

# FACT SHEET

## *Cat Management Amendment Bill 2019*

The purpose of the *Cat Management Act 2009* (the Act) is to provide for the control and management of cats, and in particular, to promote the responsible ownership and welfare of cats, provide for the effective management of cats, and to reduce the negative effects of cats on the environment.

The Cat Management Amendment Bill 2019 delivers on recommendations for legislative change identified in the 'Tasmanian Cat Management Plan 2017-2022'. The Plan was developed in consultation with the Tasmanian Cat Management Reference Group, consisting of stakeholders with a direct interest in cat management.

The Plan included an objective to undertake legislative change to create an effective framework for managing cats in Tasmania and proposed a series of amendments to the Act which this Bill delivers, including:

- o compulsory microchipping of cats by the age of four months;
- o compulsory desexing of cats by the age of four months;
- o limiting to four, the maximum number of cats to be kept at a property, without a permit;
- o increased measures to protect private land from cats;
- o improving arrangements for registered cat breeders;
- o removing the option of a care agreement;
- o commencing Section 24 of the Act that requires a cat to be microchipped and desexed before being reclaimed from a cat management facility; and
- o a number of minor administrative amendments, including those identified in the drafting process, to improve the operation of the Act.

It is intended that domestic and stray cats in urban and peri-urban environments will continue to be managed under the *Cat Management Act 2009* while feral cats will be covered under the new *Biosecurity Act 2019*.

The Government considers these amendments will encourage responsible ownership and improve the welfare of cats, provide for the effective management of cats, and reduce the impacts of cats on the community, agriculture and the environment.