

FACT SHEET

Cat Management Amendment (Mandatory Confinement) Bill 2021

The *Cat Management Amendment (Mandatory Confinement) Bill 2021* amends the *Cat Management Act 2009* to require the mandatory confinement of cats.

Amendments introduced by the *Cat Management Amendment Act 2019* (2019 amendments) allowed people to trap, seize or detain cats on their own premises – but placed no obligations on cat owners to keep their cats confined.

This current arrangement means the onus is on aggrieved persons to police their neighbours for conduct that is not currently unlawful.

This amendment bill replaces these provisions from the 2019 amendments with ‘cats at large’ provisions, which are functionally the same as current requirements for dogs under sections 4, 5 and 35 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

These amendments place the responsibility for cat management on cat owners, and for councils and/or other authorised officers to police violations. The amendment bill does the following –

- Allows for an owner to be fined if their cat is ‘at large’, which means the cat is –
 - in a public place and not restrained; or
 - on private premises without the consent of the occupier of the premises.
- Allows for authorised persons (which include police, council officers, and officers under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*) to seize and detain a ‘cat at large’.
- Allows for a general manager to –
 - Return the cat to an owner;
 - Sell, destroy or dispose of an unclaimed cat;
 - Implant a cat with a microchip – and reclaim the costs from the owner.