



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: City and Government Services – City and Environment Directorate.

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Cat Management Plan

Question received: 22 July 2026

Answer Due: 06 August 2026

- 1) What phase are we in with the current Cat plan?
- 2) What is the implementation timeline?
- 3) Is there an ethical cat return program?
- 4) I understand RSPCA receive \$562,000 for cat management from ACT Government are there KPI's associated with this and formal reporting on performance.

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The ACT Government continues to implement actions outlined in the [ACT Cat Plan 2021-31](#). Consistent with the regulatory approach set out in City and Environment Directorate's Regulatory Strategy, focus continues on education and engagement, and where necessary, enforcement action based on the level of risk and harm. The Implementation Plan sets out short term (1-2 years) medium term actions (3-5 years) and long-term actions (5-10 years). The Plan is currently at its mid-point in 2026.
- 2) The ACT Cat Plan is a 10-year strategy covering 2021 to 2031. Implementation of the Plan's actions is occurring progressively over that period through the stages as outlined above.
- 3) The ACT Cat Plan guides the management of cats—owned, semi-owned, unowned and feral cats.

The Government recognises that in limited circumstances a different approach may be required to address safety, uncontrolled breeding, animal welfare, biodiversity or human mental health considerations. To support such circumstances, the ACT Government is developing an approach under which approved non-government organisations may partner with Domestic Animal Services to trap cats and either rehome suitable animals or desex and care for them within the community.

4) The ACT Government purchases cat management services from RSPCA ACT through a Service Funding Agreement. Funding for these services is \$511,388 (ex GST) in 2025-26. The Agreement includes reporting requirements, with RSPCA ACT required to report twice yearly on cat-related performance measures, including:

- the number of cats seized under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*;
- the number of stray cats received from the public and/or the Territory;
- the number of cats housed and the duration of housing;
- the number of cats released, including returns to owners and the average time taken to return them; and
- euthanasia outcomes.

The Service Funding Agreement also contains additional reporting requirements relating to other services provided by RSPCA ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature: 

Date: 12/8/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA