



A plan for pets and public spaces

Community engagement summary report
October 2024

1 Contents

2	Background.....	1
2.1	Key findings.....	1
2.2	Next steps	1
3	Consultation overview	2
3.1	Consultation purpose	2
3.2	Consultation process.....	2
4	Who we heard from	3
5	Consultation findings.....	5
5.1	Item-specific feedback.....	5
5.1.1	Cat trapping	5
5.1.2	Cat management	5
5.1.3	Dogs in public spaces.....	6
5.1.4	Costs and incentives.....	6

2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the plan for pets and public spaces.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan is informed by community and aims to promote responsible pet ownership, the welfare of cats and dogs in the community and the protection of the community and environment from nuisance cats and dogs. The Plan also outlines how Council will enforce legislative requirements and compliance with our local laws.

2.1 Key findings

Participants (84%) expressed that they found little value in the costs of registering pets through Council.

Many participants (68%) expressed concern over dogs being off the lead in public spaces and (32%) have concerns around the amount of dog waste around the City of Casey. Participants found that more dog parks need to be built, purpose built and well managed.

Participants (67%) agreed to the reintroduction of Councils cat trapping program.

2.2 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback in the drafting of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029. We anticipate sharing the plan via further community consultation early 2025.

Council endorsement expected mid-2025.

3 Consultation overview

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide the community with the opportunity to provide their thoughts into the management of domestic animals and public spaces. Feedback provided will inform the creation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029.

3.2 Consultation process

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders, and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Local news story
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Social media
- Signage in Council facilities and events

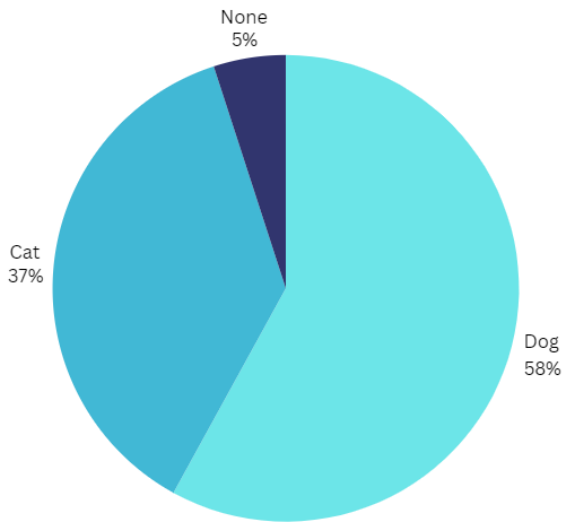
Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through the Casey Conversations website, including the opportunity to provide feedback
- In person community engagement pop up
- Contact email address and phone number of Council Officer provided for interested community members to ask for further information or provide feedback
- Printed information available, as required

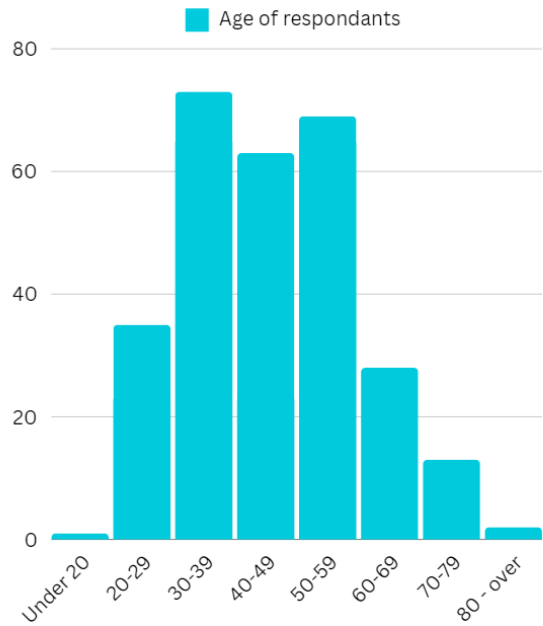
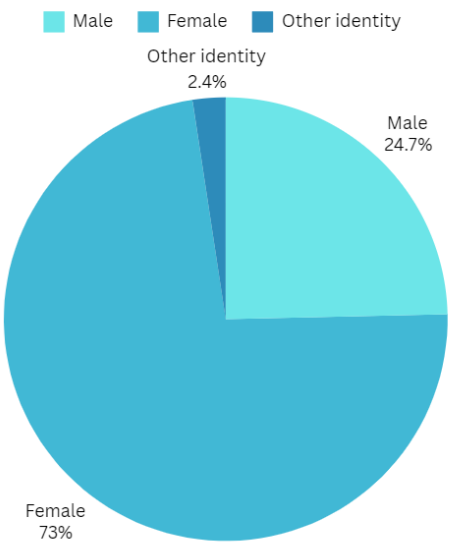
Details	Activity
19 August - 16 September 2024	Casey Conversations Website
736 visitors	Project information and online survey hosted on the engagement platform, Casey Conversations.
287 contributions	Online survey: 287 contributions

4 Who we heard from

Respondents were asked ‘what type of pet they owned’? Respondents could select cat and dog, 74% of the respondents owned both a cat and dog.



Respondents were asked demographic questions about their age, gender and suburb that they reside in.



	Demographic	Casey 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Suburb	Berwick	17.42%	15.45%
	Botanic Ridge	2.0%	1.39%
	Casey Coast (Cannons Creek, Blind Bight, Warneet, Tooradin)	1.1%	1.05%
	Clyde	3.5%	3.83%
	Clyde North	9.6%	4.53%
	Cranbourne	5.7%	9.10%
	Cranbourne East	6.8%	3.83 %
	Cranbourne North	6.7%	4.57%
	Cranbourne South	0.5%	1.05%
	Cranbourne West	6.1%	4.88%
	Devon Meadows	0.4%	0.7%
	Doveton (Eumemmerring)	3.2%	2.09%
	Endeavour Hills	6.4%	3.14%
	Hallam	3.1%	3.83%
	Hampton Park	6.9%	7.71%
	Harkaway	0.3%	0.35%
	Junction Village	0.3%	0.7%
	Lynbrook	2.5%	1.39%
	Lyndhurst	2.5%	1.05%
	Lysterfield South	0.3%	0%
	Narre Warren	7.3%	9.8%
	Narre Warren North	2.1%	11.2%
	Narre Warren South	8.2%	6.67%
	Pearcedale	1.0%	1.0%
	Outside City of Casey		0.69%

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on a plan for pets and public spaces. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

5.1 Item-specific feedback

5.1.1 Cat trapping

Respondents were asked if they *'would like to see the re-introduction of the cat trapping program, where residents can hire a cat trap to trap any wandering cats on their property'*?

Support for this initiative was 67.2%, with 32% disagreeing. Remaining respondents remained neutral.

A range of specific concerns were raised during the consultation regarding this item:

Topic	Community feedback
Difficulty in accessing traps	Traps should be on loan not hired at a fee (<i>2 mentions</i>)
Council responsibility	Enforcement on cat owners is poor/not up to a high standard (<i>11 mentions</i>)
	More capture management is needed for cats out at night. They are out of control in Lynbrook.

5.1.2 Cat management

Topic	Community feedback
Council responsibility and knowledge building	Council needs to provide more information regarding the feeding of stray cats (<i>6 mentions</i>)
	In certain cultures, feeding stray cats is a positive behaviour (<i>3 mentions</i>)
	Current management of stray cats is poor. Many suburbs across Casey report stray cats as being out of control (<i>12 mentions</i>)
Educational information and programs	Council provide responsible pet management programs and make mandatory for repeat offenders (<i>2 mentions</i>)

5.1.3 Dogs in public spaces

Topic	Community feedback
Dog Parks	Off lead dog parks too close to schools and playgrounds (2 mentions)
	More dog parks, that are fenced, well maintained and not muddy (16 mentions)
	Individual use of dog park for non-friendly dogs (2 mentions)
	Dog parks separated in small and large breeds (9 mentions)
	Council needs to learn from other Council neighbouring councils in the design and management of dog parks (4 mentions)
	Better maintained and not as muddy (8 mentions)
Dog poo	Off leash spaces have poo everywhere (12 mentions)
	More bins around while walking, to dispose of dog waste bags (14 mentions)
Muzzling of dogs	More information on what breeds or dogs require muzzling
Public spaces	All parks/public spaces should be on lead (32 mentions)
Public awareness	More signs around when walking, explaining reasonable walking of a dog (3 mentions)
	More educational programs around responsible pet management (2 mentions)

5.1.4 Costs and incentives

Topic	Community feedback
Pet registration	Pet registrations are too high (14 mentions)
	Questioning why cat and dog registration is the same price when there are no infrastructure costs for cats (11 mentions)
Incentives	Reward those good behaviour pet owners
Pounds and adoption	Pound fees are too high (9 mentions)
Subsidies	Council subsidises cat runs (3 mentions)