



Ordinary Meeting of Council

12 February 2025

**UNDER SEPARATE COVER
ATTACHMENTS**

ITEM 9.3

**QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

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QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

12 FEBRUARY 2025

ITEM 9.3 POST EXHIBITION REPORT - CAT CONTAINMENT POLICY

ATTACHMENT 1 DRAFT QPRC CAT CONTAINMENT POLICY



Draft Cat Containment Policy LGA Wide

Date policy was adopted:		GM Signature and date
Resolution number:		
Next Policy review date:		
Reference number:		
Strategic Pillar		
Responsible Branch		DD/MM/YYYY

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NAME OF POLICY

1 OUTCOMES

- 1.1 To provide protection to native wildlife in close proximity to the identified cat containment areas by restricting the movement of domestic cats.
- 1.2 To apply restrictions to domestic cats in the Local Government Area to reduce customer complaints to Council regarding roaming cats.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 To identify cat containment areas in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area where cats would be not be permitted to roam freely during the day or night, therefore improving safety for native wildlife.

3 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 The current Policy applies to domestic cats in the following areas:
 - Jumping Creek development
 - Googong Sunset development
 - Elmslea Grove (North Elmslea)
 - Braidwood Ridge
 - South Jerrabomberra (Tralee)
 - Googong Township – in particular the following neighbourhoods:
 - Neighbourhood 2 – stage 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16d
 - Neighbourhood 3 – stages 1-7
 - Neighbourhood 4 – stages 1-10
 - Neighbourhood 5 – stages 1-7
 - All future greenfield developments in Queanbeyan-Palerang
- 3.2 The Policy, as adopted on 26 May 2021, does not apply to the following Googong neighbourhoods, however the Policy will become effective in those areas from five years following the date of adoption of the original Cat Containment Area Policy – 26 May 2026. These areas include:
 - Neighbourhood 1A– stages 1-5
 - Neighbourhood 1B– stages 1-8
 - Neighbourhood 2– stages 1-10
- 3.3 All cats in the Local Government Area born on or after 1 January 2025
- 3.4 All cats in the Local Government Area from 1 July 2026

4 DEFINITIONS

Appropriately kept – the cat is kept within the boundary of properties listed in the schedule below 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Any structure used to keep a cat should be humane and not cause the animal distress.

Cat containment area – an area where cats are to be kept within the boundary of the property they are registered to.

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NAME OF POLICY

Council official — includes Councillors, Council staff, administrators, Council committee members and delegates of Council.

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS AND/OR RELEVANT STANDARDS

5.1 The *NSW Companion Animal Act 1998* Section 29-32 provides the following general advice.

Companion Animals Act 1998 (Part 4 Section 29)
29 Cats must have form of identification:

(1) *A cat must be identified by a form of identification that enables a local authority to ascertain the name of the cat and the address or telephone number of the owner of the cat.*

(2) *The identification may take any of the following forms—*
a) *a collar worn around the cat's neck with a tag or tags attached,*
b) *a microchip,*
c) *any other form of identification prescribed by the regulations.*

(3) *The owner of the cat is guilty of an offence if this section is not complied with.*

Infringements notices

Cat not wear identification	\$180
Owner/person in charge of cat found in a prohibited place	\$180
Owner not comply with nuisance cat order – 1st offence	\$165
Owner not comply with nuisance cat order – 2nd offence	\$165
Fail to comply with order 18 (keep birds/animals)	\$220

* Note – infringements are set by the NSW Government on an annual basis and are subject to change

Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87. (Part 4 Section 32)
32 Action to protect persons and animals against cats

(4) *Any person may lawfully seize a cat if that action is reasonable and necessary for the protection of any person or animal (other than vermin) from injury or death.*

(5) *(Repealed)*

(6) *If a cat that is not under the effective control of some competent person enters any inclosed lands within the meaning of the Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 and approaches any animal being farmed on the land, the occupier of the land or any person authorised by the occupier can lawfully injure or destroy the cat if he or she reasonably believes that the cat will molest, attack or cause injury to any of those animals.*

The Companion Animals Act 1993 does not prohibit cats from roaming as it does for dogs. Section 124 of the Local Government Act does allow a Council to place an order on a premises for the keeping of animals. In regards to this, Council would apply this Policy to all residential premises within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area.

Section 124 of the Local Government Act 1993 States:

A Council may order a person(s) to do or to refrain from doing a thing specified in Column 1 of the following Table if the circumstances specified opposite it in Column 2 of the Table exist and the person comes within the description opposite it in Column 3 of the Table.

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NAME OF POLICY

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Do What	In what circumstances?	To Whom?
Not to keep birds or animals on premises, other than of such kinds in such numbers or in such manner as specified in the order	Birds or animals kept on premises are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In the case of any premises (whether or not in a catchment district- of an inappropriate kind or number or are kept inappropriately, or b) In the case of premises in a catchment district- birds or animals (being birds or animals suffering from a disease which is communicable to man or to other birds or animals) or pigs 	Occupier of premises

5.2 In accordance with Section 124 of the Local Government Act, Council will enforce that cats within the following areas must be kept appropriately within the boundaries of the property they are registered to.

5.3 The policy will operate in accordance with the following timeframes:

From 26 May 2021-

- Jumping Creek development
- Googong Sunset development
- Elmslea Grove (North Elmslea)
- Braidwood Ridge
- South Jerrabomberra (Tralee)
- Googong Township – in particular the following neighbourhoods:
 - Neighbourhood 2 – stage 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16a, 16b, 16c, 16d
 - Neighbourhood 3 – stages 1-7
 - Neighbourhood 4 – stages 1-10
 - Neighbourhood 5 – stages 1-7
- All future greenfield developments in Queanbeyan-Palerang

From 1 July 2025 - All cats born on or after 1 January 2025

From 26 May 2026- Remainder of Googong Township

- Neighbourhood 1A– stages 1-5
- Neighbourhood 1B– stages 1-8
- Neighbourhood 2– stages 1-10

From 1 July 2026- All cats in the Queanbeyan Palerang Local Government Area



NAME OF POLICY

6 CONTENT

- 6.1 A cat containment area is enforced to protect fauna in the nearby environmentally sensitive areas.
- 6.2 Residents are able to keep cats on their property within the listed cat containment areas, however, should take necessary measures to ensure the animals are unable to roam outside of the property boundary at any time, unless under effective control
- 6.3 Cats are able to be exercised outside of a property, however they must be kept under effective control at all times, either by lead/harness, carry box etc
- 6.4 Residents should consider installing an appropriate enclosure within their property to assist with keeping their cat/s contained.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the cat owner to ensure that any enclosure is humane and does not affect the health of the cat. Reports of animal cruelty will be reported to the RSPCA for investigation.
- 6.6 Enforcement action may be taken against the owner of cats found to be roaming within the cat containment area.
- 6.7 Repeated reports of roaming cats within a cat containment area may result in the cat being declared a nuisance animal and subsequent infringements may apply.
- 6.8 Residents reporting roaming cats in cat containment areas will be encouraged to hire a cat trap from Council (refundable deposit). If a roaming cat is captured, the resident must take the cat to the Animal Management Facility so its microchip can be scanned and returned to its owner or placed for adoption.
- 6.9 Council's Animal Management Officers will patrol cat containment areas as required and roaming cats will be impounded, if possible, and taken to the Council Animal Management Facility.
- 6.10 The owner of a cat taken to the Animal Management Facility will be subject to relevant infringements and fees and charges.
- 6.11 The Policy does not apply to cats that are registered to properties outside the cat containment area but are caught roaming within the area.
- 6.12 Council's on call Animal Management Officer will not respond to calls of roaming cats in cat containment areas after hours. Customers will be advised to secure the cat if possible and that it will be collected on the next business day.
- 6.13 Council will include conditions on subdivision approvals in the areas that this Policy applies to identify the Cat Containment Area Policy requirements.

7 REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed every four years or earlier as necessary if:
 - a) legislation requires it, or
 - b) Council's functions, structure or activities change



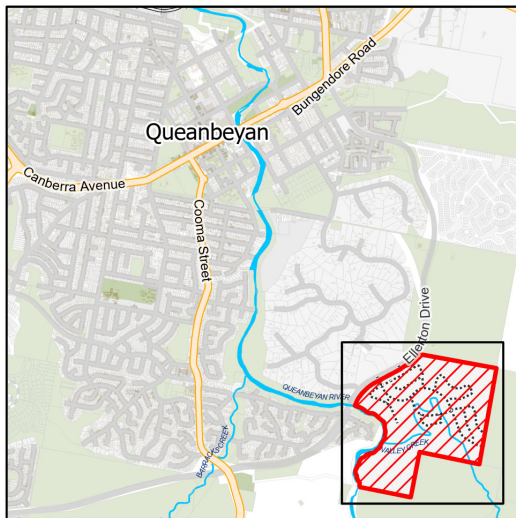
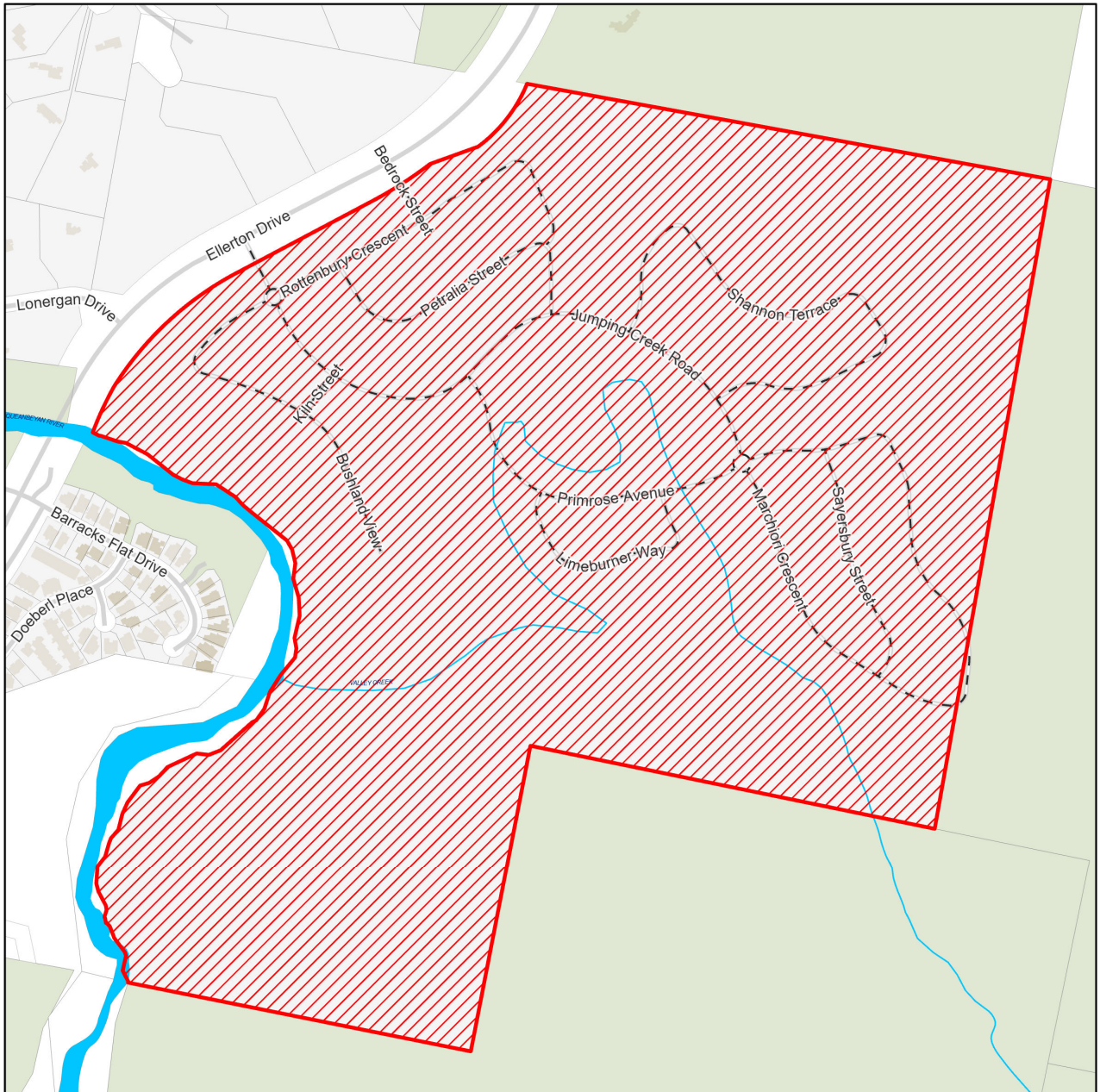
NAME OF POLICY

APPENDIX ONE- CAT CONTAINMENT AREA MAPS

| 6 |

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Jumping Creek Development

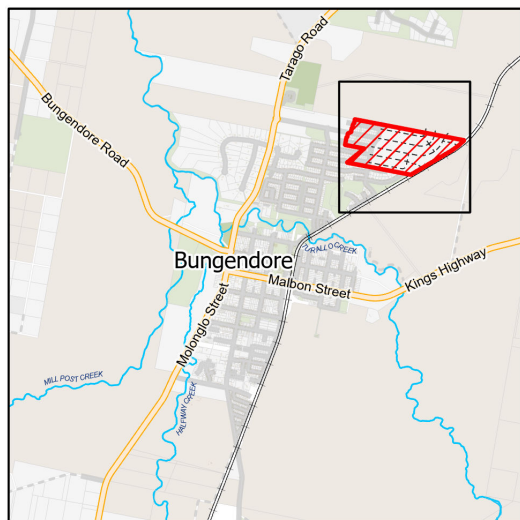
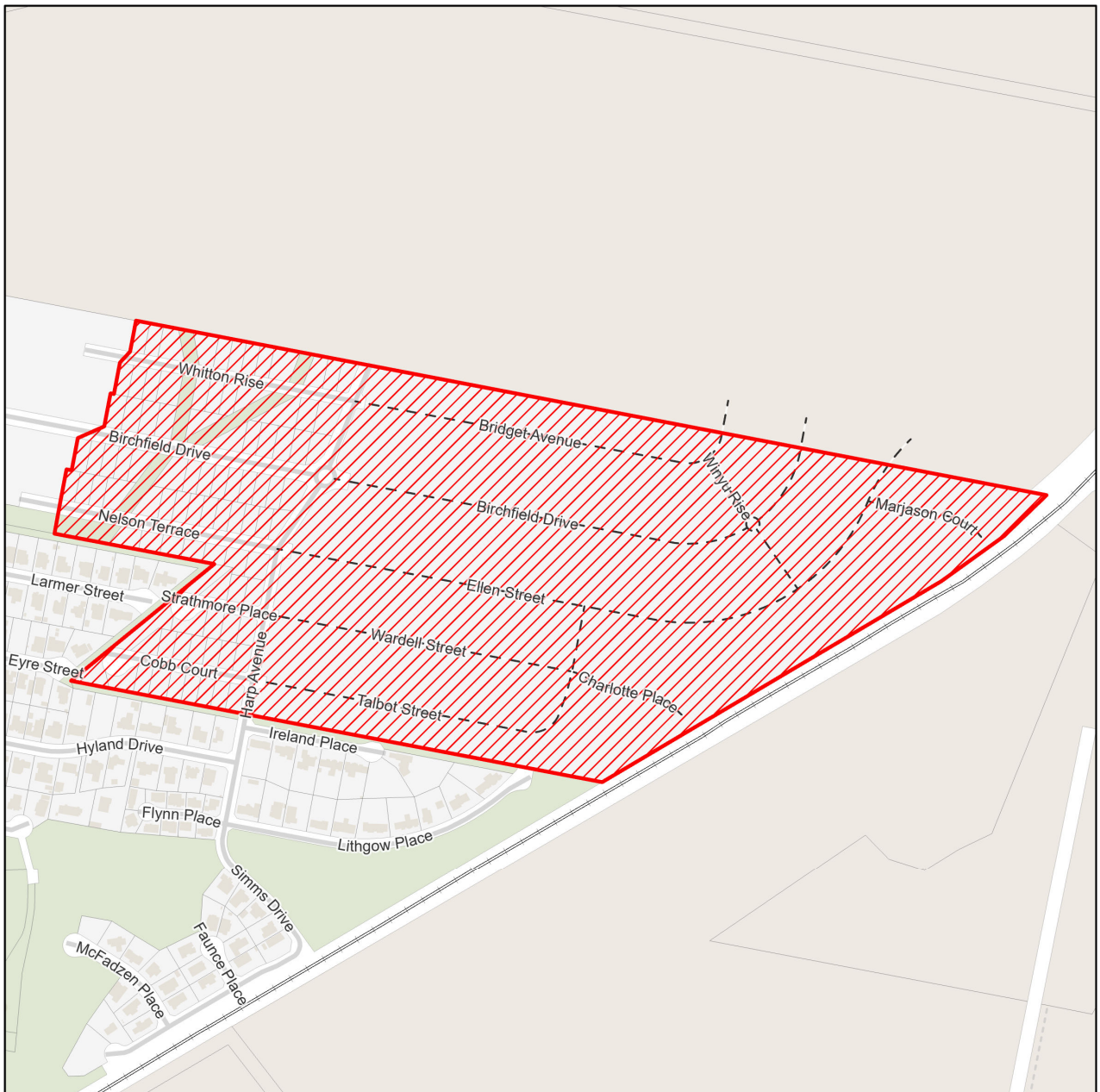
Cat Containment Areas

- Current - In Effect
- Roads proposed / under construction (approx. location)

0 125 250 m

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55





Elm Grove Development

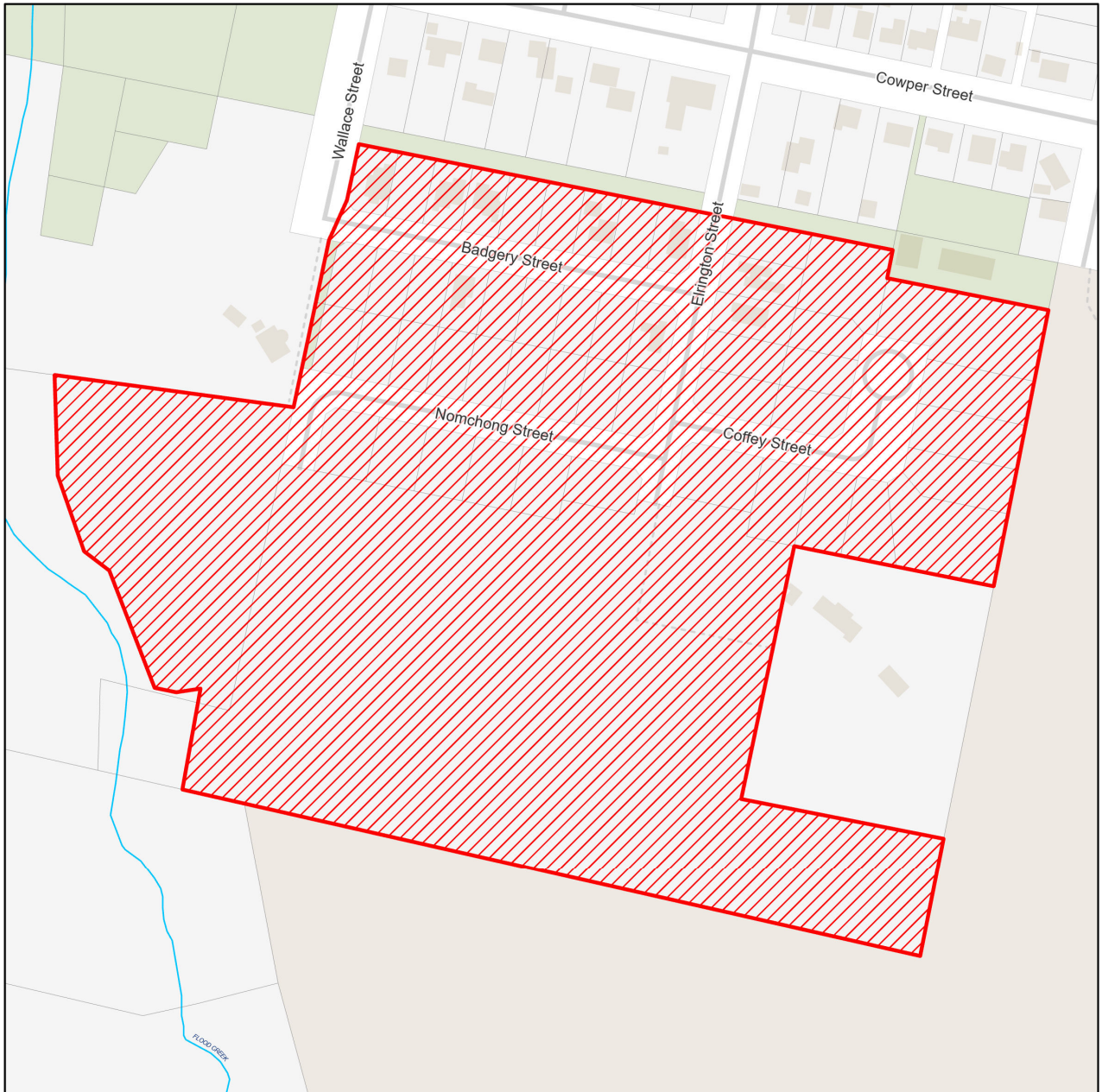
Cat Containment Areas

- Current - In Effect
- Roads proposed / under construction (approx. location)

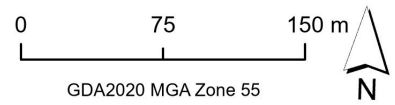
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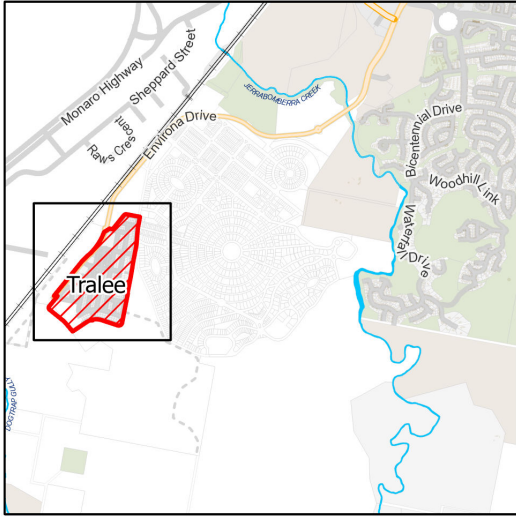
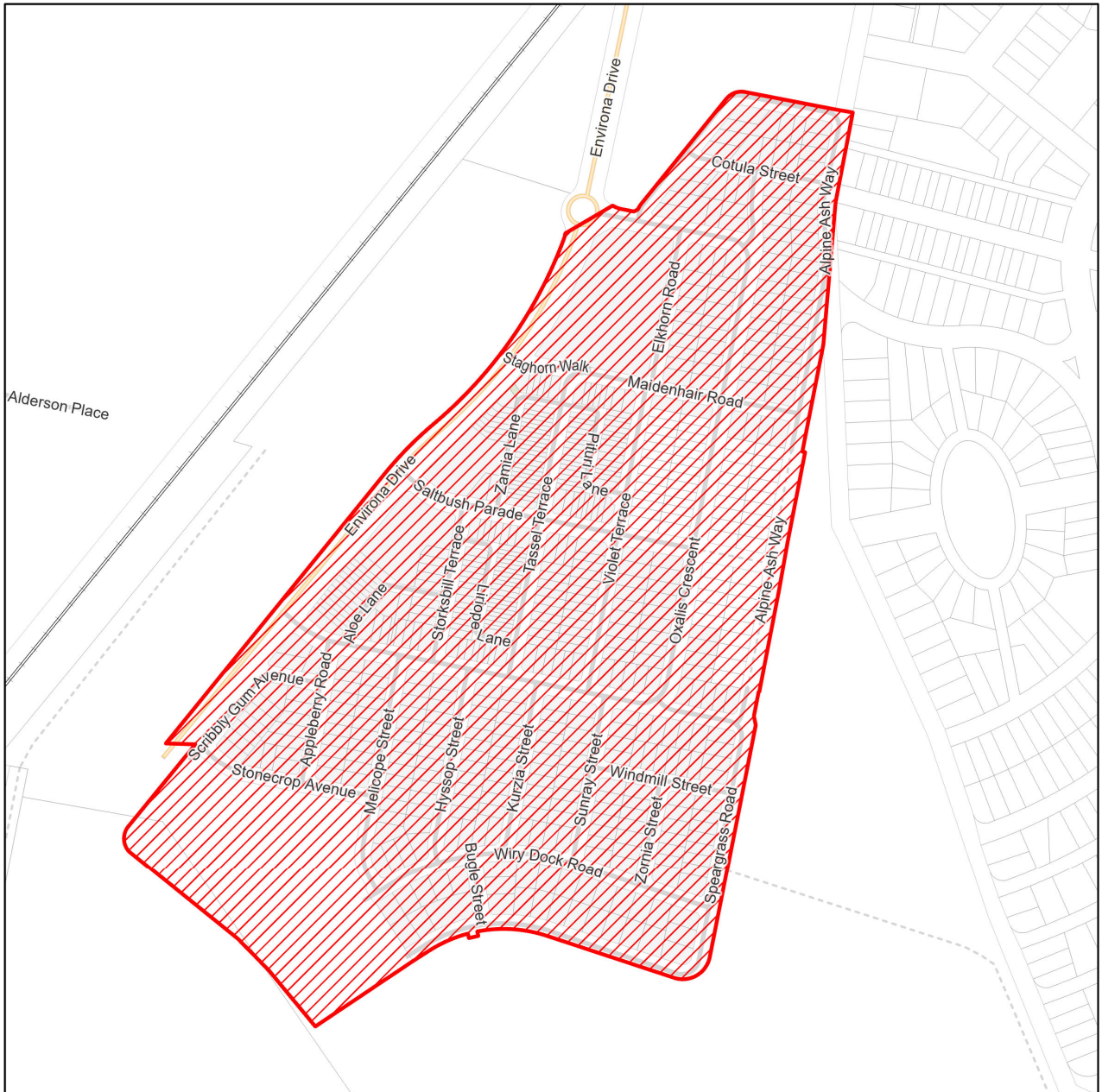
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55





**Braidwood Ridge
 Development**
 Cat Containment Areas
 Current - In Effect





Tralee Development

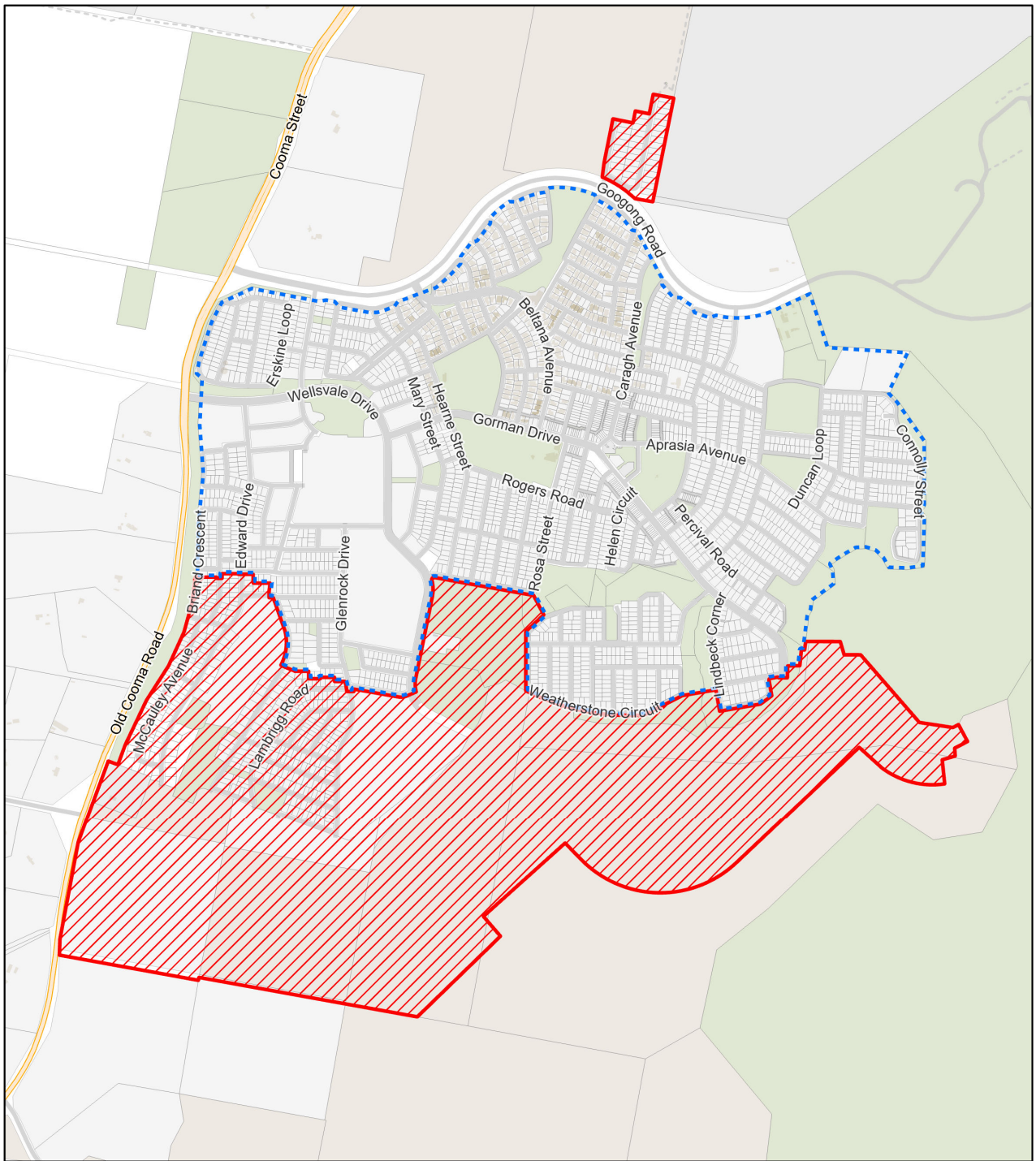
Cat Containment Areas

 Current - In Effect

0 100 200 m



GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

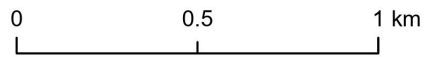




Googong - Overview

Cat Containment Areas

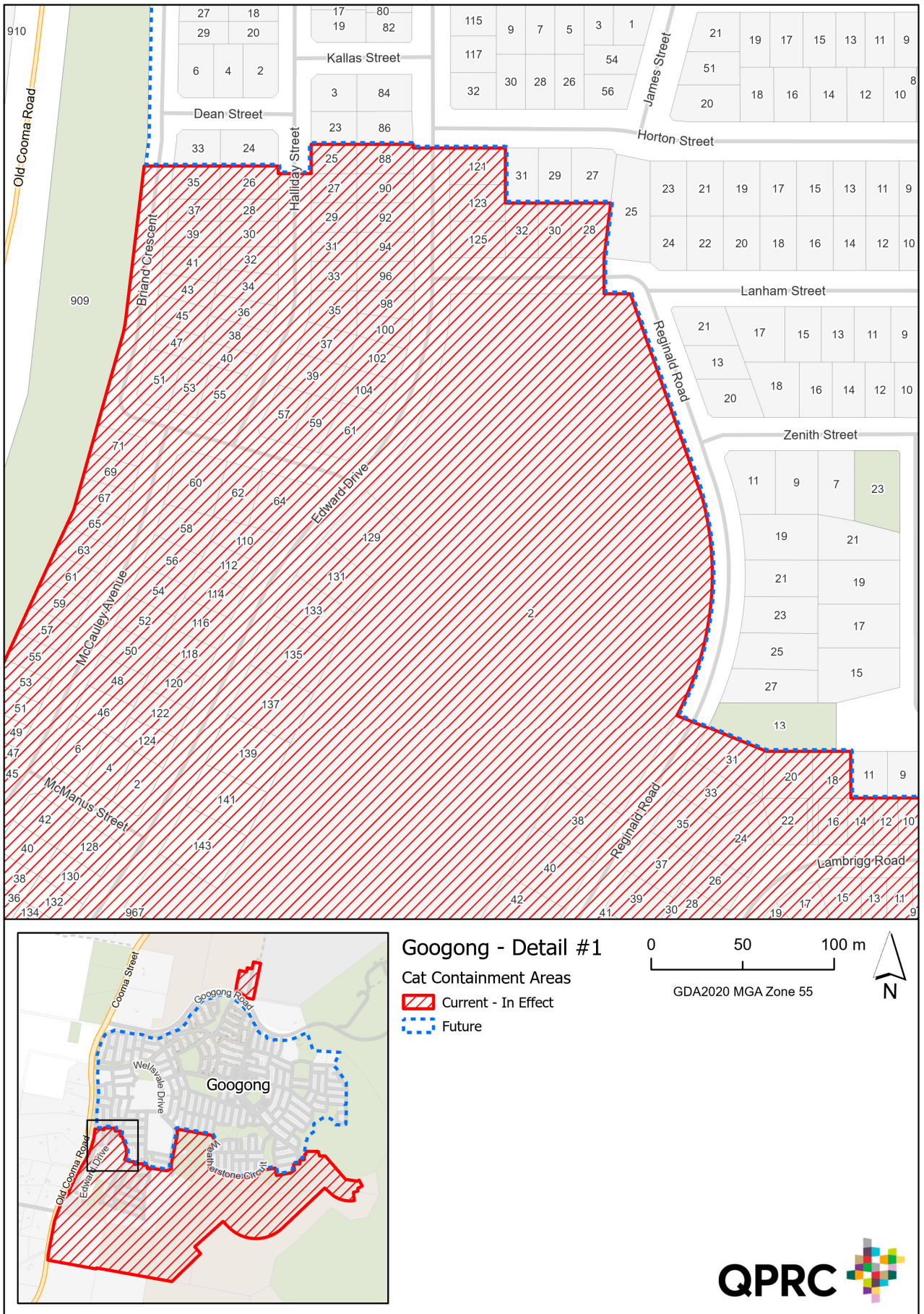
-  Current - In Effect
-  Future



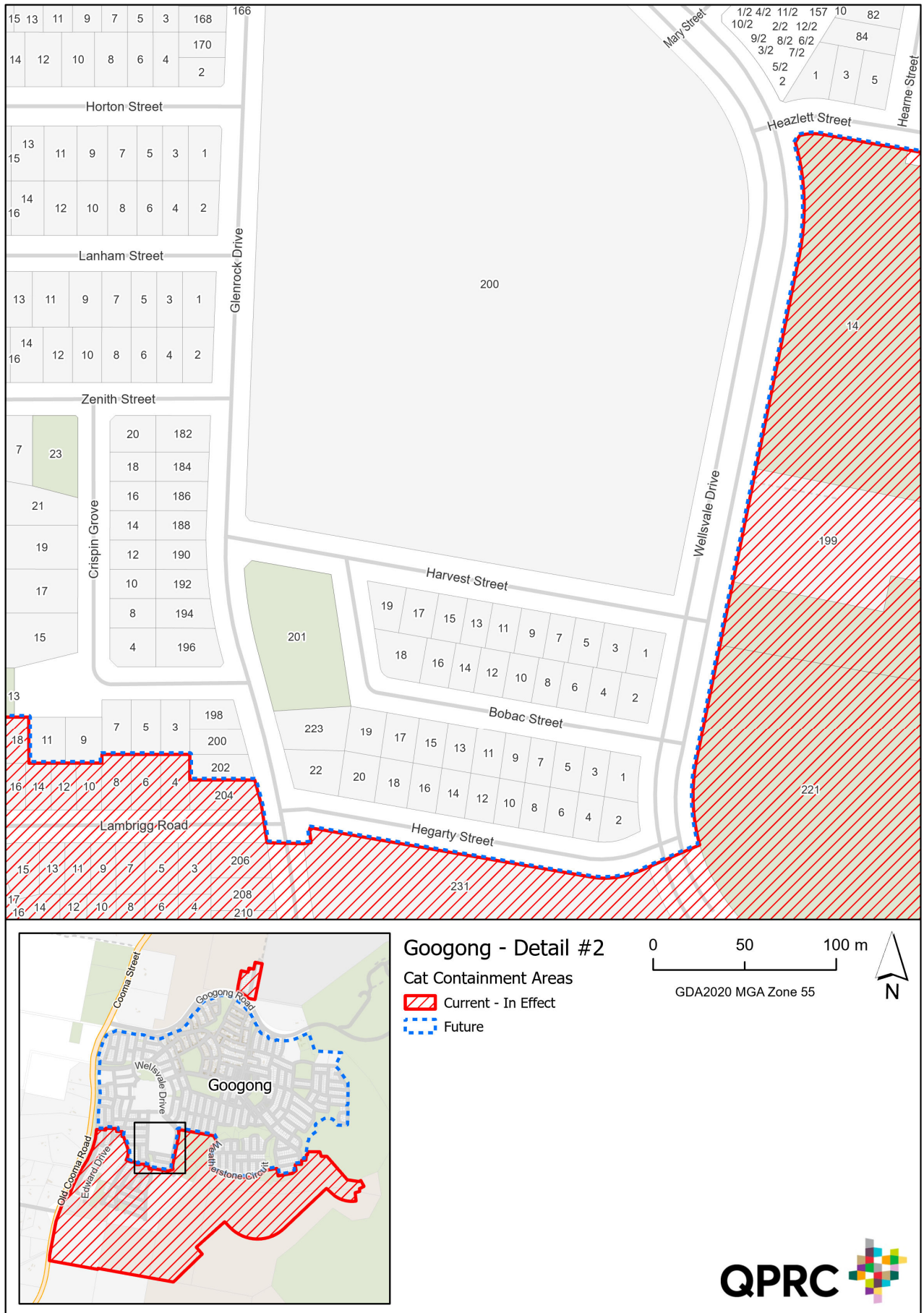
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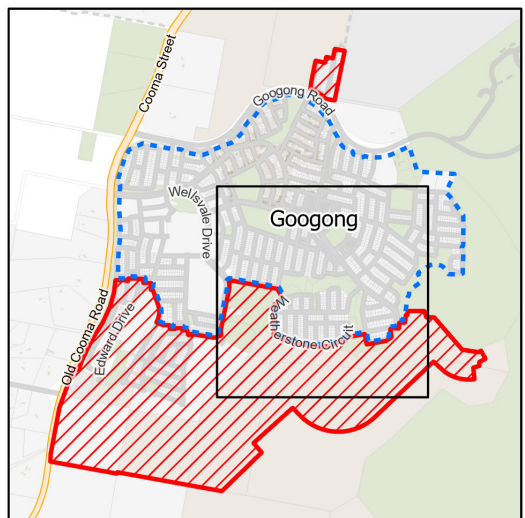
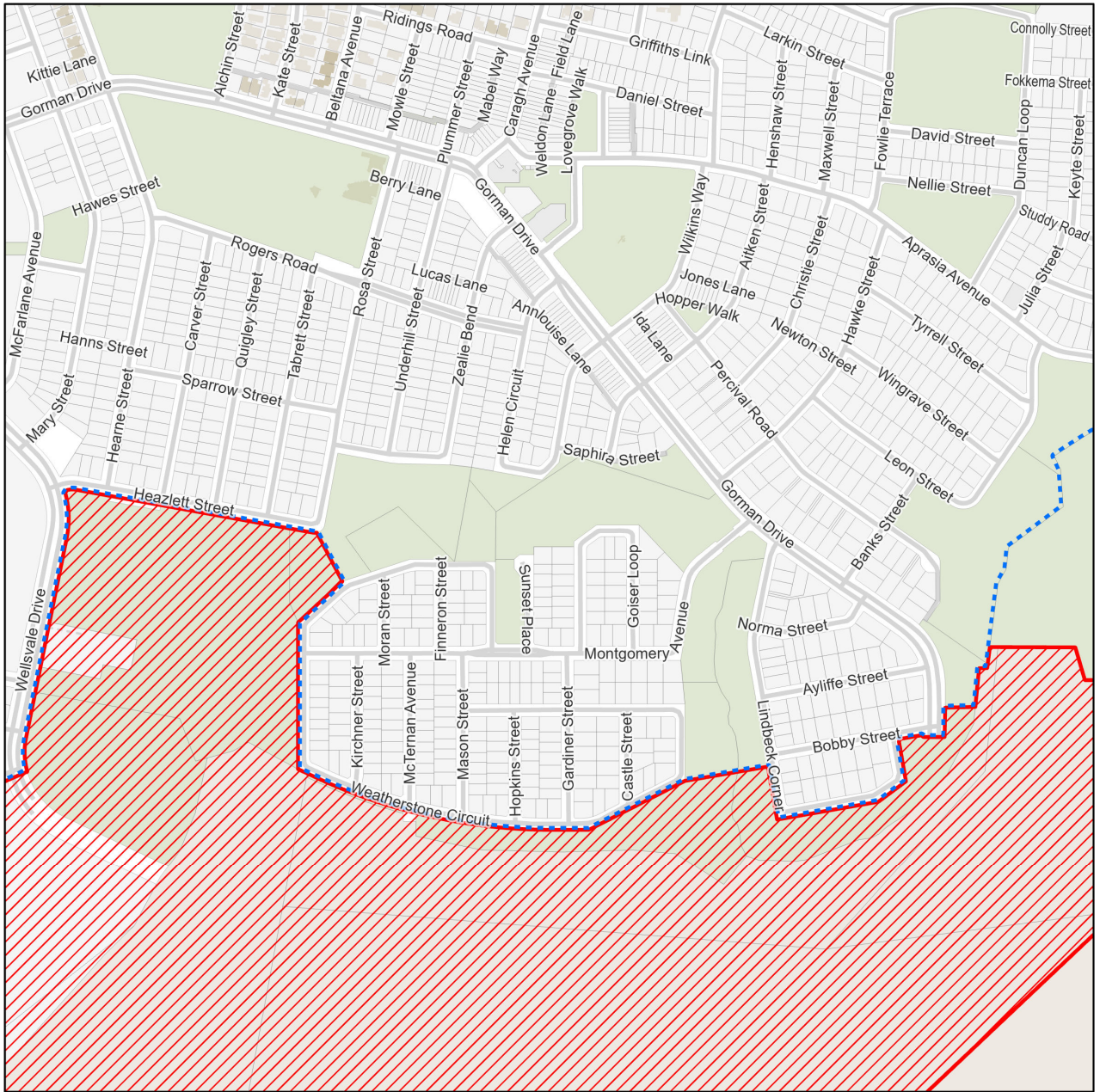


9.3 Post Exhibition Report - Cat Containment Policy
Attachment 1 - Draft QPRC Cat Containment Policy (Continued)



9.3 Post Exhibition Report - Cat Containment Policy
Attachment 1 - Draft QPRC Cat Containment Policy (Continued)

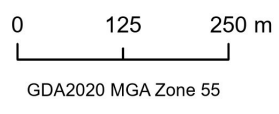


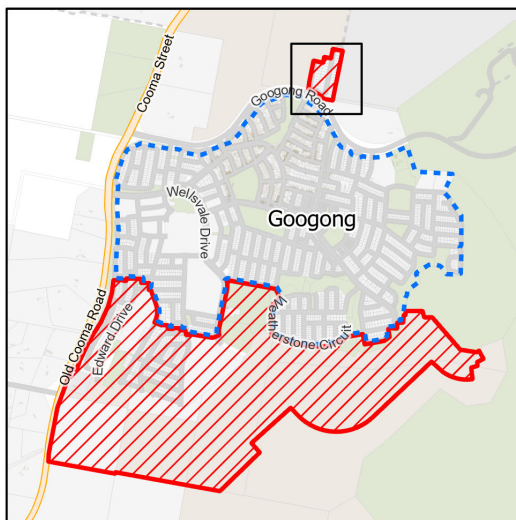
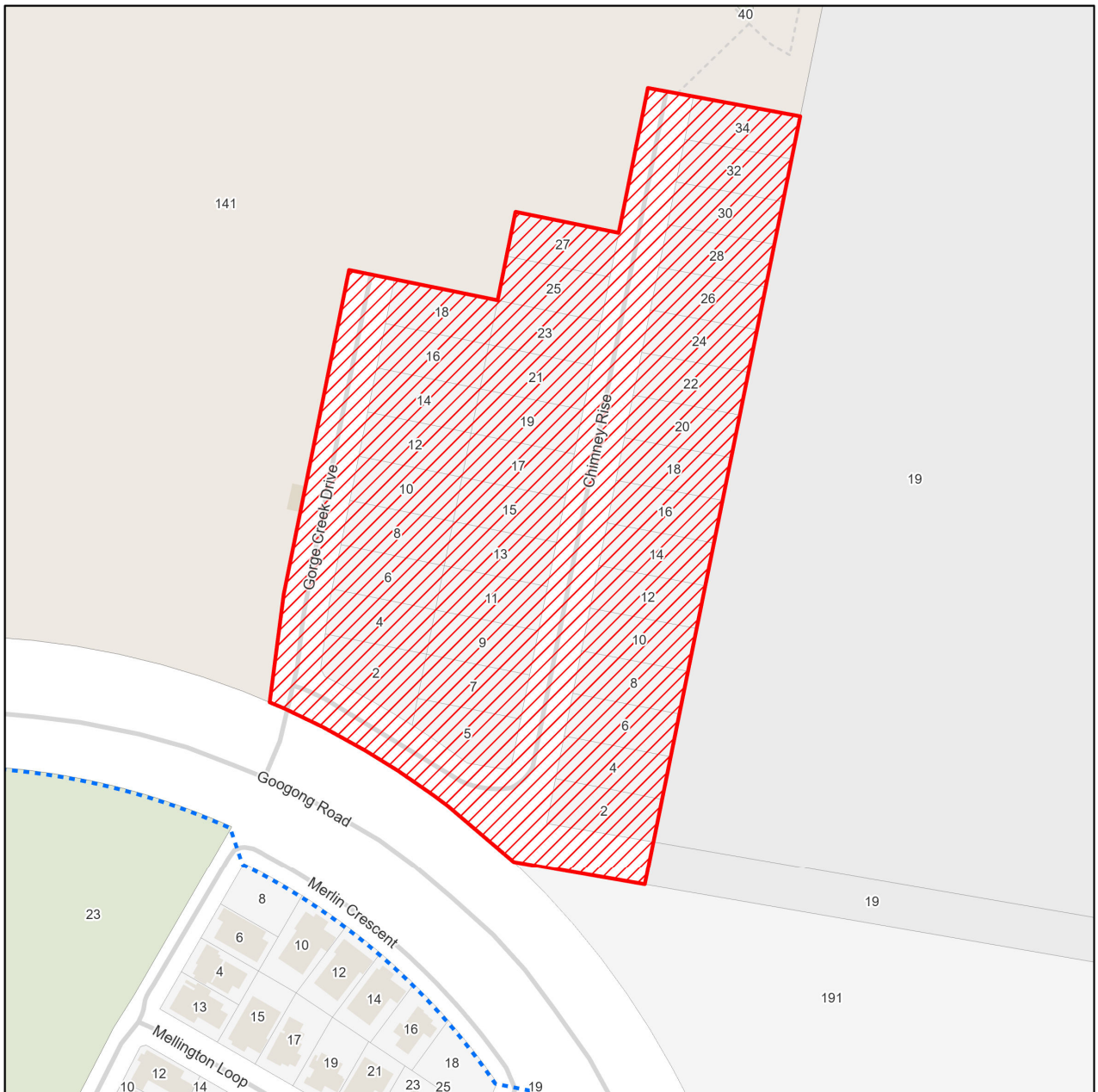


Googong - Detail #3

Cat Containment Areas

- Current - In Effect
- Future





**Googong - Detail #4
 (Sunset Estate)**

Cat Containment Areas

- Current - In Effect
- Future

0 50 100 m

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

12 FEBRUARY 2025

ITEM 9.3 POST EXHIBITION REPORT - CAT CONTAINMENT POLICY

ATTACHMENT 2 DRAFT CAT CONTAINMENT POLICY - FULL SUBMISSIONS IN
CATEGORIES

Full Submissions in Categories:

Comments in Support of Policy:

I believe all cats should be contained in homes.
This gives the local wildlife a chance.

This should be Australia wide. Unfortunately most cat owners still allow their pets to wander the environment whenever and mostly at night. You must contain your dog and so you should also with cats.

All cats should be contained. We need to protect our cats and our wildlife.

Very sensible proposal. Hope it gets up

I strongly support containing all cats in the area as soon as possible. While cats are lovely pets and bring their families joy, we also need to think about the native animals in our community. Unfortunately cats are very destructive to native animals and containing cats can mitigate this impact.

I totally support cat containment as a policy. Absolutely the sooner the better. For the sake of our natural wildlife, and for the betterment of cat owners' neighbours. No owner of any other animal is permitted to allow their pets to roam unabated across other's property and cause untold damage to our environment. This should be no different for cats.

Received via Council email:

We have known for a long time that feral cats are a problem with an estimated 2 billion native animals killed every year. The latest research shows that domestic cats are responsible for 546 million animals per year (including 323 million native animals), according to recent research by the Australian National University conducted for the Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council and Birdlife Australia. They are also known to mate with feral cats.

There is no justification for domestic cats to be allowed to roam and I would suggest that the proposed legislation should be augmented with a requirement for all cats to be neutered unless a specific breeding licence is applied for with that licence being difficult and expensive to obtain.

I may not have a cat now. But I did have for 17.5 years in Bungendore. He has been gone now for 3 years and he was an inside cat all his life, the only time he went outside was when he went in his purpose-built run. He went in this most days when we were home and loved it. During his years I can proudly say he never killed a single piece of wildlife or a mouse even. He lived a long, healthy and happy life. On the very very few occasions that he got out due to a trades person or visitor not shutting a door I would always search for him immediately to get him home safely. I totally support cat containment areas, desexing and fines for cats roaming and think this should also include Bungendore. I am sick of a particular local cat setting my cameras off at night and making the local dogs bark. I love cats but they belong in the home of the owners same as dogs do.

I like cats, but I love our native wildlife, esp. the birds. I also love my garden, and do not appreciate neighbourhood cats using it as a public toilet.

I think this is fantastic as it will allow the native wildlife a chance. Cats are killing machines, they roam far. If I owned a cat (I'm allergic) I would be happy for it to be inside, my dogs are contained so as to not injure animals, cats should be too. Being across the LGA is fantastic as we have squirrel gliders on our block, one of our neighbors has a Maine Coon, at night I have seen the cat out, my squirrel Gliders wouldn't have a chance against it.

My neighbour has 4 undeserved cats. They are frequently in my yard, and catch birds and lizards, despite my best efforts to send them home. I value the wildlife and find it incredibly distressing that the cats are allowed to roam and hunt. I have previously owned cats, and have always contained them so that they do not kill wildlife. It was no hardship to the cats

It is a fantastic initiative that will protect cats as well as wildlife, as a person that loves animals I am hugely in favour.

I would like to see this come in for all of QPRC - we have so much bush areas and native birds it could only help. I also think it would be a good idea to mention that cats are well known to bring snakes home, even inside houses.

I am the owner of an indoor cat and prefer to keep her inside for her own safety. I support cats being indoors; however, the transition date for cats who are currently allowed to roam outside will be a big adjustment for any cat who is used to being outside. It may be difficult for some owners to do things like change litter trays, due to health reasons.

This is a great initiative to protect our precious native wildlife. We have a cat who is 15 years old and has been contained all her life. She is happy healthy well cared for pet who has greatly benefited from not being exposed to dogs, other cats and diseases roaming cats are subject, and we have a garden full of beautiful native birds.

Great proposed changes QPRC. Thank you for your efforts.

Living next to the bush I often see cats running around and am unsure if they are feral or domestic. By knowing that domestic cats are contained, this will help identify which cats are likely feral and therefore likely killing our native wildlife.

Thank you for bringing in this policy. As a homeowner who lives in central Queanbeyan I am annoyed every day by local cats roaming onto my property. The cats frequently leave dead birds that they have killed in my garden and they urinate everywhere. I try to plant native plants to encourage wildlife into my garden only for roaming cats to prey on them. I can't have sand play set up for my young kids in our backyard because the cats will use it as a litter box. The neighbour's cats sleep on our outdoor furniture at night, leaving hair on the cushions which is so frustrating because members of my family have cat allergies. I am 100% supportive of this policy and can't wait for it to be implemented. Bring on 1 July 2026!

Glad to see this finally happening for the benefit of all, including the cats

I support the split start dates of the rollout of this policy however would like to see it enacted further as I am currently impacted by the lack of this policy in my area. It will enforce responsibility onto the owners of cats into the welfare of not just their pet but also local wild animals.

Great news if this goes ahead, finally our yard won't be used as a kitty litter by our neighbouring cats!!

As a cat owner, I strongly support this proposal. I always keep my cat inside and am sick and tired of irresponsible pet owners allowing their cats to roam throughout Googong, doing untold damage to native species (some of which are under threatened, vulnerable or endangered) and ruining the quiet enjoyment of others property (pooing in kids sand pits and vegetables gardens). My CCTV regularly captures footage of cats stalking native birds and reptiles, sometimes carrying them in their mouth after catching one.

The proposed policy will be excellent because it will close a loophole whereby pretty much every irresponsible cat owner (who wants to allow their pet to roam) either moves from Canberra to QPRC due to lax regulation, or claims they live in one of the older Googong neighbourhoods. It will also make distinguishing between feral and domestic cats, which should aid in developing a control program for the apparently booming feral population.

Now if you could just come up with a policy that actually deters dog owners from leaving poo everywhere in Googong (bagged and unbagged), that would be awesome. I personally think the punishment/fine needs to be way higher!

I think that the policy should be implemented asap . The amount of cats roaming the streets and killing wildlife is horrendous. I think all cats no matter birthdate should be contained asap. The sooner they are contained the better life expectancy for our native species .

As with dogs, they have to be contained, they can't roam the streets so why should cats be allowed.

There are also plenty of products on the market for cat owners to purchase to help with containment.

I fully support a cat containment policy. I am a cat lover, but I do not like the destruction that cats do to Australian wildlife.

I had a cat (until she sadly passed away), and she was always an indoor-only cat.

This is an important initiative and has my full support.

This proposed wider restriction on the movement of domesticated cats within the LGA is long overdue and is very welcome. The fact that the majority of cat owners manage their pets responsibly does not alter the fact that many let their animals roam freely at any time of the day. Cats are very effective hunters and their severely detrimental impact on our native animals is well documented.

Strongly support extension of this policy to all parts of QPRC including rural areas - in the latter, protection of native wildlife is even more important and roaming cats are more likely to be feral. The current piecemeal approach in Googong for example means cats can live in one area and roam in another - application across the whole of QPRC is easier for the public to understand and easier for the Council to administer.

Our dogs are contained and only go out on a leash. We are fed up with cats wandering in our property - we have seen evidence of their killing instinct and it is high time they were contained.

I am pleased to see QPRC taking action to require cat owners to meet community expectations of responsible cat ownership, in the same manner that I am expect to meet community expectations as a dog owner. I understand that cat owners need time to adjust and implement; the timelines seem reasonable to me. This policy change gives me hope that in time I will see less cats stalking local wildlife in my neighbourhood in future.

This is an excellent policy that brings cats into line with dogs (of which we own two).

This is fantastic. In my neighbourhood there are cats constantly visible around the streets.

I experience daily frustration with multiplte cats entering my garden, killing birds and lizards frequently.

Great work council!

This is a brilliant idea, thank you for developing and giving us a chance to have a say.

We live near the river and love to make the most of the public access, especially walking and bird watching. Unfortunately we often see cats along the river hunting birds and other small mammals/ reptiles. In these last vestiges of green space in our city it is imperative they and the species they provide habitat for are protected. It is well studied by scientists the impact feral and free roaming cats have on biodiversity. I have seen this first hand in my own backyard which used by be frequented by neighbourhood cats and we had a noticeable lack of small birds in our garden (even though we had suitable habitat). Since keeping the cats at bay small birds, such as wrens have returned. Imagine if this impact was created across the whole of our LGA.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal. I am supportive.

Fully support containment of all cats as soon as possible. For environmental reasons, for the safety of my chickens, and because there is a cat in my neighborhood who loves digging up my vegetable patch.

It needs to be implemented as soon as possible. My street is overrun with people's cats. They foul up my yard, they harass and kill my pet rabbits (which are contained in my yard), they kill the beautiful wrens that call my garden home, they keep me awake all night by triggering the sensor lights and running along the fence and the list goes on. Most of the irresponsible cat owners in my street can even keep their cats in their yards because they have dogs as well. This needs to be implemented now, I've had enough of the cats invading my yard

We have roaming cats near our house and we have seen firsthand the devastation they cause. We have captured these cats and handed them into the pound, but they have been back a few days later and we are powerless to stop them.

This is a great step in the right direction to keep cats from decimating our native fauna, but it is only one step as enforcing it is going to be very hard. I live in a semi rural area & we have cats attacking the birds all the time. Some of the cats are from irresponsible owners who don't desex their cats & others are dumped in the area or left by people leaving the area (it happens).

Cats should not be free to roam they cause damage and are a nuisance to private property and are a serious danger to local wildlife.

Fully support. The policy is long overdue.

This is a good way of working out which cats are feral and can be exterminated

This is keeping us in line with other Council areas, cats are a danger to the environment and cats also spread diseases that affect, humans, livestock and our wildlife. These diseases can cause abortions in livestock which reduced farmers' productivity, and create scar tissue in livestock meat which reduces farmers' incomes.

Good decision QPRC.

Cats are the most destructive of urban pests in our area. We plan and manage a native garden to attract and provide for native birds and wildlife and these are constantly threatened by local cats. There should also be a wild cat trapping program to eradicate these pests.

I want this to go ahead because I think it's best for the cats' safety, and also because it'll prevent cats from being able to enter neighbouring properties and damaging their gardens/yards. However, I have serious concerns with using the Invasive Species Councils "fact sheet" on cats as a basis for containment. Their study is quite flawed in terms of differentiating between feral and domesticated cats, and also between cats in general and other predators. Using ISC directives as the basis for cat containment also encourages cat hate in the community. A quick glance at the Queanbeyan Community Notice Board on Facebook shows a very disturbing trend where people are encouraging each other to kill cats they see roaming around. Owners who think their cats are incapable of killing birds are less likely to keep their cats indoors if they're told that's the main reason cats should be contained. Please also highlight the importance of keeping cats safe (from getting hit by cars, getting bitten by snakes and getting into fights with stray cats and off-lead dogs, getting bitten by snakes, etc.) and keeping them out of neighbours' properties as the main reasons why this is important rather than focusing on inflated figures of them killing native birds. I've seen cars hit beautiful ducks, galahs and rosellas indiscriminately, yet no one has tried to ban cars. Council has a duty to ensure that this policy goes ahead without spreading misinformation and cat prejudice.

This will benefit wildlife and the community.

I strongly support further rules around cat containment. It is extremely distressing and irresponsible for cats to be able to kill our beautiful wildlife. I strongly believe all cats should not be able to roam outside unsupervised. Just like a dog should not be able to do this, I don't see why cats are allowed to do this. It makes no sense

A good policy. I already have our cats contained in our back yard, so fully support!

This is an excellent policy. I'm happy to see the QPRC taking a progressive approach and leading the state in managing cats.

I love cats (I don't have one at present), and I also love our local wildlife.

There are many neighbourhood cats roaming freely in the street, the bush reserve and on our property.

Times have changed, and owners need to take responsibility for containing their cats.

A firm policy such as this is required to protect wildlife and contain the nuisance of roaming cats.

Sensible we need to transition to full containment policy for cats

I am a responsible cat owner and keep my cats indoors at all times. I think this proposed policy is a wonderful idea.

Wondering cats are a big problem where I am in Karabar St. I regularly have up to six cats a day hunting native birds in my yard and roaming around during the night.

My cat owning neighbours will only become responsible cat owners once they are required to contain their pets.

One of the cats sprays the front doors of the houses in the street and even bit a 94 yr old neighbour. Cat containment is a huge priority for me.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I have read the revised cat containment policy and would like to express my full support for the initiative.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I write in total support of a Cat Containment Policy that would require all cats in expanded cat containment areas be contained to their own properties.

I love cats, and have lived with them in UK, USA and Australia for more than 60 years, but no longer. UK is a basket case for wildlife but in

parts of the country a native small cat coexists. In the USA a range of felines have long lived alongside a co-evolved fauna. In Australia there was (and remains) no coevolution of native birds and marsupials with such a voracious predator. Here the wildlife damage by cats is substantially done already, but reintroduction projects must have feral cat exclusions in place to succeed. We have been late to realise this (outside of the conservation community) but even so it is not too late to act. Please adopt the draft strategy as a minimum protection for peri-urban cat containment - and enforce it !

No, good to see something being done. Thanks.

Domestic cats kill a lot of wildlife in my area.

I am a cat owner and fully support this policy in order to protect native wildlife. I was surprised to find I already live in a cat containment area. I moved in 4 years ago but had never been advised. But my cat is, and always will be, an inside cat.

Can't come soon enough. All cats should be contained.

Strongly in support of this

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I support the proposed policy. Thanks for the initiative.

I fully support strong cat containment rules.

I have a cat, but also love our native wildlife and have seen firsthand the devastating effects of domestic and feral cats on the local native wildlife even on my own property. A cat containment policy would help prevent more native animal extinctions (Australia has an appalling record already)

This is a hugely important measure. We know the impact that cats have on small wildlife species regardless of how well fed cats are and regardless of whether they are kept indoors at night. Keeping cats indoors will also keep them safe from feral cat control measures. Furthermore, cat containment keeps domestic cats safer by reducing harmful cat-to-cat interactions that spread diseases such as cat flu and FIV, it prevents cat-fighting that can lead to injury and cat-bite abscesses and it avoids cats ending up as road-kill. I'm all for it!

Thank you. I have had a cat in the neighbourhood doing its poo on my lawn for years now when my baby was young he crawled in it. It was so upsetting. People don't realise the impact that their pet has on others and they need to be more aware

Congratulations to Staff and Council for this Policy which will benefit the environment, cat owners and the cats themselves. The Policy will also place the Council area on a consistent basis with residents in the adjoining Australian Capital Territory.

Totally agree with the cat containment policy, we have noticed the decline in bird life around our house and we are dismayed at the large number of cats roaming the streets of our neighborhood.

I think this is a very sensible policy that protects both cats and wildlife while also making the community a better place to live (no cats fighting at night or running around near cars on the road). My only concern/query is if Council is considering make available supports for people to outfit their homes, especially renters, such that they can enact containment affordably.

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

This policy cannot come soon enough. We live at 29 Saddle Place Royalla NSW and have since 2001 when we purchased our block, have planted some 1500 trees and shrubs to give birds a safe habitat.

The main predictors have been CATs owned by neighbors who do not take kindly to having their CATs accused of killing birds, which we all know they do if let to roam freely. This policy avoids that unfriendly dialogue.

May you have every success in its implementation, thank you.

Comments Against the Policy:

Existing areas shouldn't be changed. Leave it alone.

Absolutely ridiculous. Maybe cats born after Jan 2025, but cats that have roamed free for all of their lives ... almost impossible. What do you propose - putting them down, fining the owners. I think you need to come up with a better solution. Once again the council has lost the plot.

You have decimated and ruined all native habitat for an endangered species and think cat containment will work Unsure if you are aware of the feral cat population locally and australia wide.....how about you fix that with trapping and subsidised desexing of all cats not for show breeding etc FIRST. Having a pet is actually a health benefit especially for the elderly but they cant afford \$300+ for desexing nor the cost to buy from shelters rehoming facilities

'I oppose the policy on grounds of

1. Ineffective & unnecessary in all but greenfields sites.

2. Animal welfare issues - the very short term covid restrictions had significant recognised impacts on human wellbeing. How can Council justify imposing life-time imprisonment and isolation on pets which we have a duty of care for and which have no say in our decisions and are not the real drivers of species impacts and extinction in Australia.

In more detail - unnecessary - there is a large body of scientific research generated globally, including in Canberra, demonstrating that - the impacts of greenfield development & habitat destruction to sustain human populations is vastly the biggest driver of species loss. Feral cats also contribute to this at a moderate level, but even car collisions and house windows are recognised as bigger drivers of wildlife loss than domestic cats. So Council, if genuinely concerned about wildlife, should focus on eliminating these significantly greater impacts instead of targeting the minor cause. Jumping Creek, Googong etc??

- in established urban areas such as Qbn, most fauna captured by cats are exotic species - house mice and rats (delivering a public service here), sparrows and blackbirds etc. Even in a bush setting on Banks Peninsular most fauna caught by domestic cats were mice, rats and young rabbits (86% of total kills), followed by other exotic fauna with only 2.4 % of kills being native wildlife (including birds, mammals, reptiles and spiders).

- suburban cats have a very small home range, generally only in the order of 1-1.5 ha, so only a few houses either side of home.

- research has shown that birds caught by cats are in lower health than those killed on house windows, showing that cats are generally only catching sick/old birds, not affecting breeding and population growth (Baker 2008).

- In Atlanta, cameras on cats showed that only 44% of cats hunted wildlife, catching about 100 prey/year (again mostly reptiles, small mammals & spiders) but 85% of this was in the warmer months. Applying the bushland, not suburban, Australian proportions to this it suggests that less than one out of two cats might impact on only 2.4 native fauna (including reptiles, birds and mammals) a year. And clearly less in suburban areas as there is less native wildlife there.

Animal Welfare

- research has shown indoor cats are more likely to suffer from obesity and stress-induced pathologies, especially if insufficient enrichment is provided (Alho, Pontes, & Pomba, 2016).

- Common sense - how would you like it if you were kept in a limited space for your whole life? Many property owners can not afford to do complex outdoor perimeter fencing and so will have to basically imprison their cats inside or in tiny runs. The impacts of covid on people should be enough of a red flag to not do this to other living beings. While cats might live longer in confinement, so would we, probably, if kept in a padded cell and fed - but that is not a life worth living.

Greenfields sites should be the only sites where cat restrictions are considered but wildlife data pre, post and 10-20 years after development

should be assessed to gauge the ongoing benefits of this approach.

A more effective and humane policy would be to focus on increasing education regarding tools for cat-owners, especially in urban fringe areas (eg next to Jerra) - such as spring time cat curfews (keep to indoors or cat run overnight in these months), use of bells (mammal warning) and multi-coloured collars (bird warning).

Comments Regarding Implementation Timeframes:

Why should older cats be subjected to containment when they are used to having their freedom. They are not 24/7 killing machines as they are portrayed. I have had many cats that are not bird-killers or wildlife killers, including a former barn cat called "Killer" I was warned not to let near birds. All it did was watch them. No interest in going after them. A UK film on 50 filmed cats followed them 24/7 and dispelled the myths that are going around about cats. It showed that, yes, they roamed their "territory" and fought other cats mainly, but their main interest was in finding out what was in their neighbour's cat bowl. I looked up from the movie to see a strange cat eating our cat's food - beautifully illustrating the point. The bush is an ecosystem. Feral pigs do far more damage. Anyway, it is unlikely to change anyone's views - however i note that EXISING cats (ie older ones) were exempt from this sort of containment in the ACT. FYI.

I love cats, but I love wildlife too. Native wildlife should have right of way, so great initiative!

I'm not convinced owners need until July 2026. What's the case for it not being July 2025 for all cats? Do people or cats really need that long to adapt? Won't that make it harder to understand/enforcement more difficult? What's the cost on wildlife in the meantime? Just make it apply to all cats from July 2025, please.

Cats who are older will have difficulty adapting to the containment

Make everything happen from 1 January 2025. 1 July 2026 is too far away.

But I don't understand why cats of all ages wouldn't be included on the Jan 1 2025 date for containment

The following proposed amendment is not justified:

"Any cats born on or after 1 January 2025" changed to "Any cats born on or after 1 January 2025 will need to be contained from 1 July 2025".

Owners acquiring newborn cats from 1 January 2025 will be subject to extant policy that will has been in effect for nearly four years. They do not need more time to prepare, and they do not need to acquire a newborn cat at all if they are unable to meet the containment requirements.

The start date should be brought forward. All cats should be contained. I don't see the benefit of dragging it out till 2026.

All cats should be contained from 1/1/2025 for the protection of our wildlife.

I would like the cat containment policy to start sooner than 2025 and 2026. As council would be aware, feral cats are one of the biggest ongoing threats to native wildlife. I live in Karabar near Barracks Creek and there are two roaming cats in my area. I have planted native bushes in my garden and outside the fence, to encourage small native birds, silver eyes, eastern spinebills, finches, blue wrens and so on. I am most disheartened to see two roaming cats occasionally around my property. I cannot identify if these two cats are owned or wild. They run off into the creek area. Wild cats are very difficult to catch or remove by authorised persons. There are many bowerbirds along the Queanbeyan River area and Barracks Creek. These birds as council would know, build bowers on the ground. These amazing native birds are also at risk. Many of the small native birds, such as red crested finches and pardalotes forage very close to the ground along the river and nest close to the ground in bushes. All are at risk from roaming cats.

I would gather cats now need to be chipped as pet dogs are? Though I am not sure if this is the case.

I support the containment policy, but it would be great if it could happen sooner and that people learn how to be responsible pet owners and value our native wildlife and environment.

Bring forward date 1/7/26 for all cats containment to 1/7/25

Restrict cats in periurban areas like Royalla to the building envelope not whole property as thats not really containment on acreage.

I believe it should be all cats that are living in the area. Cats born in 2025 or after will only effect change once the other cats have died off which could be 20+ years. Cats born in 2024 could still be killing wildlife until 2044

The 1 July 2026 is too late.

July 2026 is a generous implementation date.

Wondering why it takes so long to bring this policy into action and why it can't be THIS year and not in 2 years time. We have regular problems in our street with cats allowed to roam anywhere they choose, including our backyard, upsetting our dog, who is always contained. Thank you, Pip

This policy should be implemented ASAP. Irresponsible cat owners are a menace

Maybe a night policy might be a good stepping stone. For cats who have been allowed out for many years, it will be a difficult transition. Extra years on the life of a bored, confined cat is not a selling point. Difficult to contain when cohabiting with dogs and children.

Start Date for new cats is fine, but as the slightly elderly owner of an old cat, which we already try to keep within our backyard, I think the start date for cats already living in the LGA may need to be delayed for say three years to give people time to change fences, gates etc. Our cat is very cunning at finding small gaps, we had not discovered. We currently keep our cat indoors after dark.

It should be brought in sooner — our native birds and animals are threatened NOW

I think the policy should be extended to ALL cats regardless of their age. It's such a massive problem in Qbyn west

The date for ALL cats should also be effective from July 2025. And there be a lenient period of 3 months before fines take effect. (Or whatever the penalty is) Imagine how much wildlife and vegetation could be saved by bringing this into effect the year earlier. Why wait?? The sooner the better for our area and habitat. Be lenient on penalties for even 6 months.

It needs to be immediate really. It's going to be decades to get all those old cats through so none are on the street. And then there's those that will say that if your cat is allowed out, mine should be too. Too hard to police if some can be out and others can't be. If people need time to prep for keeping their cat in, give them a year and then declare a date that they're all in!

I used to have a cat, so although I don't have one now, I understand their point of view. I kept mine inside, because she was a killer, and I didn't want to be responsible for the loss of native animals!

This is fundamentally flawed. There should at least be a grandfather provision - sit far cats who currently live in non-enclosed required areas can live out the rest of their life in peace. I OBJECT COMPLETELY TO THIS STUPID DISPLAY OF COUNCIL ARROGANCE! For the absurdly increased rates we are paying Council should mind its own business and leave our cats alone!!

Why different dates? Reconsider one date for all. Less confusion. Besides cats don't recognise different estate lines to abide and the owner doesn't even know where their feral cat is. Don't agree on staggered dates and staggered suburbs. We are already annoyed at the damage of 'unknown neighbours' damn cats using our yard, gardens n shed as their private shitter.

KISS principle. Keep it simple stupid and save rate payers funds for more worthy issues/projects. Don't stagger dates or suburbs.

Start date should be earlier.

Perhaps better to curtail cat outside time to (say) 1/2 hour twice a day. (Cats don't go stir crazy, and wildlife are largely protected). No nighttime roaming.

A one year grandfathering period for older cats is unreasonable for any cat that is used to roaming.

I have two cats. One that remains indoors mostly, or sits my verandah. The other cat roams each day no more than one or two houses away, respecting other roaming cats' boundaries. The cat is older but healthy, and could reasonably be expected to live another seven to ten years. It finds areas to lie in the sun in other people's gardens, it visits older neighbours who can't manage to keep a pet, it patrols the neighbour's chicken coop for mice. Spending the rest of its life outdoors in an enclosure is ,frankly, cruel.

I am not blind to the cat hunting, but all it hunts are rats and mice - vermin. I look forward to dealing with more rat and mice infestations in 2026 when there's no cats to contain the population.

To be clear, my feedback is this: I feel there's no way this won't be implemented but I believe and request all older cats should be allowed to roam past July 2026.

I am not conservative, I am ecologically conscious, but I feel cat containment laws in a suburban area are ridiculous. Queanbeyan is surrounded by countryside - filled with feral cats. At best this law will save a few suburban birds. And all the non-existent birds in the new treeless

developments like Googong.

This is just another example of the new Australian value of over-legislating. This is a great law to implement to be seen to be doing something. Cats aren't the problem. Man is the problem. But the planet is burning, let's lock up the cats.

<https://theconversation.com/dont-blame-cats-for-destroying-wildlife-shaky-logic-is-leading-to-moral-panic-138710>

Some cats are only happy roaming. Rules aren't the answer. Encourage outside cat owners with requirements to wear bells and tags. Subsidise containment measures such as roll bar fence tops. I don't want nets and cages all over the shop.

In general I support the concept of cat containment and the introduction for all cats born after 1 Jan 2025.

However, I do not agree with the date for all cats from 1 July 2026 as it is likely to be detrimental for the welfare of cats and their owners to contain cats that have not be raised in a contained environment.

It would be more appropriate to maintain the first date only, with specific areas of most concern nominated for all cats (as I believe the case is in the ACT with the date being 1 July 2022). Within a short period of time the vast majority of cats would be subject to containment.

In setting dates I would also encourage consideration of whether their will be sufficient supply of services for those wanting to construct enclosures on their property.

The containment date for All cats within QPRC of 1 July 2026 should be brought forward to 1 July 2025.

It may not be feasible for some sections of the community to comply due to cost or tenancy arrangements.

While I support the cat containment policy for the protection of wildlife and the cats themselves, consideration should be give to cat born before 2026 and the transition from being outdoor cats to indoor/contained cats. Cats can jump ridiculously high and for some people to cat proof their property might be out of reach financially. Also, the transition to keeping cats indoors only when they are used to being in and out is a huge mental shift for the cat and the humans which causes distress for both. Consideration should be given to applying the same rule as in the ACT where they allowed cats older than the cut off date to stay as indoor/outdoor cats but mandated that all cats born after the date must be contained. The cost for vet visits for prescriptions to medicate cats will be out of reach for some and will cause untold amounts of stress for other who have to give up their pets.

Cat containment not only protects wildlife, but it also protects cats themselves from injury and disease, resulting in longer lives for pets. I fully support the proposal to be introduced into the LGA.

The Invasive Species Council state that "While feral cats kill billions of animals annually, roaming pet cats are estimated to add another 340 million native mammals, birds and reptiles to that toll. The average individual pet cat allowed out to roam is estimated to kill 110 of those native animals every year." ://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/cats-in-australia/pet-cats/.

The date for all cats to be contained in the LGA could be brought forward from 2026 to 2025 to preserve wildlife as soon as possible. I see Googong residents who deliberately let their cats out to roam, which allows the cats to hunt, and also creates a situation where dogs are aggravated in their own homes by the presence of cats roaming freely. If dog owners are required to control their animals at all times, so should cat owners.

I would even say bring it in earlier. This is a brilliant idea qprc and will save so much wildlife!

I think that all cats in the LGA should need to be contained from a date in 2025 (perhaps November). No need to give such a lead in period.

Bring the containment dates forward! The number of wildlife injured in our local area by uncontained pet cats is horrendous.

The containment should happen sooner. Cats are predators of Australian wildlife and should not roam freely. Dogs have to be kept under control and have recall, the same standard should be followed for cats, along with the requirement to clean up after them.

The 1 July 2025 start date for newly born cats is good. I'm also personally okay with the 1 July 2026 start date for existing cats, but if it eases concerns from existing cat-owners that could probably be delayed a couple of years, or even indefinitely, as the problem will reduce over time as existing cats reach the end of their lives.

It would be better for our native species and the safety of our pet cats, to bring forward by 6 months the start date in the Local Government Area to 31 December 2025. Most cat owners (including me as a former (and potentially future) cat owner) have known that cat containment is coming. We have had enough information over several years as a society to understand the importance of being responsible pet owners.

As a next step by the LGA to assist cat owners to contain cats to yards and balconies, it would be great to see the promotion of collaborations with, for example, mens sheds etc. and the provision of grants to those who can help build property appropriate cat 'runs' at a reasonable cost for people unwaged, on low incomes including on age or similar pensions.

Should start earlier and be enforced better than dogs on leads. Set out traps and dispose of roaming cats.

I think the containment should begin for all cats on January 2025. They are doing too much damage to the birds and lizards and should be contained, just like dogs need to be.

Start date for all cats should be earlier, suggest 1 July 2025 for every cat in all LGA

Should be introduced sooner. We get cats in our backyard which concerns us as we have a rabbit

The policy is unrealistic. You can't take a cat that has been outdoor its entire life and tell it it's now an indoor cat. These outdoor cats will escape given any chance they get.

The policy the ACT has is much better. Any cat born after 1 January 2025 is indoor only, but all cats born before are grandfathered in to allow outdoor access. New cats grow up inside only and won't escape. Current outdoor cats continue as normal.

I will not be able to keep my cat inside. This containment policy is already influencing my voting decisions as well, I don't like it overall I fully support and commend the Council on this proposal. Loose cats are a threat to wildlife.

I would support the proposal being put into place in Greenleigh immediately. Recently, we have had three incidents of cats killing chicks and the adult birds trying to protect them at our property. Three wattlebird chicks and an adult were killed near our front door by cats, despite our attempts to protect the nest. We have also had two pardalote nests destroyed by cats, and I have witnessed cats running with lizards in their mouths. This should not occur. These are the incidents that we have seen, we are sure there are far more that we have not.

In addition, I walk my dog on a lead both morning and night, we have had at least three uncontained cats wondering around our street. This at times has nearly caused me to fall as my dog lunges towards the cats.

Yours sincerely,

Comments Related to Cat Containment Methods:

I understand the importance of native wildlife that's why I have spent a lot of time over the last couple years working on putting my cat on a schedule. He's not allowed outside at nighttime.

Cats aren't toys, they're living animals. They aren't like dogs, you can't just build a fence and let them outside. They're roaming animals, my cat was an ex feral and he hates being trapped inside the house 24/7, like genuinely despises it.

I cannot imagine how this will affect his health being forced to stay inside for the rest of his life.

Are you going to subsidise people's catios they're going to have to build? Because I don't have the disposable income to build one.

I owned a cat who due to an FIV diagnosis had to be kept indoors. He resented it so much he exhibited behaviour problems. He sprayed inside the house. He attacked me. He endlessly walked and paced until he was exhausted and then slept, and then got up and did it again. I had to medicate him, which was expensive and included the tablets and regular blood tests. Even then he was not happy. The stress on cats of being forced to live indoors after being an outside cat is underestimated. He had an outdoor enclosure and was walked on a lead in the yard. It wasn't enough. Cases like this need to be handled on a case by case basis and treated accordingly. It is also expensive to fence a yard to make it cat proof, and does it stop other cats getting in? and fighting? stray cats will still exist despite the rules and will continue to wander and fight and cause car accidents and breed.

if you do catch a neighbour's cat in a trap, and cannot physically drive to the pound, how do you get it there. the pound will be overrun.

as for cats wearing collars at all times, not just a microchip, this has its own dangers as they get caught on things. what about trees overhanging boundaries that a cat can climb and escape over.

in theory i agree, but please take into account cats that will not tolerate a change from outdoors to in. my cat was indoors overnight by the way. he didn't roam full time.

Expecting people to contain pets that are currently outdoors is bordering on animal cruelty. The cost to install a reasonable size enclosure is ridiculous, or people will be stuck with very unhappy cats. This will mean an influx of cats being surrendered to already overstretched shelters. Further, where is the evidence base that made you decide differ from the policy that the ACT implemented, with sound logic to grandfather the laws in for all new cats and new suburbs?

Further, broadly, the evidence base for how many wild animals are killed by cats is inconclusive so the whole policy would benefit from more transparency of the rigour of sources you're relying on to make these decisions.

Ridiculous to force an old cat to stay indoors through the day.

My cat is 17 years old, stays in during the night but refuses to use litter. Waits for me to let him out at 7am to relieve himself. Sleeps all day in my garden. Does not leave this property.

Hopefully, he will die before you force him into Gail.

It is inhuman for containment of any animal in this type of arrangement. This especially so on acreage properties. The council should have no power to enforce any of these types of restrictions. The only restriction that could be used is to limit the numbers of any animal that can be kept.

I do not have a problem with cat containment for cats born after 1 July 2025. This gives prospective cat owners a long lead time to consider if they want to purchase a cat leading up to July 2025; that is, if they can commit to the responsibility of keeping it contained. What I have a serious issue with is to keep ALL cats contained after 1 July 2026.

I have a cat born in 2021 that is an outdoor cat. If my cat (and others like him) are required to be kept indoors all the time, that will constitute a

massive change to his way of life and a large degree of associated psychosocial stress. This will lead to behaviours such as eliminating in inappropriate places in the house, scratching of furniture, and possibly aggressive behaviour towards children, to whom he has previously been very sweet. There will be many cats in the LGA in the same situation; that is, who have had an outdoors life and who may suddenly be made to change, essentially overnight, into indoor cats. The negative behaviours that will follow from this sudden change will lead to a higher degree than normal of cat abandonment (e.g., on the side of the road) and/or surrender at shelters and pounds. This is an outcome that QPRC does not want to see happen, as it will put stress on already stretched animal control resources.

I urge QPRC to adopt the same policy as in the nearby ACT. That is, all cats born after a certain date must be contained, but any cat born before this date can live out their life as they have been doing so. After 10-15 years when all of these cats have passed away, the net result will be the same (no outdoor cats) - and indeed, there will be a steadily declining amount of outdoor cats over those 10-15 years, as they naturally pass away during that period (i.e., there will be some outdoor cats on 1 July 2025 who naturally only had a year or two of life left due to being aged). This is fairer on the cats and their families.

In general I support the concept of cat containment and the introduction for all cats born after 1 Jan 2025.

However, I do not agree with the date for all cats from 1 July 2026 as it is likely to be detrimental for the welfare of cats and their owners to contain cats that have not been raised in a contained environment.

It would be more appropriate to maintain the first date only, with specific areas of most concern nominated for all cats (as I believe the case is in the ACT with the date being 1 July 2022). Within a short period of time the vast majority of cats would be subject to containment.

In setting dates I would also encourage consideration of whether there will be sufficient supply of services for those wanting to construct enclosures on their property.

I have no problem with cats born from a certain date from being covered under the containment policy. I do have concerns with the mandatory containment of cats born before that date. I believe cats that are used to going out of the house, especially older cats, will suffer quite a deal of stress if they are contained in this way. I think it would be better on the health of the animal, as well as give cat owners sufficient time to change their properties to cater for containment, if only cats born after a certain date were subject to the policy.

It's cruel to confine domestic cats indoors 24/7. You don't do that to dogs, rabbits etc. Looked after cats do not stray. Concentrate on feral cats. My cat keeps mice and rats down. A foolhardy proposal.

For those people who currently own cats then the policy should not apply as the cats have been raised a certain way. For all new kittens the policy could apply. My neighbour has two cats I do not mind them roaming through my yard I have no rodent problem as a result. It is ridiculous to lock away cats that have already been roaming free for years.

While I agree owners of cats should be treated the same as owners of dogs I don't think it fair that old cats should suddenly be locked up or contained permanently inside - some cats could become very distressed. Ideally owners would build a cat run in their backyard or even teach their cat to walk on a leash, and yes I do have two friends who contain their cats and take them for daily walks outdoors - it is possible! For years I have "raged" over the fact that neighbours' cats enter my yard and defecate in my garden leaving me delightful parcels. Also that they become very adept at walking "around" their bell on a collar and still manage to capture native birds, I've seen it with my own eyes and heard no bell ringing!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I support the draft policy for cats born after 1 January 2025 but not the draft policy for all cats from the 1 July 2026.

Due to structural limitations, our home cannot accommodate renovations for a cat flap and enclosed outdoor area.

Our cat is 8 years old and is used to being allowed outside. I support the idea of cats being kept inside but would like to see it implemented for all cats born after a set date and not for established pets.

I can understand containing cats that are born after a particular future date. I do not support current cats being contained. I have cats that experience distress if they are not let outside, this would be unsustainable. They have been brought up to be allowed to roam, and it would be cruel to contain them. However, cats born to remain inside, would tolerate and be less likely to experience distress

I have a 7 year old cat who ventures outside for an hour or two each day. Our yard is large and we could not contain a cat within it as it's too large to change the fencing and say too expensive. I got my cat in good faith knowing she could go outside freely. I choose not to live in a cat containment area as I do not agree with keeping cats solely inside. This rule should not be applied retrospectively. Existing cats should not have to be contained.

Cat containment is cruel and unnatural. Domestic cats rarely travel outside their area. It has been proven that cat containment areas allow an increase in mice and rat populations. Let cats be free!!

I do not support the proposal that all cats in the LGA will need to be contained as of 1 July 2026. If council proposes to require cats to be contained LGA wide, then this should only be applied to cats born after the containment date. The policy should not be applied to cats born before this date.

The ACT took the approach of grandfathering existing cats when they adopted their territory wide approach to cat containment, outlining that "we understand that existing cats and their owners may not be prepared for, or used to, full containment. The grandfathering approach for existing pet cats will support a fair and gradual transition which supports the welfare for these animals."

(https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/act-transport-canberra-and-city-services-media-releases/2022/new-laws-for-cat-containment-and-cat-registration)

When I chose to keep a cat, I made the decision to do so within a framework that legally allowed my cat to spend time outdoors. I made the decision based off my commitments, including work, travel etc, and considered whether I would be able to responsibly meet the welfare requirements of the animal. My cat gains a lot of stimulation from being outside. If at the time of decision I knew that I would have to contain my cat, I would not have got a cat. My cat is now mid-life and will have a difficult time adjusting to containment, and I will need to change my lifestyle significantly to meet his needs.

While I recognise that society is changing its views on cats, and that cat containment is increasingly common, your proposed policy mechanism places an unreasonable burden on existing cats with access to outside and the pet owners who chose to keep a cat in this manner within a framework that allowed it. Please adopt the grandfathering approach chosen by the ACT.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Comments Relating to Farm Cats and Rural Areas:

I live on acreage in Bungendore and my cat is an inside/ outside cat , aged 8, microchipped, desexed and registered with council. Due to the size of this property, it is unrealistic to keep an eye on her all day and cruel to expect her to be caged, or indoors 24/ 7.

In addition there is a small minority of people who have a specific agenda to enforce their views on the majority , this is not democratic and isn't there more important and value adding agendas for the Council?

We rely on farm cats to keep pests under control and out of animal feed. This also keeps snakes away from buildings and hen yards as they come in after mice. Poisons have a downstream impact on wildlife.

We are rural. We use the cats to deal with rodent problems, rather than using poison which is dangerous to native animals. Keeping them contained will mean that we have to resort to poisoning the rats and mice.

What about people on properties who have cats to keep pests away. Our LGA is large and this is not a one size fits all thing. Maybe it is needs to be refined and more fit for purpose.

While I appreciate the reasoning behind this, and do support cat containment in new and high density areas, I am not sure that QPRC LGA can attain this equitably.

Suburbs such as Googong which are high density - and new - can (and have) elect to bring it in on commencement as people move into the area but I feel that QPRC LGA has a much more diverse population and it will not be easily regulated.

While I live in Queanbeyan my cats are not able to have access to much wildlife - in fact the only thing they have caught to my knowledge is mice which I am pleased they have caught!

So much of QPRC LGA is (delightfully) rural and those people with cats at places like Carwoola or on larger properties have cats that have access to a far larger array of wildlife and are far less likely to keep them indoors - they may even rely on them as barn cats for mouse and rat control.

I can see that new suburbs want to keep cats safe indoors - especially when the housing is such high density in places like Googong. But for older areas the blocks are larger, the cats are therefore fewer and they have less access to wildlife as it is still suburbia. How will you police it in places outside Bungendore for example on 30 or 40 acres?!

I think if, as a cat owner, you move into a new cat containment area knowingly that is different. But imposing it on larger areas is all but impossible and retrospectivity is not equitable.

By all means make it for cats born from 1 July 2024 and make it prospective (although how you can tell a cats age if they are in the street is impossible too!) so that is grandfathered over years and eventually all cats in the LGA do come into it - again that means people get cats knowing they have to be indoors.

There is a lot o cover with this topic but I hope council consider the equity of applying it in such a diverse LGA and, if it must come in, make it prospective for cats born from 1 July 2024 so that it comes in gradually and knowingly for all owners.

Please don't make the entire LGA the 'nanny state' that Canberra is. That's why we want to live in the QPRC LGA - where we are country people and allow flexibility!

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this and not just impose it!

Cats play a vital role in farm and pest management.

My only concern is with rural properties where there might be barn cats to hunt rodents.

Rural properties have barn cats for rodent control, these cats cannot perform thier duties if they are contained

Comments Related to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998:

Yes I object to the section: Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87. (Part 4 Section 32) 32 Action to protect persons and animals against cats

6) If a cat that is not under the effective control of some competent person enters any inclosed lands within the meaning of the Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 and approaches any animal being farmed on the land, the occupier of the land or any person authorised by the occupier can lawfully injure or destroy the cat if he or she reasonably believes that the cat will molest, attack or cause injury to any of those animals. On the grounds that the dog legislation doesn't have the immediate destruction of a dog if it is on someones property.....Authorised officer to notify dog owner of decision and consequences

Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87. (Part 5 Section 38)

The same process of notification should be included with cats.

The Companion Animals Act (part 5 Section 38) which council is following allows for an owner occupier of land to Lawfully injure or destroy a cat. No such policy or legislation for dogs, there must be notifications to the owner. No matter how hard owners try to contain pets, they will occasiobally houdini themselves out. This is not justification for them to be potentially killed! No legislation that allows for this is acceptable. Plenty of dogs get out too and they can also cause damage to other animals as well as people but there is no allowance for them to be injured or killed just because they slipped a gate. I'm all for cats being inside pets (my own are and we've built an enclosure in our yard) but it's not their fault or their owner's if they escape as one of ours has done in the past. It is also very difficult to expect an older cat who has been outdoors to suddenly become an indoor pet. I'm all for the 2025 date for new pets but it's really not enforceable for about 20 years until it's expected that any earlier cats would have completed their natural lives. And never any allowance to harm or kill any cats, regardless of their location.

The policy is not sufficiently strong on landowner's rights in protecting the natural habitat from cats as apex killers. Whereas paragraph 6 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (Part 4 Section 29) is clear regarding sanctions on cats on farmed land, there is not a similar provision for cats trespassing on other private land. The workaround as per para 6.8 content is cumbersome and places the onus and effort on responsible landowners as opposed to irresponsible catowners. This is simply wrong and you policy needs more teeth. I am fed up with clearing feathers from our property as a result of unconfined cats killing birdlife along our creek.

I make these comments having been a cat owner in the past but for whom it is not appropriate in my current environment. Having taken the responsible decision I object to others imposing their uncontained pets on my surrounding wildlife. I am happy to discuss further with council.

I support the cat containment plan as I strongly believe that cats should be kept on one's property as they are the owners responsibility. I also support the allowance of a roaming cat on a leash as I believe this is appropriate and safe exercise for cats whilst also protecting the native fauna. However I DO NOT support Part 4, section 32, item 6. No one has the right to kill or injury an animal because they believe that it is the right course of action to protect livestock. It is too vague and allows the individual to make a call without any guidance which ultimately means that they can choose to do what they want with no consequence. Due to the vague description it essentially allowing individuals to torture an animal because of what they believe. This is animal abuse and should never be tolerated or enforced by local council.

The sections in content policy 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9 and 6.10 provide appropriate recourse for an individual to manage a roaming cat without causing injury or death.

Comments Relating to Policy Implementation, Enforcement, Education and Support:

I wonder how it will be enforced or what penalties will apply for not adhering to the new rules?

Also your question 4 is broken, it just says Untitled Question

I hope QPRC actually regularly patrol the towns and rural villages especially at night time when people let their cats out and have cat traps set up

Enforcement in a rural area will be difficult. We have roaming cats on acreages and a significant problem also with stray cats now. As a cat owner I support the effort (my cat has been very badly injured by roaming cats).

Great idea - we have 2 cats which have been contained since we got them - not as kittens, but they easily learned to stay indoors and have happy and safe lives. And the local birds and reptiles are a lot safer, which we can enjoy. Maybe QPRC could help people build cat containment enclosures or something to help with the transition?

I have owned cats all my life. Whilst I agree with containing the cats for the safety of your cat not for the outside environment. There needs to be structures in place for pet cat that may have gotten out by some accident. I have seen more wildlife killed by stray dogs, foxes, other birds and humans than I have seen done so by cats. Cats are always blamed in decline of wildlife without ever taking into consideration the effect of other species.

A system needs to be in place for loved pets to be handled correctly and safety in the case of an accidental breakout

Staff to research and provide examples of easy solutions to containing cats within the property. QPRC News to show examples and QR link for information.

If QPRC could assist existing cat owners with plans or guidance on outdoor cat structures that don't require planning approval that would be good

Cats are wonderful escape artists & some owners (no matter how vigilant) will occasionally have an escapee My only problem is that Council Rangers (& others) may become overly zealous & impound/fine owners of these 'occasional' escapees.... My cats are both indoor cats but both have been known to escape on occasion despite our best efforts, (we are elderly & not as quick as we once were.) It would be nice to think that there would be provision for such cases as these.

Comments Relating to Feral Cats:

There also needs to be a way we can report feral cats. We had a feral cat make its home on our property and it had kittens and we didn't know how to report them, or even could capture them to take them to animal services. Is there any plan for this?
Thanks for looking after our native wildlife, it needs all the help it can get.

More also needs to be done by the council about the feral cat population.

The outskirts of Googong township are full of cats and foxes.

Please bring in Felixer devices as soon as possible - the evidence base shows how successfully they are being used for landscape level feral animal control.

All feral animals should be dealt with by eradication or containment to preserve our wildlife

Your consultation document and previous documents note that most of the damage is caused by feral cats. The latest document makes a claim that “research suggesting that cats that are contained live longer on average than cats who are allowed to roam freely”. Without seeking the research, I do question the basis for that latter claim and what causes of death etc were. And without being macabre, surely greater cat mortality goes to the containment policy aims – in a roundabout way.

While I agree containment of new cats in residential areas is probably the preferred goal, I don't agree that the containment policy, nor its language – for example: “keeping your cat on your property 24-hours a day. This can include in your house or apartment, an enclosed area in a backyard or courtyard, a cat crate or on a leash” – envisages a more rural setting. That is; acreage.

In the many acreage situations in the LGA I would suggest that such a law would be unenforceable in practice.

At the very least grandfathering of existing animals similarly to the ACT would be the minimum acceptable. However, a far better result would be to draft the laws in an outcome way that restrict, to the best of their owners' ability, cats from roaming beyond their property and requiring owners to maintain effective control of those animals.

In practical terms on, say, a minimum of 10 acres, owners could comply with these desired outcomes in a way that suited them and their animals, and that protected local wildlife to their best ability.

Other Comments:

Cat containment can only be successful if metals are controlled

Our cats live inside and only go out if they escaped. In any event, how can you implement a policy that affects Elmslea Grove (North Elmslea) and not the rest of Bungendore. Cats never walk around do they. Ridiculous .

No

Received via Council email:

I recently provided some online comments on the Draft Cat Containment Policy - LGA wide.

After completing it online, I realised :

(a) that other factors had not been taken into account and

(b) as I was reading another older publication which clearly examines and explains succinctly the real reason for the great loss in bird numbers – and it occurred to me that cats were being blamed for wild bird number reduction that is actually caused by a different causative factor.

My additional comments are below;

1. Cats as Rat and Mice Catchers in Country Areas

In regional areas – including townships within QPRC – cats perform a major role in rat and mouse population control. Rodents live in houses and in barns and in the surrounding areas. Cats hunt those rodents and keep those populations down. While you can poison the rodents that get into your roof (as we've experienced recently during the cold weather), the cats patrol the area and keep the populations at bay for most of the year, especially during infestations.

. Cats confined to a house can't patrol and barn and/or the surrounding areas to keep those populations in check.

2. The Real Cause of Bird (and other species) Populations Decreasing – is NOT cats!!!

I have just discovered, and read, a detailed 500 page book (The Invisible Rainbow*) that proves the cause of the decline in bee, bird and other species' populations (with many studies listed).

In summary, just a few "bird" effects :

Chapter 16 entitled "Bees, Birds, Trees, and Humans" looks at the effect of radiation from cell phone antennas which affected every species that he looked at including : storks, sparrows, pigeons, kestrels, rock doves, magpies, green woodpeckers, short toed tree creepers, warblers and more.

. A 2007 study found "spectacular declines of over 90 percent in house sparrow populations in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Hamburg, Ghent, Antwerp and Brussels."

. "The population of sparrows in Kensington Gardens, a 275-acre park gracing central London, declined from 2,603 in 1925 to just four in 2002."..." But there is a cause, and it is hidden in plain sight. Today, twenty-six antenna installations are lined up on the northern, western, and southern borders of Kensington Gardens, operated by Vodafone, T-Mobile, Orange, O2, 3, and Airwave. They are saturating this beautiful park with microwaves so that human visitors can use their cell phones and the police can use their radios."

. "The impact of radio waves on bird reproduction is no longer a matter of conjecture. While Balmori was doing his field study on storks, scientists in Greece were proving the effects in their laboratory. Ioannis Magras and Thomas Xenos at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki first exposed 240 newly laid quail eggs in an incubator to the type of radiation emitted by FM radio transmitters. The levels of radiation were about the same as if the birds had built nests one to three hundred yards away from a 50,000-watt tower. But these eggs were exposed for only three days, and for only one hour a day: thirty minutes in the morning and thirty minutes in the afternoon. Forty-five of the embryos died. None of 60 quail eggs, nearby in an unirradiated incubator, died. Then the same researchers exposed 60 more quail eggs to pulsed microwaves—the type of radiation emitted by cell towers—continuously for three days, this time at only 5 microwatts per square centimeter, a level of exposure commonly found in cities today. Under these conditions 65 percent of the embryos were killed. In a third experiment 380 chicken eggs were

exposed to microwave radiation at a power level of 8.8 microwatts per square centimeter. Instead of irradiating them as soon as they were laid, the researchers exposed the eggs between the third and tenth days of their development. Under these conditions most of the embryos lived but developed abnormally. Under continuous-wave radiation 86 percent of the eggs hatched, but 14 percent of the chicks died soon after birth. Almost half of the remaining chicks were developmentally retarded and 3 percent had severe birth defects. Pulsed radiation produced a similar number of deaths, about half the number of retarded chicks, and twice the number of birth defects. Of 116 unexposed eggs, only two failed to hatch, none had birth defects, and only two were retarded in development.

o Disastrous effects of radio waves on birds were first noticed during the 1930s by those who were most intimately connected with them: homing pigeon racers, and divisions of the military that were still using carrier pigeons for communication. Charles Heitzman, a father of the pigeon[1]racing sport in the United States, and Major Otto Meyer, former head of the United States Army's Pigeon Corps, were both alarmed by the large numbers of pigeons losing their way during the heyday years of the expansion of radio broadcasting."

*Found at: [https://ia601808.us.archive.org/19/items/the-invisible-rainbow/The Invisible Rainbow.pdf](https://ia601808.us.archive.org/19/items/the-invisible-rainbow/The%20Invisible%20Rainbow.pdf)

Like many who haven't researched the issue properly, the Council (and many others) are "jumping to conclusions" about the cause of the decline in bird populations and the reasoning is: "cats hunt birds" and "bird populations are declining" – ergo the cats are to blame. Clearly they are not, but they are paying the price (with their freedom) for HUMAN activities that are not only affecting all bird species but other species as well as causing many human health issues.

I don't expect anyone to take the time (as it goes against the "accepted" "wisdom" of the day – and powerful telecom interests) to investigate this issue, however, the facts are the facts and it might just pique someone's interest to be aware to the REAL reason bird life is disappearing.

I believe there is not enough hard evidence (not just loud voices) to justify this. A draw card of moving to Googong was it not being a cat containment area. There are many other areas that have far better success on reducing the perceived disruption to native animals and the neighbour by instead enforcing a night time curfew. Additionally the cats are no more destructive on the habitat than the growing neighbourhood and construction itself. Since moving in 2016 we have noticed a significant decrease in native flora and fauna not because of the few cats but because of less land and lack of appropriate rectification. I don't think the council should flip flop on what it sold to buyers in Googong noting how much rates they get back and benefit they get from the growing township. I think we should be free to live the life sold to us.

Haven't you more important matters to deal with?

Mandatory containment for cats does not encourage responsible pet ownership. Fines for cats out at night is more appropriate

RECEIVED VIA COUNCIL EMAIL

I have already put in a submission on this issue through the portal but would like to provide some data that I have calculated on likely deaths of frogs, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and reptiles due to predation by feral cats in the Queanbeyan Palerang LGA annually, based on data summarised by four universities and published by the Threatened Species Recovery Hub (Science for Saving Species - Research Findings Fact sheet, Project 1.1.2). Their analysis is based on deaths of each of these types of animals per square km area.

Based on area figures provided by QPRC, the total shire area is 5316 sq km, of which I have classified Jerra, Karabar, City, Crestwood, Qbn West and Qbn East as City (total area = 30 sq km). The remaining areas I have classed as Rural, apart from Greenleigh and Googong which I have classed as City Edge. However, in order to ensure my estimates are conservative, I have counted the latter two in rural because this implies a lower number of cats/sq km. I have had to omit pet cats from the calculations because I cannot find a reliable way of estimating the number of pet cats in QPRC's sub-regions. I will note, however, that the university summary finds that "pet cats that hunt" generally kill more frogs per sq. km than do feral cats in the bush, kill about the same number of birds as feral cats in towns and kill 50% more mammals than feral cats in towns. Overall, pet cats that hunt take approximately the same number of animals p.a. as feral cats in towns.

The analysis shows that feral cats alone are likely to have a massive environmental impact by killing other animals and that this impact is much greater, in numeric terms, in the rural parts of the shire, because of the greater land area.

The figures are:

Frogs - feral cats in the bush kill over 64,000 frogs p.a. within QPRC. There is no estimated available for the numbers of frogs killed by feral cats in city areas.

Reptiles - feral cats in the bush kill over 322,000 reptiles p.a. within QPRC. Feral cats in our city areas kill over 68,000 reptiles p.a.

Birds - feral cats in the bush kill over 190,000 birds p.a. within QPRC. Feral cats in the city areas kill over 23,000 birds p.a.

Mammals - feral cats in the bush kill over 565,000 mammals p.a. within QPRC. Feral cats in the city areas kill over 78,000 mammals p.a.

Invertebrates - feral cats in the bush kill 534,000 invertebrates p.a. within QPRC. Feral cats in the city areas kill over 167,000 invertebrates p.a.

In summary, feral cats in the city parts QPRC kill almost 400,000 animals per year and those in rural areas kill over 1.6 million animals per year.

Over 62% of these, or 992,000 animals, are native. Note again that these figures do not include pet cats that hunt. Hence it is essential that the cat containment policy be extended right across QPRC and not limited to the city boundaries.

While some may argue that cats in rural areas help control populations of pest animals e.g. mice, the summary says that there is little evidence for this assertion.

Finally, the university summary notes that cats carry diseases that affect both native wildlife and stock, primarily toxoplasmosis and sarcocystis - yet another reason to introduce the policy LGA-wide.

I can provide you with my calculations on request