



CAT CURFEW?

**HAVE YOUR SAY
BY 27 MAY.**

PROPOSED NEW BY-LAW **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Marion Council is considering introducing laws to confine cats to their owner's property from 9pm to 7am daily in order to protect wildlife and limit the nuisance behaviour of cats.

So Council makes a decision while understanding the community's views, you are invited to provide feedback by Monday, 27 May on these proposed changes.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

Council is proposing changes to laws on cats that would:

- Create an offence of "cat wandering at large". This means cats cannot wander from their owner's property during times determined by Council
- Council has given in-principle support for this to be from 9pm to 7am daily.

THIS WOULD INVOLVE:

- Residents requesting cages from Council to help catch wandering cats on their property
- Giving Council's Community Safety Inspectors the powers to seize and detain cats. If owners cannot be identified or contacted, cats could be impounded at the RSPCA
- Fines of \$187.50 could be issued to owners who don't keep their cats indoors during the proposed times.

Removing the microchipping and desexing requirements in By-law 6 as they are now contained in the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Copies of the proposed by-law are available Council facilities and online at makingmarion.com.au/cat-reform

The proposed variation is called By-law 7 and is to be read in conjunction with the existing By-law 6 (Cats)

HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

Please complete a short online survey by 5pm, Monday, 27 May at

www.makingmarion.com.au/cat-reform

If you don't have internet access, contact **Kylie Hann** on **8375 6600** or Kylie.Hann@marion.sa.gov.au and ask for a feedback form and reply paid return envelope.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When could these changes take place?

Council is expected to consider the results of community consultation at a General Council meeting of 23 July. The community will be notified of the outcome.

Why is Council considering these changes?

Council is considering introducing the laws to protect wildlife and reduce nuisance.

Is Council generally consulting on cats?

No. Council is only consulting on the proposed new By-law 7.

The existing By-law 6 (Cats) would be updated to remove duplications and change definitions that are dealt with in new state legislation.

Could I be fined if my cat is found "wandering at large"?

Yes. If adopted, the new By-law could see owners fined \$187.50.

What would I do if a cat is wandering in my property?

Residents could request a special cage from Council to help catch wandering cats.

If a cat is caught, residents can contact Council staff to collect it.

Identified cats would be returned to their owners, who will be reminded to keep their cat indoors during prescribed hours, and may be given an expiation notice. If the owners cannot be identified or contacted, cats will be taken to the RSPCA.

How will I be notified if my cat is caught "wandering at large"?

Staff will seek to contact owners of cats identified with a microchip. Please keep your details up-to-date.

Will I have to register my cat?

No. Council is not introducing cat registration.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please contact Team Leader Community Safety **Luke Manuel** on **8375 6600** or luke.manuel@marion.sa.gov.au

BACKGROUND

Cat owners are required to microchip and de-sex their cats.

Council does not currently have a by-law that imposes a curfew on cats.

The current By-law 6 (Cats) includes a limit on the number of cats a resident can have and permits Council to declare cat free areas.

Council endorsed the proposed draft Cats (Confinement) Variation By-law 7 2019 for community consultation on 29 January, 2019.

The by-law would allow Council to make changes to the existing By-law 6 (Cats), including removing some duplications with State legislation and updating outdated definitions.

By-laws are established by councils to deal with issues specific to the council area.