Departmental review of the *Cat Management Act* completed in 2014. They have been included as a cluster of recommendations as they relate largely to administrative components of the *Act*. One exception is proposal 3 – recommencing section 24 of the *Act*. This affects the operation of cat management facilities and further thought needs to be given to how this should operate. This section of the *Act* aims to ensure that a cat cannot be re-claimed unless the animal has been microchipped and desexed.

Proposal 1: Amend the definitions for feral cats and stray cats

This proposal seeks to change the definition of “feral cat” to be consistent with the terms defined in this *Background Paper* for cats (Section 2).

Proposal 2: Define the term “breeding”.

It is proposed that the term “to breed” is defined as the intentional breeding of cats to produce offspring for any purpose including for commercial gain, showing, maintenance of a breed or personal ownership.

Proposal 3: Commence section 24 of the Act, under which cats are to be microchipped and desexed before being reclaimed from a cat management facility

This proposal would commence section 24 of the *Act*, preventing an owner from reclaiming their cat from a cat management facility unless it is microchipped and desexed.

Commencing this section helps to ensure that cats claimed from cat management facilities are desexed and microchipped. It also means that cats that have strayed or escaped once will be more easily identified and incapable of contributing to unwanted cat populations were they to stray or escape again. In commencing this section of the *Act*, consideration needs to be given to the implications it has for existing cat management facilities.

Proposal 4: Simplify minimum holding time requirements at cat management facilities

Holding times for cats at cat management facilities vary depending on whether the cat is microchipped, not microchipped, or is a surrendered or stray cat.

This proposal simplifies holding time provisions based on whether the cat has an identifiable owner or home and a potential ambiguity between section 25(1) and section 25(3). Under this proposal, there would only be two holding periods defined for cats at cat management facilities.

Proposal 5: Remove reference to 'working days' for holding times at cat management facilities

Current holding times of cats at cat management facilities are based on working days.

This proposal removes the requirement that holding days have to be working days. It would include weekends and public holidays as part of the holding period.

Proposal 6: Notification of owners in writing by cat management facilities to be amended to verbal notification

Currently, Section 23 of the *Act* requires the operator of a Cat Management Facility to notify the owner of a cat, where the owner is identifiable, in writing that the cat is held at the facility.

Under this proposal, the requirement to notify an owner in writing would be amended to allow the notification to occur verbally or by any other means, including in writing.

Proposal 7: Define what is meant by the term primary production as it relates to undertaking cat management action.

This proposal seeks to create a definition for 'primary production'. The definition for primary production would be consistent with its use in other Tasmanian legislation (eg Land

Tax Act 2000) and would determine under what circumstance cat management action could be undertaken to protect property.

Proposal 8: Provide for a person acting on behalf of a landowner to trap, seize or humanely destroy a cat found on private land under certain conditions

Under section 17(2), only the owner of the private land may trap, seize or humanely destroy a cat found on their land. This prevents a person acting on behalf of the landowner (e.g. a manager, tenant, contractor etc.) to carry out cat management actions such as trapping or seizing. This proposal allows for a third person, including any occupier of the land, to act on behalf of a private landowner.

Proposal 9: Provide for authorised persons to issue a notice requiring a person to undertake cat management action

The *Act* outlines powers of authorised persons, but restricts the ability of an authorised person to require or direct a person to rectify breaches of the *Act*.

This proposal would allow an authorised person to serve a notice on an individual who breaches the legislation. The notice would require the person to take reasonable measures within a specified period, to comply with the requirements of the legislation. This would be similar to requirement notices found in other legislation. Failure to act on a requirement notice would result in an infringement notice being served and a possible fine.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Australian Veterinary Association - http://www.ava.com.au/

DPIPWE - http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania

Department of Environment – http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia/feral-cats

Threat abatement plan for predation by cats (Department of Environment) - http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/tap/threat-abatement-plan-feral-cats

Hobart Cat Centre - https://www.hobartcatcentre.com.au/magento/

Kingborough Council - http://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=578

PestSmart - http://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/feral-cat/

RSPCA Knowledge Base - http://kb.rspca.org.au/34/

Ideas for cat enclosures/runs:

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/cats/cat-confinement-enclosures-and-fencing

http://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Cat%20Safe%20Enclosure.pdf

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Attachment C

HOBART CITY COUNCIL :: SUBMISSION

The Hobart City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Draft Cat Management Plan ("draft Plan").

Objective 7: Clarify roles and responsibility of Local Government and State Government regarding cat management

The HCC notes that when the *Cat Management Act 2009* was introduced it was acknowledged in the Second Reading Speech that there was a clear intention not to impose new obligations on Councils, rather a regime of voluntary action was facilitated by the ability to make by-laws in relation to cat management and declare council-controlled land as prohibited areas. It was stated:

> *All the provisions in this Bill relating to councils are permissive. The Bill clarifies the power of local councils to make by-laws in relation to cat management, to enable them to meet the specific needs of their community. This approach has been welcomed by local government.*
>
> *…*
>
> *However, I acknowledge that councils do have some concerns that they will be drawn into cat management. I also acknowledge that councils have been very helpful contributors to the drafting process, and the LGAT has helped to bring forward the views of the onground animal control officers.*
>
> *We will continue to cooperate closely as the legislation is implemented, and the Regulations drafted.*

The draft Plan states that clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various layers of Government is a key objective of the Plan but provides limited detail as to how the responsibilities are proposed to be defined.

A significant number of draft actions against each of the other 6 objectives identifies local government as a key stakeholder responsible for implementation of that action suggesting that Councils are to take a much greater role in cat management.

The HCC supports the approach adopted by the Government when the Act was drafted outlined in the extract above and strongly opposes any transfer of responsibility for cat management to councils.

The State Government is responsible for administration of the Act and in the 4 years since its commencement has had the opportunity to increase its administrative and regulatory resources and capacity for the effective implementation of the Act.

Significant resources will be required if local government are to become responsible for implementation and enforcement of the proposed actions and/or legislative provisions. Any transfer of responsibility from the State Government to councils needs to be accompanied by on-going and recurrent financial assistance to ensure that councils can increase their resources to meet the increase in responsibilities. This is essential if the objectives of the Act and draft Plan are to be effectively implemented and enforced. A transfer of responsibilities without an on-going and recurrent financial commitment from the State Government amounts to cost-shifting from the State to local government.

In additional, financial assistance and other forms of support will need to be made available to councils undertaking compliance and management programs if there is to be effective implementation of the draft actions, for example, technical expertise, streamline assessment processes for establishing 'prohibited / cat management areas,' and waiver of fees (i.e. for animal ethics assessments).

Objective 5: Minimise impacts of cats in areas of high conservation value and agricultural assets

The HCC is responsible for the management of 2966 ha of bushland reserves, equating to 38% of the total area of the city. HCC also manages a further 1623ha of bushland in adjacent municipalities, largely as part of water catchment protection. Together these bushland tracts support a rich array of native plants, birds, lizards, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates.

In recent years HCC has developed a wildlife monitoring program which has highlighted that cats (domestic and wild) are a regular presence within the City's bushland reserves, a major concern given the impacts - directly, through predation; indirectly through toxoplasmosis and other diseases - that cats are known to have on native wildlife, in particular, lizards, certain bird species and smaller mammals.

While the draft Plan refers to areas of "high conservation value" it fails to recognise that local government areas have areas of native fauna that have local or regional significance. These areas may not be properly categorized as high conservation value but nevertheless require protection and should be acknowledged in the Plan.

Environmental Impact of Cat Waste

While the draft Plan acknowledges the impact of cats on agriculture, there is no recognition or actions addressing the impact of cat waste on native animals.

Native animals visit and/or congregate at landfill. Waste and materials from cat management facilities needs to be managed across the State to minimise the risks from toxoplasma and other diseases.

General Comments

Consideration should be given to the adoption of a specific timeline / timeframe implementation of all actions.

Consideration should be given to prioritising all actions, with actions that require initiation by the State Government be given the highest priority. It is suggested that the timeframe for implementation of State Government actions be no longer than 5 years

Consideration should be given to an annual review process to monitor the implementation of all actions.

9. APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR CITY PLANNING – FILE REF: 30-1-18

2x's

The Director City Planning submits for information the attached schedule of applications approved under delegated authority.

DELEGATION: Committee

Delegated Decisions Report (Planning)

Section 57 and 58 (LUPA) *Wednesday 1 June 2016*

Planning Description	Address			Works Value	Decision Body
Alterations and Studio	5 Butterworth Street	WEST HOBART	7000	30000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations to House and Flat	4 Dalton Avenue	WEST HOBART	7000	150000	Delegation
Dwelling Extension	208 Warwick Street	WEST HOBART	7000	75000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, New Carport and Shed	2 Rialannah Road	MOUNT NELSON	7007	25000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	56 Knocklofty Terrace	WEST HOBART	7000	100000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Alterations, Decking and New Dwelling	77-79 Molle Street	HOBART	7000	230000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Alterations, Dwelling Extension and Front Fence	51A Regent Street	SANDY BAY	7005	150000	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations to Dwelling	46 Kelly Street	BATTERY POINT	7004	130000	Delegation
Single Dwelling	4 Chaucer Road	LENAH VALLEY	7008	370000	Delegation
Alterations, Partial Change of Use to Two Dwellings	105 Macquarie Street	HOBART	7000	100000	Delegation
Alterations to Dwelling	39 Lord Street	SANDY BAY	7005	8000	Delegation
Illegal re-roofing	18 Gregory Street	SANDY BAY	7005	30000	Delegation
Single Dwelling	2A Livingston Street	SOUTH HOBART	7004	250000	Delegation
Dwelling Extension (Re-advertised)	2A Syme Street	SOUTH HOBART	7004	150000	Delegation
Five Bronze Sculptures	18 Hunter Street	HOBART	7000	300000	Delegation
Partial Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation	20 South Street	BATTERY POINT	7004	800	Delegation
Partial Demolition Internal (THC only)	181-183 Macquarie Street	HOBART	7000	0	Delegation

THC Only Glass Sliding Doors	19 Davey Street	HOBART	7000	0	Delegation
Garage,Sunroom & Paved Area (Re HCC Sect 56 05-00707)THC ONLY	444 Elizabeth Street	NORTH HOBART	7000	0	Delegation
Alterations to Approved Car Parking Layout	25 Richardson Avenue	DYNNYRNE	7005	0	Delegation
Alterations (New Window)	1/7 Montgomery Court	SANDY BAY	7005	4250	Delegation
Partial Demolition, Alterations, Extensions and New Garage	9 Kennerley Street	WEST HOBART	7000	180000	Delegation
Additional Carparking	1 Macquarie Street (Also known as 7 Macquarie Street)	HOBART	7000	900000	Delegation
House extension/addition	26 Bealey Avenue	LENAH VALLEY	7008	40000	Delegation
Wood Heater Testing & Storage Facility	University of Tasmania, School of Horticulture2 Churchill	SANDY BAY	7005	40000	Delegation
Extension to operating hours	192 Sandy Bay Road	SANDY BAY	7005	0	Delegation

10. APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER THE BUILDING REGULATIONS 2014 AND BUILDING ACT 2000 – FILE REF: 30-1-17

2x's

The Director City Planning submits the following information in relation to plans approved under the Building Regulations 2014 and Building Act 2000 together with the attached graphs.

The Director City Planning reports:

A. 1. During the period 1 May 2016 to 31 May 2016, 80 permits were issued to the value of $26,239,534 which included:

(i) 50 for extensions/alterations to dwellings to the value of $5,242,690;

(ii) 9 new dwellings to the value of $2,698,000; and

(iii) 3 major projects:

a) 1 Hunter Street - Alteration - $1,400,000;

b) 49 Augusta Road - Demolition and extensions to hospital - $12,000,000;

c) 24-26 Weld Street - Partial demolition, extensions, alterations, landscaping and new building to primary school - $2,629,344

2. During the period 1 May 2015 to 31 May 2015, 43 permits were issued to the value of $6,969,407 which included:

(i) 24 extensions/alterations to dwellings to the value of $2,754,817

(ii) 6 new dwellings to the value of $1,728,000; and

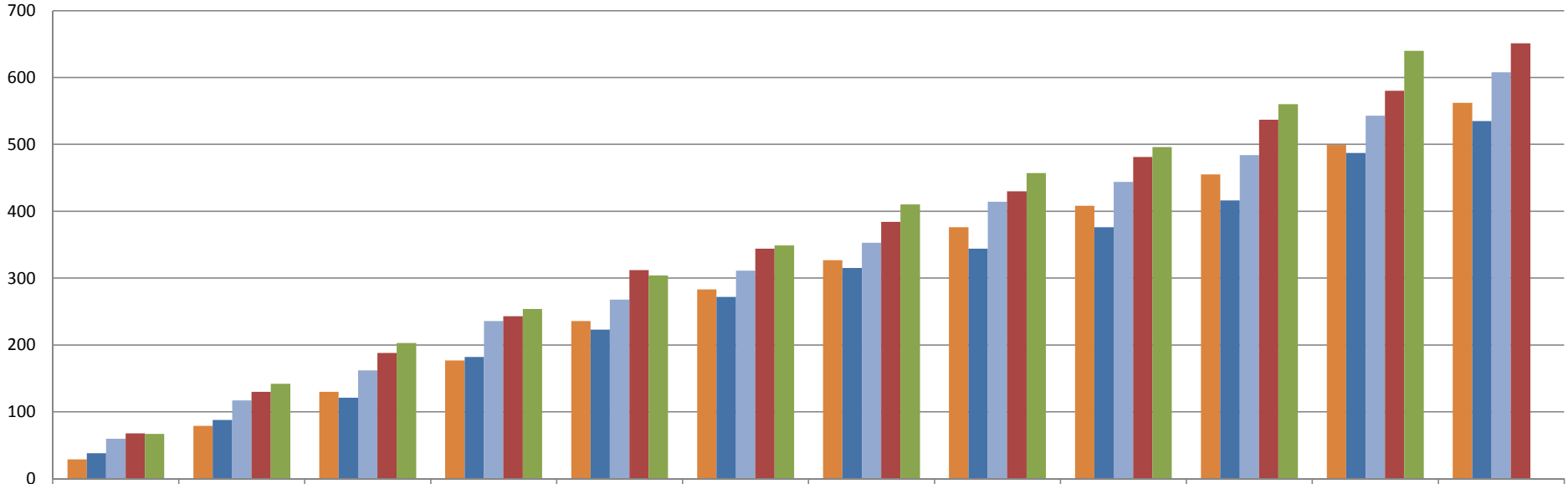
(iii) There were no major projects during this period.

B. 1. In the twelve months ending 31 May 2016, 711 permits were issued to the value of $148,220,291; and

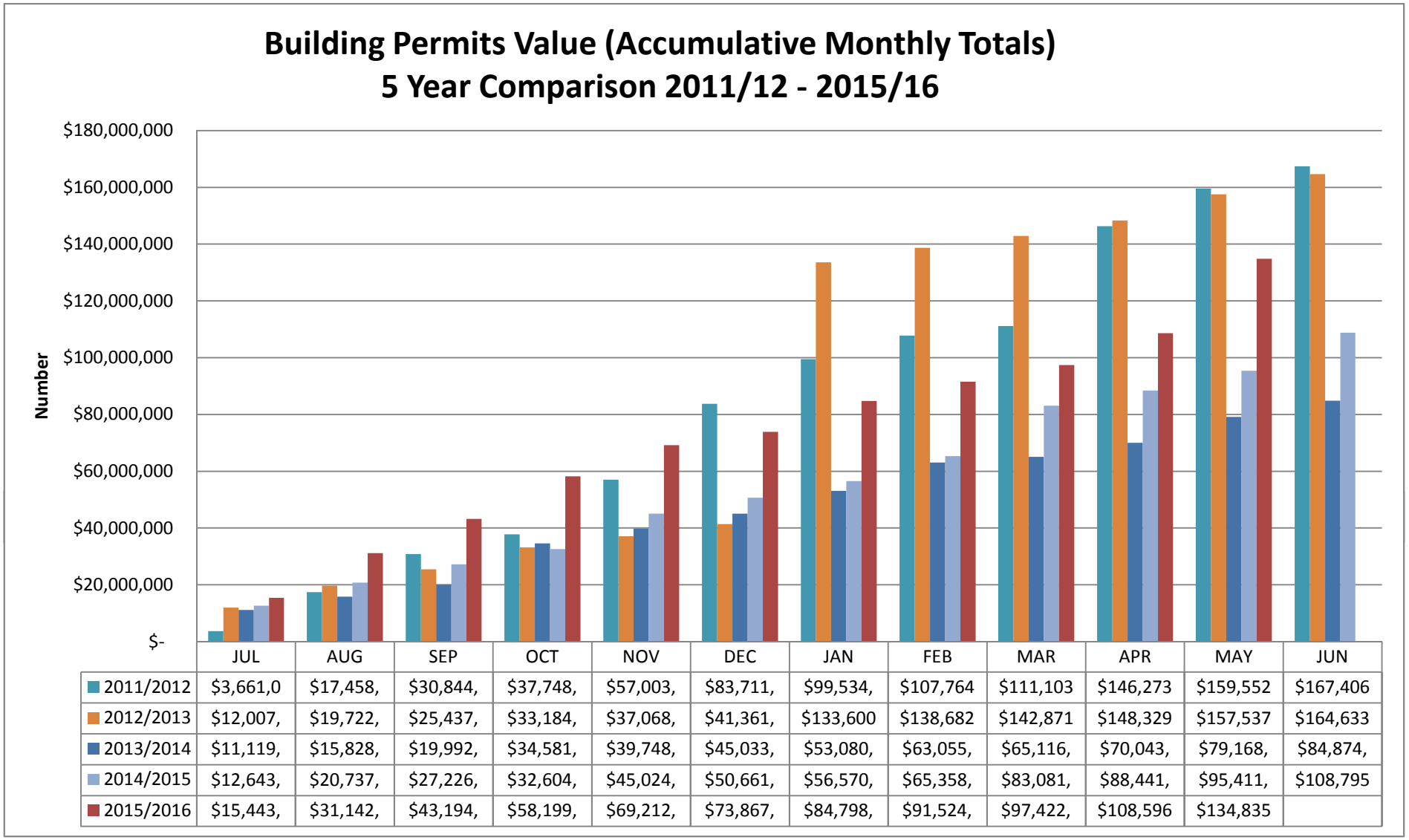
2. In the twelve months ending 31 May 2015, 645 permits were issued to the value of $101,111,625.

DELEGATION: Council

Building Permits Issued (Accumulative Monthly Totals)
5 Year Comparison 2011/12 - 2015/16



	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
2011/2012	29	79	130	177	236	283	327	376	408	455	499	562
2012/2013	38	88	121	182	223	272	315	344	376	416	487	535
2013/2014	60	117	162	236	268	311	353	414	444	484	543	608
2014/2015	68	130	188	243	312	344	384	430	481	537	580	651
2015/2016	67	142	203	254	304	349	410	457	496	560	640	



	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
2011/2012	$3,661,0	$17,458,	$30,844,	$37,748,	$57,003,	$83,711,	$99,534,	$107,764	$111,103	$146,273	$159,552	$167,406
2012/2013	$12,007,	$19,722,	$25,437,	$33,184,	$37,068,	$41,361,	$133,600	$138,682	$142,871	$148,329	$157,537	$164,633
2013/2014	$11,119,	$15,828,	$19,992,	$34,581,	$39,748,	$45,033,	$53,080,	$63,055,	$65,116,	$70,043,	$79,168,	$84,874,
2014/2015	$12,643,	$20,737,	$27,226,	$32,604,	$45,024,	$50,661,	$56,570,	$65,358,	$83,081,	$88,441,	$95,411,	$108,795
2015/2016	$15,443,	$31,142,	$43,194,	$58,199,	$69,212,	$73,867,	$84,798,	$91,524,	$97,422,	$108,596	$134,835	

11. ADVERTISING – FILE REF: 30-1-19

3x's

The Director City Planning reports:-

'The advertising lists for the period 20 May 2016 to 1 June 2016 inclusive, are attached for information.'

DELEGATION: Committee

Planning Application - Advertising
20 May 2016 - 1 June 2016

ApplicationID	Street	Suburb	Development	Work sValue	42 Day Expiry	Referral	Proposed Delegation	Advertising Period	
PLN-16-00155-01	15 Louden Street	SOUTH HOBART	Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	$200,000.00	04/07/2016	sherriffc	Director	23/05/2016	06/06/2016
PLN-16-00418-01	31 Amanda Crescent	SANDY BAY	Partial Change of Use to Visitor Accommodation	$0.00	04/07/2016	foalem	Director	23/05/2016	06/06/2016
PLN-16-00386-01	15-17 Liverpool Street, 61 Brooker Avenue, 71 Brooker Avenue, CT 160498/2, Brooker Avenue Road Reservation, Bathurst Street Road Reservation	HOBART	Shared Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge	$4,181,000.00	04/07/2016	baconr	Council	23/05/2016	06/06/2016
PLN-16-00504-01	23 Hope Street	NEW TOWN	Partial Demolition, House Extension and Alterations	$120,000.00	13/07/2016	lindusc	Director	01/06/2016	16/06/2016
PLN-16-00553-01	337 Nelson Road	MOUNT NELSON	Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	$32,100.00	12/07/2016	ikinb	Director	31/05/2016	15/06/2016

PLN-16-00564-01	10 Tasma Street	NORTH HOBART	Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	$350,000.00	12/07/2016	ikinb	Director	31/05/2016	15/06/2016
PLN-16-00517-01	6 Vantona Road	SANDY BAY	Fencing	$5,000.00	12/07/2016	rushforthe	Director	31/05/2016	15/06/2016
PLN-16-00472-01	329 Strickland Avenue	SOUTH HOBART	Partial Demolition, Alterations and Additions	$180,000.00	12/07/2016	widdowsont	Director	31/05/2016	15/06/2016
PLN-16-00430-01	149 Brooker Avenue	GLEBE	Sign	$4,000.00	08/07/2016	baconr	Director	27/05/2016	14/06/2016
PLN-15-01522-01	290A Murray Street	HOBART	Alterations and Office Extension	$200,000.00	08/07/2016	rushforthe	Director	27/05/2016	14/06/2016
PLN-16-00477-01	1 Daly Road	LENAH VALLEY	New Dwelling	$350,000.00	08/07/2016	rushforthe	Director	27/05/2016	14/06/2016
PLN-15-01443-01	16 Goulburn Street	HOBART	Partial Change of Use to Office	$0.00	08/07/2016	sherriffc	Director	27/05/2016	14/06/2016
PLN-16-00470-01	30, 32 Montagu Street	LENAH VALLEY	Subdivision (Boundary Adjustment)	$0.00	05/07/2016	sherriffc	Director	24/05/2016	07/06/2016
PLN-16-00217-01	116 Elizabeth Street	HOBART	Partial Demolition, Alterations and Partial Change of Use to Restaurant	$110,000.00	06/07/2016	ikinb	Director	25/05/2016	08/06/2016
PLN-16-00545-01	1 Lord Street	SANDY BAY	New Swimming Pool	$50,000.00	06/07/2016	baconr	Director	25/05/2016	08/06/2016
PLN-16-00538-01	6 Salvator Road	WEST HOBART	Partial Demolition and Carport	$10,000.00	07/07/2016	langd	Director	26/05/2016	09/06/2016

PLN-16-00030-01	42 Clare Street	NEW TOWN	Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	$80,000.00	07/07/2016	sherriffc	Director	26/05/2016	09/06/2016
PLN-16-00495-01	900 Sandy Bay Road	SANDY BAY	Partial Demolition, Extension and Alterations	$250,000.00	01/07/2016	lindusc	Director	20/05/2016	03/06/2016
PLN-16-00455-01	361-365 Sandy Bay Road (also known as 7-9 Quorn Street)	SANDY BAY	Partial Demolition, Alterations, Extensions and Deck	$20,000.00	01/07/2016	widdowsont	Director	20/05/2016	03/06/2016

12. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – FILE REF: 13-1-10

Pursuant to Section 29 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, an Alderman may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Alderman or the General Manager or the General Manager's representative in accordance with the following procedures endorsed by the Council on 10 December 2012:

1. The chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.

2. In putting a question without notice, an Alderman must not:

   (i) offer an argument or opinion; or

   (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.

3. The chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.

4. The chairman, Aldermen, General Manager or General Manager's representative who is asked a question without notice may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the intended respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.

5. The chairman may require an Alderman to put a question without notice, to be put in writing.

6. Where a question without notice is asked at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting in relation to a question without notice, the question will be taken on notice and

   (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is put will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.

   (ii) a written response will be provided to all Aldermen, at the appropriate time.

   (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Aldermen, both the Question and the Answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, whereat it be listed for noting purposes only, with no debate or further questions permitted, as prescribed in Section 29(3) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015.

13. CLOSED PORTION OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The following items were discussed:-

Item No. 1.	Minutes of the Closed Portion of the City Planning Committee Meeting held on 30 May 2016
Item No. 2	Consideration of Supplementary Items to the Agenda
Item No. 3.	Indications of Pecuniary and Conflicts of Interest
Item No. 4.	Questions Without Notice – File Ref: 13-1-10