

Name:	Feral Cat		
Type:	Council Policy		
Owner:	Chief Executive Officer		
Responsible Officer:	Director City Growth and Operations		
Approval Date:	21/06/2016	Next Review Date:	21/06/2020
Records Number:	379025	Council Decision:	8/2092

1 PURPOSE

This policy sets out Council's position on feral cat control within the Municipality. The policy supports responsible pet ownership.

2 PRINCIPLES

The City of Palmerston supports the Federal Government's position on controlling feral cat populations in the community.

Council acknowledges that domestic cats are kept by residents as pets. This policy in no way condones the trapping and disposing of domestic cats. All cats trapped in a cat trap will be examined by an appropriately qualified person and determined to be feral or domestic. All domestic cats will be released as soon as practicable at the point of capture or returned to their owners.

Traps are to be managed in a responsible way and all animals captured are to be treated humanely.

3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Cat	An animal of the species <i>Felis catus</i> or subspecies <i>Felis silvestris catus</i> .
Feral Cat	The result of a domestic cat being abandoned or lost and left to fend for itself or a cat born into the wild.
Domestic Cat	A cat that has been tamed and made fit for a human environment.
Cat trap	A device provided by the Council for the purpose of trapping feral cats.
Micro-chip	An implant of an identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of an animal.

4 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Feral Cats

Council acknowledges the damage and nuisance caused by feral cats in the community. Feral cats can carry infectious diseases which can be transmitted to native animals, domestic pets and humans.

Feral cats are the same species as domestic cats, however they live and breed in the wild, surviving by hunting native wildlife or scavenging.

Feral cats were declared pests at the meeting of Environment Ministers held on 16 July 2015. Ministers endorsed the *National declaration of feral cats as pests*.

Feral cats will only be disposed of in a humane way.

5 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.1 Cat Trap Hire Agreement
- 5.2 Cat Euthanasia Declaration Form

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- 6.1 Palmerston (Charges) By-Laws
- 6.2 Annual Fees and Charges