

From: LGOIMA
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGOIMA Request - Cat Management - [REDACTED] - Reference 2586
Date: Thursday, 9 January 2025 9:39:15 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.gif](#)

Kia ora [REDACTED],

We refer to your official information request dated 20 December 2024. Our response is below:

1. **How long has your Council had either a Cat Management bylaw or included Cat Management in their Animal Management bylaw?**

The Cat Management Bylaw was adopted November 2024. This is a new bylaw for the Tasman District Council and cats have not been included in any other bylaws. ([Cat Management Bylaw | Tasman District Council](#))

2. **How many complaints about cats has your Council received under your Cat/Animal Management bylaw per year for each year they have had a bylaw?**

We have received three complaints relating to cats since the bylaw was adopted, one of these specifically referenced the bylaw. The bylaw only came into effect on the 1st of January 2025. Previous to the bylaw adoption we have received some complaints related to nuisance cats but unless directly related to biosecurity issues these were passed onto the SPCA and not recorded.

3. **What have been the outcomes of the complaints received so far?**

Advice around the timeframes for enforcement (the bylaw has a transition period for existing cats until June 2026) and options for trapping and rehoming in the meantime. Complaints all relate to colony cats or larger numbers of pet cats in one home causing nuisance. Our staff have planned a workshop with neighbouring Nelson City Council (who have also recently adopted a cat bylaw), SPCA and vets to work on a plan for tackling colony cats and consistent messaging for residents which we can share with other councils when completed.

4. **How are the Council managing complaints about cats in breach of the bylaw?**

As the bylaw is new we manage them in a case by case basis, largely by the biosecurity team as the complaints often refer to feral cats that are managed under the RPMP. We envisage more cases to be picked up by Animal Control as we develop processes.

Note that in development of the bylaw vets expressed a concern that non-compliant cat owners may avoid vet treatment of their sick/injured pet if there was strict compliance on the bylaw. Their advice was to focus on education, and that the presence of a bylaw would be enough for the majority of cat owners to comply.

a. **What are the cat management processes and potential outcomes?**

Dependent on the situation, but primarily education and support to do the right thing. Eventual control of colony cats. As this is a new bylaw, we are still working through processes and guidelines for staff.

b. **How are the Council planning to manage cats that may have to be seized?**

We have no intention to seize pet cats. Cats caught by members of the

public and identified as pets will be encouraged to go to the SPCA to manage re-homing or finding their owner. Unowned/stray/feral cats will be managed as appropriate with vets and the SPCA.

5. **Have the Council had to employ extra animal control staff with the addition of cat management to your bylaws?**

No

6. **How many prosecutions have been taken against cat owners?**

None

7. **How many prosecutions do the Council envisage they will undertake in the next 12 months?**

None

a. **Five years?**

Likely none. It would be an extreme case that would lead to prosecution.

8. **Are the Council keeping a cat register?**

No

a. **If not, how are they tracking cat registrations,**

The registration is with the Companion Animal Register, not with Council. Local vets and SPCA will have records of numbers coming through that aren't registered.

i. **microchipping and**

Via data from the local vets and SPCA

ii. **desexing?**

Via data from the local vets and SPCA

9. **Is the Companion Animal Register sharing information with the Council about cats registered in the area?**

Not proactively, and we haven't asked for the data. We received quite generalised data from them as part of our research but haven't requested anything more specific from them since.

Please feel free to contact staff directly with any further questions. Cat Budai, Community Policy Advisor (cat.budai@tasman.govt.nz) for the development of the bylaw and process, and Ginny Coleman, Team Leader Biosecurity and Biodiversity (ginny.coleman@tasman.govt.nz) for technical advice and operationalising the bylaw

If you are unsatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,
Legal Services Officer
