

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Friday, 28 March 2025 2:23 PM

Submitted on Fri, 28/03/2025 - 14:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Julian Foo



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-04-01

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question live via Zoom

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Building Codes to withstand Earthquakes
Date: Monday, 31 March 2025 4:24 PM

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the message. Let's Go ahead with a public question on this matter.

There is some interest on this subject matter.

To be clear. I would like to ask the question at the meeting.

Name - Chris Thrum

Email address - [REDACTED]

Phone number - [REDACTED]

I have read the privacy policies of the City of Melbourne concerning Council Meetings.
Meeting Date - Tuesday 1 April, 2025

Here's a truncated question or two to be submitted for the FMC meeting.

A brief question to submit to the FMC meeting of 1 April, 2025 would be -

In light of the catastrophic earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand on the 28 March, 2025 what building codes are there in Melbourne to earthquake-proof buildings that the City of Melbourne administers, and should there be a review of building codes regarding earthquakes?

What are CoM's thoughts on the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand and the implications for Melbourne building bigger skyscrapers?

From: CoM Meetings <com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2025 9:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Building Codes to withstand Earthquakes

Hi Chris

Could I please check if you are submitting this as a public question for FMC tomorrow?

Thank you

[REDACTED]
City of Melbourne | Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street Melbourne 3000 | GPO Box 1603 Melbourne 3001

[REDACTED]
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au |

[whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au]whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au

[Our values](#) | Think before you print

Town Hall is located on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations. We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2025 6:45 AM
To: CoM Meetings <com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Building Codes to withstand Earthquakes

Dear City of Melbourne Management Team,

During the most recent earthquake event at Myanmar, and Thailand, (28/03/2025), people in the City of Bangkok were looking up at the King Power Building (MahaNakhon Tower) and were astonished to see it visibly swaying back and forth.

https://youtu.be/ufx1zV-fevk?si=5Hh7lY_yRy-NTs6r

With all the further skyscrapers to be built in the City of Melbourne, should the building codes reflect the fact that in the future we may need far more stringent building codes for skyscrapers to withstand more potent earthquakes than Melbourne has experienced before.

The MahaNakhon Tower in Bangkok was designed and constructed to withstand earthquakes, following international standards for high-rise buildings.

Its structural system is reinforced to absorb seismic forces, ensuring stability and safety.

Whilst the MahaNakhon Tower endured, a building under construction in Bangkok collapsed.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8d4dn18nzgo>

Now, Australia's standard for structural design for earthquakes is AS 1170.4-2007.

<https://www.archieng.au/blog/how-to-achieve-compliance-with-seismic-design-as1170-4>

This includes the requirement for seismic bracing and earthquake resistance of all components.

City of Melbourne Councillors should familiarise themselves concerning AS 1170.4-2007.

City of Melbourne (CoM) Councillors and the Management Team should talk to structural engineers and the best architects about what measures are needed to earthquake-proof buildings in the future.

Are the standards expressed in AS 1170.4-2007 adequate to deal with an Earthquake of the magnitude experienced just the other day in Myanmar and Thailand? In particular, with Ministerial Planning Referral matters concerning massive skyscrapers, should the Planning Team give serious consideration to the adequacy of AS 1170.4-2007 in ensuring buildings of the future may require more stringent measures applied to earthquake-proof them? Is the CoM doing enough now to ensure the continued safety of citizens should an extreme series of Earthquakes strike Melbourne?

One of the responsibilities of the Future Melbourne Committee is to anticipate extreme contingencies, such as massive flood events and unexpected, out-of-the-blue Earthquakes. Would a real worse-case-scenario Earthquake at Melbourne, Victoria be beyond the scale planners had until now anticipated as a worse-case-scenario?

State Government engineer Carlo Catani explained in the enquiry into the 1891 Melbourne flood the reasons why the impact of the 1891 flood was greater than the 1863 flood event. The Board of Enquiry was told that the City of Melbourne had to prepare itself for the next flood!

Catani recommended a massive flood mitigation engineering project that involved straightening, widening and deepening the Yarra River, including land reclamation work where a massive series of lagoons existed on both sides of the river.

The State Government initiated the widening of the river project to prepare Melbourne for the next flood event.

Would engineer Carlo Catani, in the wake of the Myanmar-Thailand earthquake and aftershock give serious consideration in regards to the effectiveness of AS 1170.4-2007 in the third decade of the 21st century?

Saludos y obrigado.

Best regards,
Chris Thrum

This email is intended solely for the named addressee.
If you are not the addressee indicated please delete it immediately.

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Future Melbourne Committee public question form
Date: Friday, 28 March 2025 7:26 AM

Submitted on Fri, 28/03/2025 - 07:16

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Privacy statement

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Your details

Contact details

Chris Thrum



Your question

Date of meeting

2025-04-01

Your question

This is a follow-up question, for Councillor Raf Camillo.

Earlier this year, there was an industrial factory fire at Cheltenham where there were multiple failures of Fire Rescue Victoria equipment. United Firefighters Union secretary Peter Marshall made comments that he was concerned about this equipment failure, and that a reprioritisation of renewing firefighting equipment needs to occur. Fire Rescue Victoria have another opinion.

Councillor Camillo, in response to a previous question, indicated that City of Melbourne would be having a meeting with Fire Rescue Victoria in March.

Has CoM discussed concerns citizens have about this with both Fire Rescue Victoria and the United Firefighters Union representatives?

Alternatively, tick the applicable box below if you wish to ask the Future Melbourne Committee your question in person or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting.

I wish to ask my question in person

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3591]
Date: Monday, 31 March 2025 11:28 AM

Privacy acknowledgement: *

- I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Ann Enright

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 1 April 2025

Agenda item title: *

Mandatory Cat Confinement and Desexing

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[submission_mandatory_containment_city_of_melb.docx](#)

21.04 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Mandatory Containment

The City of Melbourne has identified that most cat-related complaints arise from groups of unowned or semi-owned cats, emphasising the need for proactive strategies targeting this category.

As an experienced Shelter Veterinarian, I support keeping cats indoors at night and, where feasible, contained on their owner's property during the day. This ensures their well-being. However, I *strongly* oppose mandated containment (e.g., curfews or 24/7 confinement), as it increases cat-related complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia, while imposing higher costs and enforcement burdens on local governments.

Mandated containment has not proven effective in reducing wandering cats either domestically or internationally. To address free-roaming cats effectively, it is crucial to set clear, measurable goals, such as reducing nuisance cats and wildlife predation, and identify the root causes, key locations, and barriers to containment for residents.

Areas with high free-roaming cat populations—often disadvantaged neighbourhoods—present specific challenges. Many free-roaming cats are unidentified, and many residents face financial and structural barriers to compliance. For example, low-cost rental properties often have inadequate fencing, lack of screens, or air-conditioning. Fencing costs range from \$700 to \$2,000, making it unaffordable, with no subsidies available. Cheaper options, like PVC pipe installations, may require skills that some individuals lack.

Furthermore, in high-density housing (74% in the City of Melbourne), residents often lack private outdoor spaces for enclosures. Social housing residents share communal spaces and may lack infrastructure like flyscreens. These factors make compliance with containment mandates unfeasible for many. Low-cost solutions, such as night-time feeding programs, offer a more practical alternative to increase compliance, particularly during nocturnal hours.

Night-time containment is an effective approach to protecting vulnerable wildlife, as cats are most likely to encounter nocturnal mammals, including threatened and endangered species, during these hours. Night-time feeding is a highly practical and cost-effective method to help cat owners safely confine their cats indoors at night. This involves feeding cats at sundown and ensuring all doors and windows are securely closed, reducing risks of wildlife predation and nuisance behaviors, such as fighting and soiling.

Promoting night-time feeding is essential to improving night-time containment rates, but containment should not be mandated. Mandatory containment can be unfeasible for some cat owners due to inadequate infrastructure, such as a lack of air-conditioning, screened windows or doors, or secure spaces. Furthermore, enforcement poses significant challenges and costs for local governments, while unintended consequences, such as severe mental health impacts on residents and staff involved in euthanizing healthy cats and kittens, exacerbate the issue. These are challenges I have personally witnessed in my professional experience.

Mandated cat containment poses significant challenges to resolving the issue of wandering cats, as it discourages semi-owners from taking full responsibility for the stray cats they feed. This approach creates unrealistic community expectations, suggesting that containment policies alone will resolve these issues. Enforcement becomes impractical when cats have no identifiable owners, and even when owners or semi-owners are identified, compliance is often unattainable.

Issuing infringements for noncompliance adds financial strain to cat owners without ensuring containment. Support for mandated policies often stems from misunderstanding the true causes—low socioeconomic conditions, semi-owned and unidentified cats. Moreover, these policies lead to negative consequences, such as increased nuisance complaints, significant costs for councils and welfare agencies, and adverse impacts on staff mental health. Evidence from Victoria has shown that mandated containment fails to address these challenges, while targeted desexing programs have proven far more effective. Expanding containment laws will not resolve the issues caused by semi-owned and stray cats. Past examples, such as Yarra Ranges and Casey Councils, demonstrate the limitations of containment policies. Reports from Hobsons Bay and Hume City Councils further highlight the unenforceability of curfews. For instance, within three years of Yarra Ranges implementing 24/7 containment, cat-related complaints increased by 143%, impoundments by 68%, and euthanasia by 18%, despite only a 2% increase in human population (Yarra Ranges 2021). These outcomes underscore the ineffectiveness of mandated containment policies.

Mandated cat containment complicates the resolution of wandering cat issues by discouraging semi-owners from taking full responsibility for stray cats they feed. It creates unrealistic community expectations that such policies will address these problems effectively. Enforcement remains impractical for unowned cats, as infringements require identifiable owners. Even when owners or semi-owners are identified, compliance is often unattainable.

Infringements for noncompliance can impose financial burdens without achieving containment. The popularity of mandated containment arises from a misunderstanding of the root causes, such as low socioeconomic conditions, semi-owned, and unidentified cats. These policies also lead to adverse impacts on staff mental health, increased nuisance complaints, and significant costs for councils and welfare agencies. Evidence from Victoria demonstrates their ineffectiveness, while targeted desexing programs have proven more successful.

Expanding containment laws will not resolve issues related to semi-owned and stray cats. Examples from Yarra Ranges and Casey Councils highlight the limitations of containment policies, while reports from Hobsons Bay and Hume City Councils confirm curfews are unenforceable. Notably, three years after Yarra Ranges implemented 24/7 containment, cat-related complaints rose by 143%, impoundments by 68%, and euthanasia by 18%, despite only a 2% increase in human population (Yarra Ranges 2021). These outcomes illustrate the ineffectiveness of mandated containment policies.

Recommendation: ➤ **The City of Melbourne should establish partnerships with cat enclosure manufacturers and allocate funding to provide community members with access to discounted or subsidized enclosures, supporting efforts to safely contain their cats.**

Mandatory Desexing

Cats reproduce rapidly, with a single female capable of producing up to three litters annually, each consisting of three to five kittens. These kittens can become pregnant as young as four months, leading to exponential population growth without desexing. Overpopulation harms cat welfare, resulting in disease, predation, malnourishment, and increasing burdens on local residents. This often leads to complaints, acts of cruelty, impoundments, and high euthanasia rates—up to 98% in some shelters. Desexing is a compassionate solution, preventing unchecked breeding and reducing the emotional strain on shelter staff tasked with euthanizing large numbers of healthy cats and kittens, which negatively impacts their mental health.

Responsible pet ownership, including desexing, is essential for safeguarding pets, the community, and the environment. Within Melbourne, only 4000 cats are registered out of a population of 177,396 (2023 id profile), with a 10.65% increase since the previous year. Of these registered cats, 97% are desexed. However, nuisance complaints about roaming cats primarily involve semi-owned and unowned cats.

The City of Melbourne recognizes that desexed cats are less likely to roam, making it easier to identify and control cat colonies. While registered cats are largely desexed, semi-owned and unowned cats pose challenges due to the absence of identifiable owners. Enforcement of desexing mandates relies heavily on trapping programs, as infringements issued to owners rarely ensure compliance. Without effective strategies, these mandates risk failing to address the root issues.

Desexing initiatives must prioritize semi-owned and stray cats to achieve meaningful progress, as enforcement alone cannot resolve the issue.

I strongly support expanding innovative desexing initiatives, such as the successful program undertaken in the City of Banyule (Cotterell 2024). As the head vet at Cat Protection Society (CPS), I can confirm that these community programs are effective, reducing the shelter intake by over 83% and saving the shelter just under \$500,000 in the first year. These programs need to target suburbs with high pound/shelter intakes or cat-related complaints and focus intensively on areas where cats and kittens are at greatest risk of impoundment or surrender.

Community Cat Programs (CCPs) rely on strong local partnerships, expanding low-cost or free desexing services, critical for residents unable to afford or access veterinary clinics. A key limitation for statewide implementation in Victoria is the lack of veterinary capacity to meet desexing demands. Supporting high-volume clinics, including those offering early age desexing (EAD), is essential. Additionally, animal welfare agencies should be encouraged and funded to develop high-volume desexing clinics open to the public. Effective cat management is a collaborative, community-focused challenge that requires the combined efforts of all stakeholders rather than reliance on any single agency or organisation.

Programs addressing cat overpopulation risk minimal impact if they fail to target those most in need. Often, they merely provide a more affordable option for individuals who already intend to desex their cats. It is critical to design initiatives that are microtargeted to high-need areas and free from barriers like requiring government-issued cards. Subsidised vouchers (e.g., through the National Desexing Initiative) may remain inaccessible for disadvantaged residents due to rising veterinary costs and limited availability of veterinarians.

To effectively tackle cat overpopulation, collaboration with communities and stakeholders is essential to create microtargeted, community-driven solutions. I strongly support place-based desexing programs that prioritize suburbs with the highest levels of nuisance complaints and impoundments. Equally vital is conducting proactive outreach to engage and support residents within these areas.

Individuals caring for one or two cats they do not own are more likely to assume full ownership if free desexing, microchipping, and registration services are provided. The primary barrier is a lack of resources, not education. At CPS, we found that semi-owners commonly take ownership for reasons such as avoiding unwanted litters, stopping cats fighting and soiling, improving the cat's health, doing the right thing and accessing free desexing services. However, mandatory containment policies and two-cat limits often deter semi-owners from formalising ownership.

Implementing targeted CCPs in high-need "hot spots" with significant populations of unowned and semi-owned cats, particularly in disadvantaged areas, is crucial. The effectiveness of these programs relies heavily on the local knowledge of council officers to identify and prioritise areas requiring the most assistance.

Recommendation-

Ø Leverage funding from the Animal Welfare Victoria grants scheme to support cat desexing initiatives, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

Ø Adopt a proactive strategy to assist with desexing and microchipping semi-owned cats, encouraging caretakers to take full ownership. Using Community Cat Programs, that focus on high-intensity free desexing initiatives in areas with high impoundments and cat-related complaints (e.g., North Melbourne, Kensington, and West Melbourne). By significantly reducing the number of unwanted kittens, these programs effectively address issues such as wandering cats, nuisance complaints, local government costs, and potential wildlife predation. Unlike mandated curfews, these initiatives offer sustainable and effective solutions, resulting in significant cost savings for the council, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

References:

Yarra Ranges: <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/domestic-animal-management-plan>

Cotterell 2024: Cotterell, J.L.; Rand, J.; Barnes, T.S.; Scotney, R. Impact of a Local Government Funded Free Cat Sterilization Program for Owned and Semi-Owned Cats. *Animals* 2024, 14, 1615. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14111615>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Cat Curfew
Date: Monday, 31 March 2025 11:17 AM

Dear Council, I am a registered Cat and Dog owner and live in Kensington, part of the City of Melbourne. Through the media I have become aware that Council is about to vote on introducing a 24/7 Cat Curfew. I consider it appalling that Council did not consider to seek the opinions of the Registered Cat owners (you have all our contact details) about how such a decision might impact on us. As rate payers and Cat Registration fee payers, surely it should have been important to seek our views, unless you strategically didn't want to. Asking the general public is not the same thing. Many people do not like cats and would not be concerned at how a curfew might impact on cat's owners.

A cat curfew when a household has more than the one cat becomes tricky and expensive. It's one thing for the cat owner in an apartment to carefully close the door as they leave. It is quite different for someone with a cat and dog and other pets who live in a house. My biggest concern about the proposed curfew is the cost associated with cat proofing my back yard. My dog requires access to the back yard to toilet and both our dog and cat use the 'pet flap' in our back door to exit and enter the house. If I am to keep the cat indoors permanently then the dog will need to become an 'outside' dog when I am away from the house. As this is very much an unwanted and in many ways an unworkable proposition, finding some way to fence the back yard in such a way that the cat can't escape seems the only reasonable conclusion. Hopefully, this will not upset our neighbours as a high mesh fence will not necessarily be aesthetically pleasing.

I believe that the purpose of such a curfew is to protect native wildlife in the City of Melbourne. That is reasonable and important but the city and the inner Melbourne suburbs are not the leafy suburbs of the east. I can only assume that the wild life you are talking about are possums, birds and snakes as I know of no other 'native' wildlife around Kensington. I've lived in Kensington for over 20 years and the wild life I see and experience, apart from those already mentioned are rats, mice, foxes and the occasional rabbit.

As cats pretty much sleep all day and hunt at night a more reasonable curfew instead of a 24/7 curfew would be a 7PM/7AM curfew where cats were indoors during the night when they might cause some damage. The blanket ban suggested will cause expense and possible hardship to some cat owners who will try to do the right thing. However, some will consider it just too hard and will surrender their cats to a re-home shelter or simply take the cat a dump it in a far away place to stop it coming home.

The lack of any meaningful consultation and the potential expense to responsible cat owners is completely unreasonable. Please consider a more reasonable and thoughtful solution.

Regards, Graeme Smith. [REDACTED]

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3586]
Date: Friday, 28 March 2025 9:04 PM

Privacy acknowledgement: *

- I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Lisa Hasker

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: *

Thursday 1 May 2025

Agenda item title: *

Review of Cat Management

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[review_of_cat_management_lisa_hasker_oam.docx](#)

306.80 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Review of Cat Management

I am writing in relation to the Paper put to Council for the 1 April meeting regarding Cat Management.

I am a resident of the City of Melbourne and was only made aware of this paper after a council member was interviewed by Ally Moore on ABC 774 this week.

As a cat owner, I agree that domestic cats should be desexed, and also should be kept inside during night hours. It appears as if 85% of those residents that completed and relevant survey, agree with desexing and night curfews. City of Port Phillip has a cat curfew between 9pm and 6am.

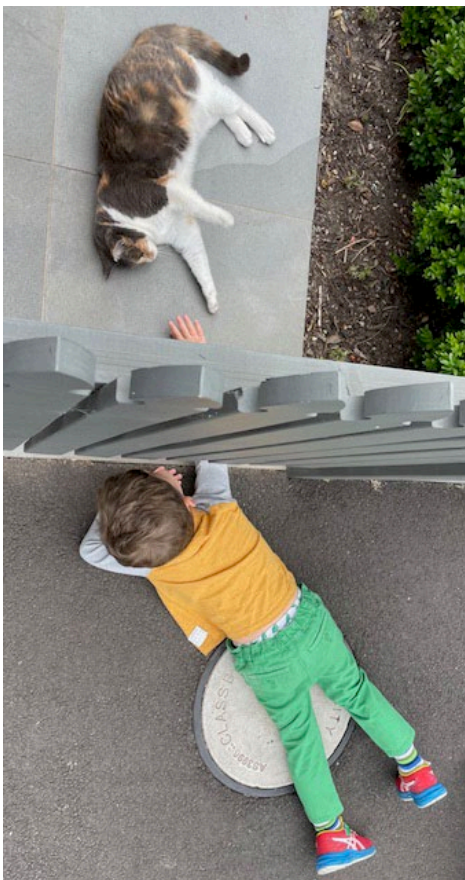
So why are management only presenting the Council with the option as below?

“Endorse Council to make a municipal order under Section 25(2) of the Act requiring cats to be contained to their property at all times”.

If such a resolution is upheld, cats will be prevented from fresh air and exercise and residents who care about the welfare of their cats will incur huge costs to install outdoor cages and installations. It appears as if the recommendation has jumped from night curfew, to an all-day curfew without further consultation. **Unfair.**

My cat provides affection to adults and kids in the street and should not be punished.

Lisa Hasker OAM.



From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3590]
Date: Monday, 31 March 2025 1:37 PM

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Michael Johnston

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

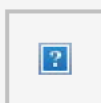
Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 1 April 2025

Agenda item title: * Review of Cat Management

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[melbourne_cat_containment.jpg](#)
370.19 KB · JPG

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: * Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID-safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. * I wish to make by submission via Zoom

A photograph of two cats in a natural outdoor setting. On the left, a dark tabby cat is walking towards the right. In the center, a calico cat is sitting and looking towards the right. The background consists of dense green foliage and trees. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs.

What an indoor-only cat in Melbourne would miss...

- Road traffic injury / death
- Stolen
- Fights with cats, dogs, foxes, possums, snakes.
- Rain, very hot and cold weather
- Abuse & injury from from strangers
- Getting lost
- Infections and disease
- Injury from misadventure
- Trapping and stress
- Rat poisoning
- Fleas, ticks, worms, ringworm
- Pregnancy
- It's humans.



The Cat Protection Society of Victoria

3h · 🌐

Life in a Shelter During Our Busiest Time of Year

This past weekend, we were thrilled to help 17 cats and kittens find their happily ever after. Seeing them leave with their new families is the reminder we need that every cat deserves a second chance.

But behind every joyful adoption, there's another heartbreaking reality. Over the same weekend, 13 more cats and kittens came into our care—many strays, some abandoned at our front gate, others brought in by rangers after being found alone. And that's in addition to the almost 250 cats and kittens currently in our shelter or foster care program.

Kitten season is in full swing, and while we work tirelessly to find homes for every cat in need, the cycle continues. You can help:

- 🐾 Adopting from our shelter
- 🐾 Desexing your cats to prevent more unwanted litters.
- 🐾 Donating to support our lifesaving work (see our website link below).

Together, we can give every cat the future they deserve. ❤️ [#AdoptDontShop](#)
[#AdoptionShelter](#) [#Cats](#) [#Kittens](#) [#HelpUsHelpThem](#) [#CatProtection](#) [#DesextoProtect](#)

To make a tax deductible donation, visit:

<https://catprotection.com.au/donations/fix-the-future/> ✓





3

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3589]
Date: Sunday, 30 March 2025 5:34 PM

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Valmae Walsh

Email address: * 

Phone number * 

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 1 April 2025

Agenda item title: * Cat Containment

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Why isn't more cost effective projects being considered given council raises \$256,338 from yearly pet registrations of cats? To date nothing is being invested in desexing programs for both owned and unowned cats and kittens. Banyule Council have had an 8 year program spending \$78,000, saving \$440,000 in pound fees and reducing euthanasia by 82%. This does not even include positive engagement with the public and reduced mental health of vets and staff that have to use euthanasia on healthy, young cats and kittens that are regarded as strays. Why is none of the \$256,338 invested back into animal welfare such as this when more councils are listening to people like Jacki Ran and Jenny Cotterell who have first hand experience in these programs. I have written twice regarding this and only had been shown interest leading towards the election and nothing after when this council would have the power to build relationships, save rate payers money and improve animal welfare.?

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: * Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID-safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. * I wish to make my submission in person

From: [City of Melbourne](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Webform submission from: Council and FMC meeting attendance form
Date: Monday, 31 March 2025 10:27 PM

Submitted on Mon, 31/03/2025 - 22:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Yes

Contact details

Emeritus Professor Jacquie Rand



Date of the meeting you wish to attend

2025-04-01

If you are comfortable doing so, please list any agenda item numbers that you are attending for (e.g. 6.1 and 6.2)

Agenda Item 6.1 – Review of Cat Management

Please note, I would like to appear by video.

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3594]
Date: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 6:25 AM

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Jenny Cotterell

Email address: * [REDACTED]

Phone number * [REDACTED]

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 1 April 2025

Agenda item title: * Item 6.1- Review of Cat Management

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[agenda_item_6.1_review_of_cat_managementaustralian_pet_welfare_foundation.pdf](#)

188.43 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: * No

31 March 2025

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Meeting 1 April 2025 -Agenda Item 6.1 – Review of Cat Management

My name is Jenny Cotterell, and I am a graduate of the University of Queensland with a Graduate Certificate in Animal Science. I bring over 30 years of experience in animal welfare, including 22 years in local government animal management and a further 10 years working in shelters and pounds. This extensive background has given me deep insight into the complex challenges faced by councils and communities in managing urban cat populations.

I am the first author of two peer-reviewed research papers evaluating the outcomes of a fully council-funded Community Cat Program. The program delivered substantial financial and welfare benefits, including reductions in cat impoundments, euthanasia, nuisance calls, and associated costs. These results have helped build national momentum for humane, evidence-based cat management strategies. I am currently employed as the Policy Officer at the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation, where I play a key role in developing policies that support community-based approaches to managing unowned and semi-owned cats.

I write to respond to Item 6.1 on the Council meeting agenda regarding the review of cat management and the proposed change to include mandatory desexing and mandated cat containment.

Mandated containment

The City of Melbourne has acknowledged that most cat-related complaints involve unowned and semi-owned cats living in colonies—cats with no identifiable owners and no one to be held accountable. Enforcement-based strategies simply don't work. Traditional trapping programs also fail, catching only a fraction of the population and doing nothing to prevent the cycle from continuing. **In 2024 alone, 410 cats were impounded by the City of Melbourne. Only 16% made it home. Forty-eight percent were rehomed. And 36%—nearly 150 cats—were euthanised.** These aren't just numbers; they represent lives lost, shelter staff traumatised, and a system overwhelmed—costing councils dearly while solving nothing (Chua 2023).

Mandatory containment laws place even more pressure on already struggling communities. For low-income residents—many living in rentals or public housing without secure fencing, air conditioning, or flyscreens—mandated containment is not only unachievable, it can be devastating. Pet owners unable to comply often face the heartbreaking choice of surrendering their beloved cats simply because they can't afford enclosures which typically cost \$700 to more than \$2000. **Mandates don't help—they punish.**

These laws also drive semi-owners—the people who feed and care for unowned cats—into the shadows, discouraging participation in desexing or microchipping programs.

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) supports responsible pet ownership and encourages containment where feasible. But we strongly oppose mandatory curfews or 24/7 confinement. Instead, APWF recommends compassionate, community-driven solutions. Bedtime feeding is one proven, no-cost strategy that reduces roaming and protects wildlife. **Case studies show containment laws fail**—like in Yarra Ranges, where a 24/7 curfew led to a 143% rise in complaints and a 68% increase in impoundments. Other councils are already recognising the truth: these laws don't work. Hume City Council, Hobsons Bay, Bayside Council, and City of Greater Geelong have all rejected further mandates, understanding they are unenforceable, ineffective, and place unnecessary strain on the community. We urge this council to follow their lead and focus on what actually delivers results—**microtargeted desexing and voluntary, community-led strategies** that build trust, reduce suffering, and address the root of the problem.

Mandatory containment laws not only fail to reduce the number of unowned and semi-owned cats—they often **make things worse**. They drive up complaints, impoundments, and euthanasia rates, all while **blowing out council budgets** (Cotterell 2024). There is zero evidence that cat curfews reduce stray populations. What they do **cause is real harm—forcing families to choose between containing their cat and putting food on the table**. These laws punish the people trying to do the right thing, while the real problem goes untouched.

Mandatory desexing

Mandated sterilisation sounds like a solution—but in reality, it fails on every level. It's rarely enforceable and ignores the real barrier to desexing: money, not motivation. **Research shows the strongest predictor of whether a cat is desexed isn't attitude—it's household income**. For families already struggling with rent, food, or healthcare, desexing a cat simply isn't affordable. **Mandates just add another burden, often leading to surrender or abandonment, and more cats entering a system already stretched to its limits**.

Cats reproduce rapidly—one female can have up to three litters a year, and kittens can fall pregnant by four months old. Without desexing, populations explode, leading to suffering from disease, starvation, and injury. It's shelter staff who bear the emotional toll—forced to euthanise healthy animals because resources are exhausted. Desexing is the most effective, humane tool we have to stop this cycle—but only if it's accessible.

The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation (APWF) backs proven, compassionate solutions. **Community desexing programs like Banyule's (Cotterell et al., 2024) work because they're built on collaboration, trust, and practical support**. In contrast to mandates, they work - **reducing cat impoundments, euthanasia,**

nuisance calls, and associated costs. By engaging those already feeding and caring for unowned cats and providing council-backed resources, these programs turn carers into empowered owners—reducing intake, euthanasia, and complaints. **This is how real change happens: not through punishment, but through partnership.**

City of Melbourne data tells a clear story: 4,000 cats are registered, 97% already desexed, 74% live contained in apartments. Meanwhile, the 103 complaints received are reported by animal management officers as mostly linked to unowned or semi-owned cats—cats that sterilisation mandates won't even touch. So why introduce laws that ignore the very population driving the problem? (Cotterell 2025)

Recommendations:

1. Replace mandatory containment with community-supported, evidence-based strategies.

Mandatory containment laws, like 24/7 curfews, don't work for unowned or semi-owned cats—the main source of complaints.

2. Prioritise microtargeted, high impact cat desexing programs.

Community-led desexing is more effective than containment mandates and offers long-term, compassionate solutions.

Regards

Jenny

Jenny Cotterell

Policy Officer

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation

Improving the health and well-being of pets, people and their environments

Pet Parent: Gasket and Whiskey

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: www.petwelfare.org.au

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From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [CoM Meetings](#)
Subject: Future Melbourne Committee submission form [#3593]
Date: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 1:37 AM

Privacy acknowledgement: * • I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Sharon Vladusic

Email address: * [REDACTED]

Phone number * [REDACTED]

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 1 April 2025

Agenda item title: * 6.1 Review of cat management

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

I applaud the City of Melbourne for engaging the community in discussing cat management policies, however, I feel that the proposed strategies do not go far enough in addressing the issues.

The Executive Summary states that 75% of registered cats live in apartments and thus have a low roaming risk. Introducing a cat curfew will have no effect on this group of cats. The City of Melbourne has a large population of what we call 'community cats' – owned cats who are lost, cats abandoned by owners and cats who live in colonies. Management of community cats are not included in this proposal and yet they are a crucial part of this urban cat management plan. There needs to be a rethink of urban cat management with the application of evidence– based strategies in ensure a successful outcome.

Cat curfews have been introduced in 1/3 of the 79 Councils in Victoria. Research, however, clearly demonstrates that 'mandated 24/7 cat containment is not an effective strategy to reduce wandering cats because most wandering cats are strays with no owner to contain them. For the remaining cats with an owner, containment is often not achievable due to property limitations (for e.g. rental properties), lack of financial resources and concerns about contained cat welfare (McLeod 2015, van Eeden 2021).'

I wish to draw your attention to the results of recent research by Professor Jacquie Rand (Emeritus Professor, Executive Director & Chief Scientist) and Jenny Cotterell, in conjunction with the Australian Pet Welfare Foundation.

There have been highly successful, cost–efficient Cat Community Programs which have been trialed in four Councils in Australia over the past 10 years, including Banyule Council, Victoria (also Ipswich QLD, Canterbury Bankston NSW, Onkaparinga SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Community Cat Programs use high intensity free desexing, microchipping and registration programs to manage the numbers of owned cats and community cats and prevent unwanted litters of kittens.

The results for Banyule Council have been recently published – they show a clear reduction in cat impoundments (66%) and euthanasia rates (82%), as well as increased rates of cat ownership and significant financial savings to Councils (\$440,660 for an outlay of \$77,490) – Cotterell, Rand et al 2024.

A recent report from Ipswich Council states: (2024 Update):

'As of April 2024, we have:

- desexed over 2750 cats in selected Ipswich suburbs;
- achieved >30% reduction in cat intake & >50% less euthanasia.
- desexed stray cats and returned them to their outdoor home location through the 'restricted

matter' permit;'

AN IMPORTANT POINT: The Council cannot achieve the desired outcomes unless there is financial investment into a community cat program. This cannot be successfully implemented with current limited resources.

The current practices in urban cat management are not sustainable and these proposed strategies are not effective in controlling community cat and owned cat populations. A new proactive approach to cat management is urgently required.

I would strongly urge Melbourne City Council to revisit their proposed cat management policies and further investigate community cat programs that have been successfully implemented in other Councils throughout Australia and in other comparable countries in the world.

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID-safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. *

I wish to make my submission in person