

Cat Management Strategy for Victoria

Background paper



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Consultation working document.**Disclaimer**

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1 Introduction

Cat management is a challenging issue across Australia. Cats occupy a unique position in the Australian landscape and psyche. For millions of Australians, cats are a beloved family pet, while also being widely recognised as a threat to our native fauna.

While many Victorian cats are registered to owners, countless are not; when allowed to roam freely, these cats can end up in Victorian shelters and pounds. This places increasing strain on council and community resources, and can result in negative welfare outcomes for wildlife and the cats themselves.

To better address these and other challenges, the Victorian Government will develop Victoria's first long-term cat management strategy (the Strategy).

The Strategy will establish an integrated and coordinated approach to cat management in Victoria, to improve cat management practices and outcomes. Stakeholder consultation will inform Strategy development, to enable consideration and understanding of key issues from a broad spectrum of viewpoints.

Several rounds of stakeholder consultation are expected, including a public consultation process, before the Strategy's anticipated release in late 2024.

1.1 Purpose of this document

This document aims to support consultation activities by summarising the application of Victoria's complex legislative framework, and some of the key cat management issues.

1.2 Scope

The Strategy's scope will be guided by the consultation process, noting government has committed to a long-term, integrated and coordinated approach to cat management across all land tenures. The Strategy will focus on domestic cat management, while also considering feral cat control. This aims to support agencies to work together, identify opportunities for collaboration, and form partnerships to improve cat management outcomes across the state.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will consider:

- improving cat welfare and increasing responsible cat ownership (e.g. cat containment)
- improving networking, cooperation, data collection and information sharing, including successful and better management approaches or tools
- improving environmental and biodiversity outcomes
- improving compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (DA Act) and regulations
- reducing unowned and semi-owned cat populations
- reducing cat impoundment and euthanasia rates
- decreasing pressure on shelters, pounds, councils and foster carers
- decreasing the impacts of cat diseases on people, livestock and the environment.

2 Context

The following definitions are adapted from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Australia¹, and are used in this paper to support cat management discussions.

Domestic cats

- **Owned cats** are generally sociable and are directly dependent on their owner for their care needs (food, shelter, health care). Usually, cats registered with council.
- **Semi-owned cats** vary in sociability and are cared for by people who do not consider themselves owners. Consequently, semi-owned cats are unregistered, and their care needs are often not fully met.
- **Unowned cats** may rely on humans indirectly and have casual interactions with humans. These cats vary in sociability but include unsocialised cats that live in groups. Found in places like tips, shopping centres, schools, street stormwater drains.

Feral cats

- **Feral cats** are unowned, unsocialised, have no relationship with or dependence on humans, and reproduce in the wild (e.g., cats on Crown land).

It is acknowledged these definitions differ from what is included in Victoria's declaration of feral cats as a pest species on Crown land. This is intentional, as the Strategy will apply state-wide and across all land tenures. Where relevant, and as guided by stakeholder consultation, the Strategy will ensure management activities and practices specific to the feral cat declaration are appropriately identified and defined. The declaration is discussed in more detail at sections 3.2 and 5.4.

Managing cats across different populations and categories is complex and challenging. Accountability and interest are shared among a wide range of stakeholders, often with divergent views about cat management. Dispersed cat management practices across land tenures (private land, public land, urban, and rural) and council boundaries makes it challenging to coordinate activities or share effective practices.

There are approximately 227,000 registered (owned) cats across Victoria, with many more cats unaccounted for in our urban and natural environments. See **Appendix 1** for council registration data.

An estimated 30,000 domestic cats end up in a Victorian pound or shelter each year. Data² indicates that around 10% of cats impounded in Victoria are reclaimed by owners and 40-50% are rehomed, meaning around 90% of impounded cats are either unowned, or never reclaimed. As a comparison, RSPCA Victoria reports that 53% of dogs are reclaimed from its facilities³.

Shelters, pounds, community foster care networks (CFCNs) and animal rescue groups provide an important and valued service rehoming and rehabilitating these cats. Many of

¹ RSPCA Australia (May 2018) *Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia*.

² Rand, J., Lancaster, E., Inwood, G., Cluderay, C. and Marston, L. (2018) Strategies to reduce the euthanasia of impounded dogs and cats used by councils in Victoria, Australia. *Animals*. 8(7): 100

³ RSPCA Victoria, RSPCA Victoria Annual Report 2020-21

these groups will also take cats surrendered directly by their owners and work to find suitable homes. CFCNs and rescue groups play an important role in assisting shelters and pounds deal with the variability in cat numbers and demand for cats.

On 1 January 2023, new reporting requirements came into effect under the [Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds](#). This will allow the Victorian Government to compile and publish an annual data set on the fate of animals admitted to and cared for within Victoria's shelter and pound system. The first data set will be published in the second half of 2023, ongoing annual reporting will occur by the end of April in each calendar year.

3 Victorian cat management framework

Victoria's cat management framework is extensive and complex, with many organisations and individuals working within it. There are several pieces of legislation and regulations supported by policies, Codes of Practice, Standard Operating Procedures, and education programs, looking to promote responsible cat ownership and improve cat management outcomes.

The '[Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife](#)' program, led by Zoos Victoria and RSPCA Victoria, promotes cat containment and improved welfare outcomes. RSPCA Australia has a '[Keeping your cat safe and happy at home](#)' guide, while RSPCA NSW has a '[Keeping Cats Safe at Home](#)' program, with fact sheets and videos encouraging responsible cat ownership.

As the Strategy must align with legislative requirements, this section provides a summary of relevant Victorian legislation.

3.1 Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DA Act)

In Victoria, **domestic cats** are primarily managed under the DA Act, with councils as the primary regulators. While the DA Act provides certain powers for feral cat control, public land managers, like Parks Victoria, typically manage **feral cats** on Crown land (e.g. National Parks, Nature Reserves) under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The main cat management provisions under the DA Act relate to:

Council registration	Every cat over three months of age must be registered with its local council (section 10).
Microchipping	All cats are required to be microchipped prior to being sold or given away (section 12A), and before being registered with local council (section 10C).
Identification marker	All registered cats outside the owner's premises must wear their council issued identification marker (section 20).
Cat containment	Unlike dogs, the DA Act does not specifically require pet cats to be confined to their owner's premises, unless an order by resolution is made under section 25 of the DA Act. Councils can make orders that require cats to be confined to their owner's premises, or prohibit cats in a specified part of the council during specified times (section 25).
Trespass and nuisance	If a cat is found on private property on more than one occasion without the permission of the owner, the cat can be seized and its owner fined. The process involves a notice of objection and graduated fines up to a maximum of three penalty units (section 23).

Mandatory desexing	Councils can make a resolution to refuse to register cats unless they are desexed (section 10A).
Holding period	Once a cat enters a pound or shelter it must be scanned for a microchip within 3 days (section 63J). The owner of the cat must collect the cat within 8 days (section 84M). Cats not collected within the 8 day holding period can be rehomed or euthanized (section 84O(3)). Cats without identification that are wild, uncontrollable or diseased can be euthanized without a holding period (section 84O(1)).
Pet limits	Councils can make local laws limiting the number of cats that can be kept on a premises (section 42).
Pet bans	Councils can make local laws that prohibit the keeping of cats in specified areas of the municipality where threatened native fauna are at risk (section 42).

3.1.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)

The DA Act also requires Victorian councils to prepare a DAMP every four years. This plan outlines council programs, services and strategies that look to promote responsible pet ownership and address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats within their municipality.

Dependent on resources and objectives, councils can provide a variety of measures to assist in cat management (e.g. targeted desexing or rehoming programs). Councils are also involved in managing lost, unowned or unwanted cats through pound and shelter facilities.

3.1.2 Animal Welfare Fund Grants

The DA Act established the [Animal Welfare Fund](#) to support eligible organisations that rehome pets, provide low-cost veterinary services or free or low-cost desexing programs. Many successful applicants use the grant funding to assist with cat welfare, desexing and rehoming needs.

3.2 Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act)

The CaLP Act governs the management of invasive plants and animals in Victoria.

In 2018, feral cats were declared an established pest animal on specified Crown (public) land in Victoria under the CaLP Act⁴. The declaration:

- aims to enable public land managers to more effectively control feral cats to protect biodiversity and threatened wildlife.
- applies to areas of public land managed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Park and Alpine Resorts Victoria (e.g., National Parks, nature conservation reserves and state forest).

The Victorian Government has developed a *Code of Practice for the Control of Feral Cats on Crown Land*⁵ (the Code). It details the policy and legislative obligations that must be met by public land managers and their agents, and specifies what techniques can be used to control feral cats on public land where the feral cat declaration applies.

⁴ Victorian Government Gazette. *Declaration of the feral or wild population of the cat to be an established pest animal on specified Crown land*. 26 July 2018. G30-1674

⁵ Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (unpublished), *Code of practice for feral cat control on Crown land in Victoria*. Victorian Inter-Agency Invasive Species Committee, 2019.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) have also been developed to support the Code. These include SOPs for ground shooting and cage trapping. All public land managers undertaking feral cat control are required to abide by the Code and SOPs.

3.3 *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)*

Predation by feral cats is a significant threat to the survival of Victoria's at-risk native wildlife. Forty-three FFG Act listed threatened species are at increased risk of extinction as a direct result of feral cats. Predation of native wildlife by cats is listed as a potentially threatening process under the FFG Act.

3.4 *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act)*

The POCTA Act looks to prevent, and where necessary respond to, acts of animal cruelty.

In addition to imposing penalties for animal cruelty offences, section 9 of the POCTA Act makes it an offence for a person to abandon an animal usually kept in a state of confinement or for a domestic purpose, including domestic cats.

The POCTA Regulations 2019 also contain provisions relevant to cats relating to the use of traps, containment collars and transportation of animals.

4 Commonwealth management

In February 2021, after its Parliamentary *Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia*, the Commonwealth government released [*Tackling the Feral Cat Pandemic: A Plan to Save Australian Wildlife*](#)⁶. This inquiry recognised the importance of expanding cat management actions to include stray and domestic cats.

Predation by feral cats is listed as a key threatening process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The [*threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats \(2015\)*](#) sets out a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia's response to the impacts of feral cats on biodiversity. It identifies the research, management and other actions needed to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by predation by feral cats. A new draft threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats is currently being developed.

The Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032 maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. The Action Plan includes a continued focus on actions that can most benefit threatened species such as tackling the impacts of feral cats.

In 2015, all Environment Ministers endorsed the [*National declaration of feral cats as pests*](#). As part of this declaration, Ministers agreed to review arrangements within their respective jurisdictions and, where necessary, to remove unnecessary barriers to effective and humane control of feral cats. Ministers also agreed to consider feral cat management as a priority in threatened species recovery programs, and to pursue the development of a national best practice approach to the keeping of domestic cats.

The Strategy will align with the Commonwealth's expanded focus, taking a holistic approach across both feral and domestic cat management.

⁶ Parliament of Australia, House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy (2020), *Tackling the feral cat pandemic: a plan to save Australian wildlife. Report of the inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia*. Australian Government.

5 Key issues for consideration

The following key issues outline considerations relevant to cat management in Victoria. They are included to stimulate discussion on improving cat management outcomes.

5.1 Ownership and welfare

5.1.1 Responsible cat ownership

Cats are popular and beloved household pets for many Victorians. Cats provide love, companionship, stress relief, joy and other important health and wellbeing benefits to their owners. In return, responsible cat ownership helps keep cats safe, healthy and happy.

Responsible cat ownership includes caring for a cat's welfare needs, registration, microchipping, complying with any local laws, desexing cats that are not being kept for breeding purposes, and ensuring a cat does not become a nuisance to the community, or a danger to other animals (including wildlife).

While these responsibilities are encouraged and promoted, differences in ownership attitudes still exist between some dog and cat owners. For example:

- Behaviours that are considered unacceptable in relation to dogs (e.g. lack of identification, preventative vet/health care, or enrichment activities) are more prevalent with cats.
- While dogs must be confined to their owner's premises, cat confinement is considered inhumane by some cat owners.
- Cats can wait up to two weeks to be reclaimed in pounds and shelters; this wait time is much more uncommon with dogs.

The behaviours and attitudes of cat owners, semi-owners and other residents are important factors to consider when measuring the success or failure of any cat management program in urban areas.

5.1.2 Containment

Cat containment relates to keeping cat activity confined to a property boundary. This could involve keeping a cat indoors, or installing outdoor cat enclosures and cat proof fencing. Allowing cats to roam has animal health, public amenity and welfare consequences. Free-roaming cats pose a threat to wildlife, and are themselves at risk of infectious disease, injury, or theft.

As at March 2023, 38 out of 79 Victorian councils (48%) have implemented some type of cat containment law (i.e. 'cat curfew'), with another 17 councils (22%) considering it. Cat curfews vary between councils, ranging from 24-hour containment to night-time only curfews, or curfews during specific times and in specific locations.

Currently, around:

- 71% of Australian pet cats have access to the outdoors, with about 7% of cats kept predominantly outdoors.
- 20% of cats are kept exclusively indoors or in a cat enclosure⁷.

⁷ Foreman-Worsley, R., Finka, L.R., Ward, S.J. & Farnworth, M.J. (2021) Indoors or Outdoors? An International Exploration of Owner Demographics and Decision Making Associated with Lifestyle of Pet Cats. *Animals*, 11, 253.

- 47% of cat owners believe cats should be kept indoors at all times, or in a cat enclosure⁸.

Factors that contribute to owners deciding to contain their cat include an initial belief that pet cats should be kept indoors, confidence in their ability to ensure their cat is happy indoors, and support from family members⁹.

5.2 Population management

5.2.1 Overabundance of urban cats

Semi-owned and unowned cats are a major contributor to the high impoundment and euthanasia rates in pounds and shelters, as well as the low reclaim rates, as they are not microchipped or registered. These cats often have difficult and relatively short lives and will need to be managed more effectively if populations are to be reduced.

Semi-owned cats are often fed by well-meaning community members, unaware of the possible long-term negative impacts on cat welfare at a population level. Many semi-owners do not consider themselves the owner of the cat(s) they feed and often believe their behaviour benefits the cat.

Programs that proactively engage with semi-owners to gain trust and encourage responsible ownership, provide subsidies and other incentives may be a way to change semi-ownership behaviour.

Certain times of the year create increased burdens for councils and shelters. Cat admissions increase significantly over the warmer months. A peak “kitten season” identified between December and February indicates colder months could be a good time to increase desexing activities to try and minimise the summer peak.

5.2.2 Desexing

Desexing cats before they can reproduce is essential to reduce the problems associated with cat overabundance. Cats are prolific breeders, with females capable of breeding from 16 weeks of age up to three times per year, with an average of four kittens per litter¹⁰.

While the traditional age of cat desexing has been around six months, more recent literature indicates that it is safe to desex cats before they reach puberty. Desexing cats between 12 and 16 weeks is referred to as pre-pubertal desexing (PPD). Shelters and rehoming organisations routinely perform a type of PPD called early-age desexing (EAD), performed between 8-12 weeks of age on healthy kittens weighing around 1kg¹¹.

Data shows that 95% of Victorian cats are desexed by two years of age. However, a recent study shows only a third (34%) of cats are desexed before they can become pregnant¹².

⁸ Elliott, A., Howell, T. J., McLeod, E. M. & Bennett, P. C. (2019) Perceptions of responsible cat ownership behaviours among a convenience sample of Australians. *Animals*, 9(9).

⁹ McLeod, E., (2021) *Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife: Using social science to inform and evaluate a conservation program*. Feline Futures Seminar presentation. Zoos Victoria.

¹⁰ Little, S.E. (2011) Female Reproduction In: The Cat: Clinical medicine and management. *Elsevier Health Sciences*, pp 1195-1227.

¹¹ RSPCA Australia (2021) Pre-pubertal desexing in cats, *RSPCA Australia Research Report*, June.

¹² Mazeau L, Wylie C, Boland L, Beatty JA. A shift towards early-age desexing of cats under veterinary care in Australia. *Sci Rep*. 2021 Jan 18;11(1):811.

Studies also indicate that the intensity of cat desexing (or population removal) would need to be between 75%-90% to elicit meaningful and sustained population decline. Achieving this type of long-term population control would require intense and continual removal and desexing activity. Veterinary shortages and increased workload pressures are important factors when considering intensive desexing programs.

5.3 Impacts on biodiversity

Domestic cats in urban areas will typically travel less than a few hundred metres from home. South Australian research indicated that 75% of cats in the study had home ranges under two hectares¹³ (i.e. about the size of the MCG grassed area). However other cats had larger home ranges, with 3% having ranges over 10 hectares.

A large body of evidence shows predation by cats is a significant threat to biodiversity in Australia. Predation estimates can vary depending on the study, however most research indicates that cats are killing large numbers of native Australian birds, reptiles and mammals every year, including in urban areas. Studies estimate that, in total, pet cats kill approximately 143 million reptiles, 134 million birds and 252 million mammals (both native and introduced) each year¹⁴.

Predation on wildlife is dependent on free roaming access to the outdoors, so containing pet cats can be highly beneficial to conservation and biodiversity.

5.4 Feral cats

Feral cats have a major impact on Victoria's biodiversity and are considered a significant threat to the survival of the state's threatened wildlife. It is estimated that feral cats in Australia's natural environments kill 466 million reptiles, 265 million birds and 452 million native mammals every year¹².

In Victoria, there are 43 species listed as threatened by feral cat predation under the FFG Act and the EPBC Act (Cth). Feral cats have become established in almost every terrestrial habitat type, although limited data is available on their density or habitat use¹⁵.

The declaration of feral cats as an established pest species on specified public land under the CaLP Act recognizes this threat. The objective of the feral cat declaration is to enable public land managers to more effectively control feral cats to protect biodiversity and threatened wildlife. The declaration allows more practical application of available control tools (e.g. cage traps, ground shooting, baiting).

Feral cats have not been declared an established pest on private land. This is largely due to the increased likelihood of encountering domestic and stray or semi-owned cats on private

¹³ Roetman, P., Tindle, H., Litchfield, C., Chiera, B., Quinton, G., Kikillus, H., Bruce, D. & Kays, R. (2017) *Cat Tracker South Australia: understanding pet cats through citizen science*. Discovery Circle initiative, University of South Australia, Adelaide.

¹⁴ Stobo-Wilson, Alyson M., Brett P. Murphy, Sarah M. Legge, Hernan Caceres-Escobar, David G. Chapple, Heather M. Crawford, Stuart J. Dawson et al. (2022) "Counting the bodies: Estimating the numbers and spatial variation of Australian reptiles, birds and mammals killed by two invasive mesopredators." *Diversity and Distributions* 28, no. 5, 976-991

¹⁵ Robley, A., Cockman, L., Hoskins, M., Le Duc, E., and Shiells, A. (2022). Assessing factors that influence the use of Curiosity® feral cat baits in Victoria: a Biodiversity Response Planning project – Year 3 report. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No. 333. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Heidelberg, Victoria.

land. It is difficult in most instances to visually differentiate between an owned, semi-owned, unowned or feral cat. However, section 30 of the DA Act does allow an owner of livestock to destroy cats found at large near livestock under certain conditions.

5.5 Control options

5.5.1 Urban cats

Most Victorian councils attempt to manage urban cat populations through a combination of strategic planning with their community (Domestic Animal Management Plans), education, registration, cat identification (microchips/tags), subsidised desexing (where available), surrenders, cage trapping, impoundment, reunification, rehoming and euthanasia.

Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) programs are sometimes proposed by advocates as a more effective alternative to current management practices. TNR typically involve the capture of unowned and semi-owned cats, then desexing and releasing them back to the capture site. Critics of TNR believe the claimed benefits of TNR are not substantiated by empirical evidence and that TNR offers no benefit for saving wildlife or reducing public nuisance. TNR is illegal under Victorian laws on the grounds of abandonment, animal welfare and pest management.

5.5.2 Feral cats

Control methods for feral cats are generally expensive, labor intensive, require continuing management effort and have limited effectiveness. Confinement and net trapping, ground shooting and exclusion fencing are currently permitted to control feral cats on land covered by the feral cat declaration.

Curiosity Bait for Feral Cats (Curiosity) containing para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) is currently registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for the control of feral cats in Victoria. A permit from Agriculture Victoria is required to authorise its use on Crown land.

Under POCTA Regulations, Victorian land managers may apply to the Minister for Agriculture to use leghold traps to control feral cats under specific conditions on specified Crown land. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis in limited circumstances, where eradication is achievable.

The use of 1080 for the control of feral cats in Victoria is not permitted. Feral cat control tools using 1080 are currently being developed in Australia, however their use in Victoria is not assured. Ethical and welfare considerations, community sentiment and potential impact on non-target species (e.g. native wildlife) would need to be examined before these techniques are considered for use. This technique would also require changes to an Order under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*.

Continuing to support work that helps improve our understanding of currently available feral cat management options and their management effectiveness is essential, whilst new and innovative management strategies that are humane, target specific, and effective are developed. Potential future feral cat management options include fertility control using either immunocontraception or gene drive¹⁶ technology to engineer cat genomes could be spread through populations over time. Whilst research into these techniques is currently being

¹⁶ CSIRO (2022) Managing feral animal populations using gene drive technology, YouTube <https://youtu.be/gpdzDJNup-w>

undertaken, these are emerging fields and new management tools for feral cats are unlikely to be available in the short term.

6 Impacts on economy

This section summarises high-level information on the economic costs and benefits of cats. It is not an exhaustive or precise estimate.

6.1 Benefits

The wellbeing benefits that cats provide their owners is immeasurable, with many considering their cats an integral member of the family. While there are economic and environmental costs associated with domestic cats, there are also benefits to the economy. The pet industry is significant, including breeding, pet food and accessories, employment, veterinary care, grooming, boarding, rehoming, registration, administration and regulation.

The following national figures can only be proportionally attributed to cats, as they tend to make up around 30% of pet ownership and the figures are national.

- The Australian veterinary service industry (includes animal hospitals) is valued at \$4 billion and employs an estimated 26,853 people.
- Australian pet and pet supply retailers are valued at \$3.9 billion and employ 7,897 people.
- Online pet food and pet supplies are valued at \$775 million and employ 704 people.
- Pet food production is valued at \$3 billion and employs 2,331 people¹⁷ with 38% of production attributed to cat food.

6.2 Costs

A 2020 Australian study estimated that cat-transmitted diseases cost the Australian economy over \$6 billion annually, through their impact on human health and livestock¹⁸ (a Victoria-specific cost is not known).

Costs for a council providing a full-service pound, from the initial residential call to adoption, has been estimated at almost \$1000 per cat. This includes staff time, equipment, transport, vaccinations, worming/flea treatment, microchipping, desexing, other veterinary care, food, administration, and average length of stay of 20 days before adoption. Costs can decrease considerably for cats that are reclaimed by owners (i.e. have a microchip or ID tag), or rehomed prior to the average length of stay, or euthanised.

Given an estimated 30,000 cats are impounded annually in Victoria, the average length of stay, the proportions that are reunited with owners, rehomed and euthanised, that could equate to \$15.5 million in care costs per year (average of \$516 per cat). This estimate assumes the cats that are unsuitable for adoption are euthanised soon after impoundment.

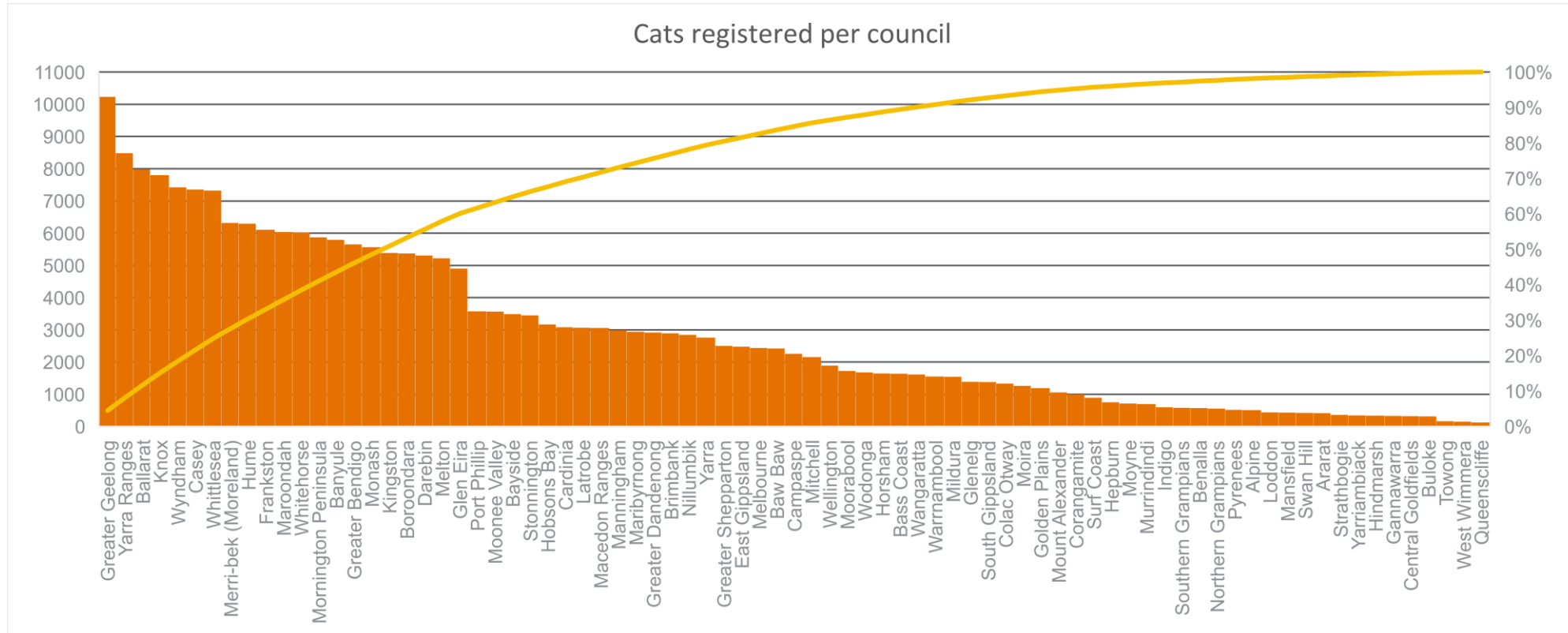
This estimated cost compares to estimated annual cat registration revenue for all councils of \$8.9 million (net of the levy they pass to state government under s.69 of the DA Act).

¹⁷ IBIS World Industry Research Reports (2022)

¹⁸ Legge, S., Taggart, P.L., Dickman, C.R., Read, J.L. & Woinarski, J.C.Z. (2020) Cat-dependent disease cost Australia AU\$6 billion per year through impacts on human health and livestock production. *Wildlife Research*, Volume 47, pp. 731-746

7 Appendix 1: General statistics

Figure 1: Number of cats registered in Victorian councils in 2022*



*Pareto curve is also included that shows the accumulative percentage of total cats. The chart shows that around 50% of cats are registered in 20% (16) of Victoria's 79 councils.

Figure 2: Council pet registration numbers since 2012.

