



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
15 November 2018

Asked by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA:

Ref: Cat Containment, TCCS Annual Report, pp 131-132

In relation to: Cat Containment

1. How are new residents informed that they will be living in a cat containment area?
(ie. if they are about to move into a suburb that is already a declared area - does the real estate agent have an obligation to tell the resident?)
2. Noting that the Commissioner for the Environment's report on the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment recommended more compliance and enforcement of this policy-what work is being done to improve outcomes here?
3. What happened with the proposed cat containment area for Kingston?
4. Noting that Casey has a very long edge with the new Nature Reserve at Kinlyside, what has happened with the proposed cat containment area for Casey?
5. What community engagement or education on cat containment is currently taking place in new and existing cat containment areas?
6. What community engagement or education is happening with the wider community - beyond that in declared cat containment areas - about the need for cat containment?
 - a. Does this cover both the value of responsible cat ownership and the need to protect wildlife?
7. When will the "Cat Plan" be released

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. Residents of cat containment suburbs are made aware of the status of their suburb when purchasing a home in these suburbs, as the contract will state if their home is subject to cat containment restrictions. In addition, signage is provided in all cat containment suburbs advising of the cat containment status.
2. As identified in the Animal Welfare and Management Strategy 2017-2021, a draft Cat Plan is being developed to look to the long term planning of cat management in the Territory. As a result of the findings of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment, Gungahlin Town Centre (East) was recently declared a cat containment area.
3. Public consultation was conducted in relation to the declaring of Kingston as a cat containment area. As a result of the feedback received, and that the area was already an established suburb, the decision was made not to declare Kingston a cat containment area at this point in time.
4. Public consultation was conducted in relation to the declaring of Casey as a cat containment area. As a result of the feedback received, and that the area was already an established suburb, the decision was made not to declare Casey a cat containment area at this point in time.
5. Managing cats is the responsibility of the pet owner and TCCS takes an educational approach to managing cat containment through providing advice to residents via individual inquiries and through the TCCS website.
6. In 2017, TCCS has rolled out a public education campaign called 'Paws for Thought' which promotes responsible pet ownership, including cat containment, and aims to drive positive cultural change in relation to responsible animal management. One of the key messages of the campaign includes the benefits of cats being appropriately contained to both native wildlife and for cats themselves.
7. A draft ACT Cat Management Plan is expected to be released for public consultation in the near future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

4/12/18

By the Minister for City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA