Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw Review 2026

Summary of feedback

To support Deliberations on Tuesday 18 August 2026

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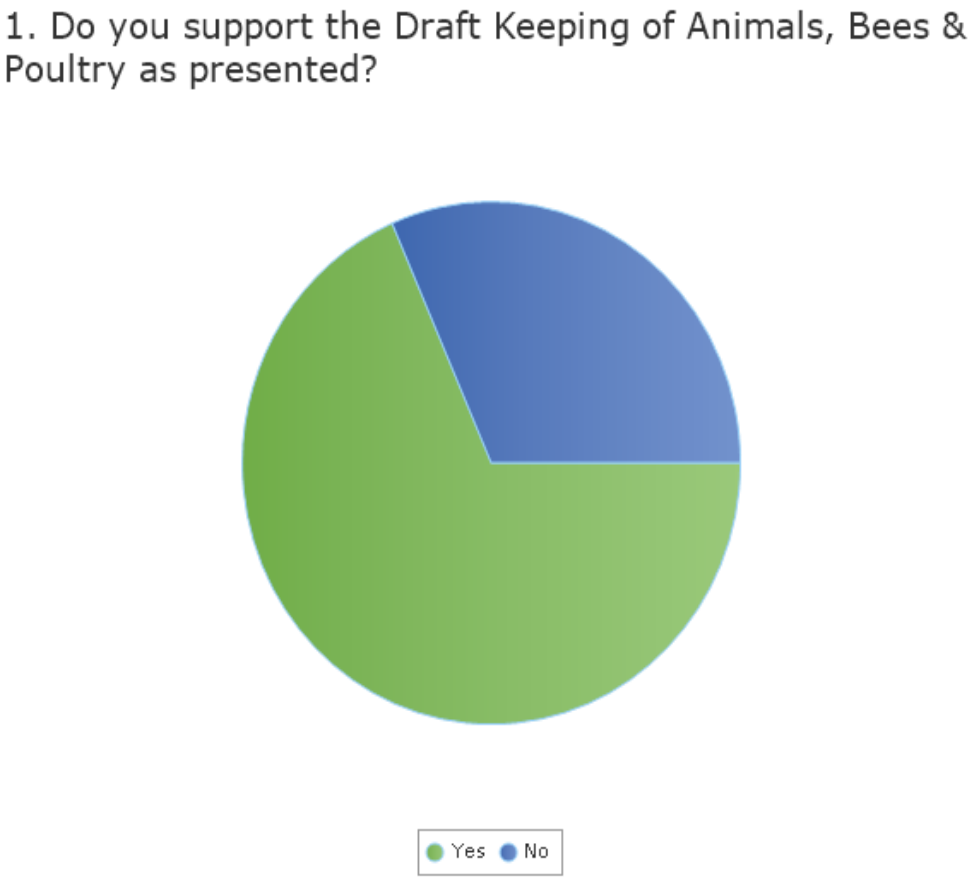
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Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw > Support Bylaw as presented

1. Do you support the Draft Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw as presented?

Total number of responses: 92

	Number of people	%
Yes	63	68.48%
No	29	31.52%
Total	**92**	



Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, I support the Bylaw as presented		
14 - Terri Doig	good idea.	
55 - Amanda Watson	I like that is has been tidied up, updated any simplified.	
58 - Richard Mabon	Have worked my way through the consultation document and happy with what I read.	
128 - Courtney Sutton	Amended to include human health and safety aspects, formalising common sense rules for responsible animal owners.	
152 - Kelly Foster	its important to know whats right and wrong noise is a big issue and as are bees with multiple health issues	
170 - Deanna Walsh	Provided there is an educational and support approach in the first instance before moving into compliance monitoring and enforcement.	
198 - Christian Fitzgerald	I don't see any problems	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	Companion Animals NZ partially supports the proposed Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry bylaw. See reasoning in Full submission and throughout summary.	
Poultry / Bees		
109 - Sally Warwood	Its a good idea as not everyone has much yard for poultry or bees.	

No, do not support the Bylaw as presented		
190 - Andrea Chalmers	I consider the present Bylaws are sufficient.	The draft Bylaw is intended to give greater clarity on what is permitted and is responding to community requests (cat management).
211 - Robyn Ayton	Because it is absolutely ridiculous ??	
Enforcement		
33 - Chris Pringuer	The laws we have don't seem to be being implemented so why waste the money making more we simply do not have the staff to police all this.	The draft Bylaw is intended to give greater clarity over what is permitted. We have sufficient contracted staff to monitor this. With regards to the new proposed clause on the keeping of cats, Council intends to take an educational approach rather than allocate additional resources for active enforcement.
Horses		
6 - Debbie Woods	Id like to know more about the Horses section as there is nothing on the updates. Wondering about riding or leading of horses and the current law about riding in town or on the footpath	See FAQ 'What about horses' provided on itsourplace.nz: https://itsourplace.nz/animals/our-proposed-changes *9.2 The riding or leading of a horse in an urban area is permitted on the road, not on any footpath or berm.*

		9.3 Any person having control of stock or animals on roads in an urban area: *• ensure that the stock or animals are kept under proper control; and* *• immediately remove, and appropriately dispose of, any manure deposited in an urban area.* Officers are proposing a change to clause 9.2 to make the riding or leading of a horse allowed on the road *or* berm, not footpaths.
142 - Bridget McCauley	I think there needs to be more consideration as to how sections of this bylaw affect Urban Zone D. This has been clarified in the section regarding stock keeping, but not in the section regarding riding horses.	Residential Zone D is considered an Urban Area in the proposed bylaw. Officers propose to clarify this in the final version of the Bylaw.
169 - Jessica Kennedy	The proposal is fundamentally flawed, particularly regarding the movement of horses through urban areas. Requiring horses to be led on the road, in active traffic, creates an obvious and unacceptable safety hazard. Horses are flight animals, and their instinctive response to sudden noise or movement makes them unpredictable in traffic environments. Expecting handlers to lead horses among vehicles is not only impractical but invites serious accidents involving people, animals, and motorists. The safest and most sensible approach is to move horses on the footpath or berm, where separation from traffic significantly reduces risk. Prioritising public safety must outweigh concerns about minor manure deposits on private driveways or berms. This proposal demonstrates a concerning lack of practical understanding of equine behaviour and urban safety. It is essential that common sense prevails and that public safety—of residents, road users, and stock—is placed ahead of administrative convenience.	Officers are proposing a change to clause 9.2 to make the riding or leading of a horse allowed on the road *or* berm, not footpaths. Additional information can be added to the 'road safety' section on Councils website for clarity.

Overreach Council control		
18 - Deborah Manhire	Council are having far too much reach and control over peoples lives.	The draft Bylaw is intended to give greater clarity on what is permitted.
129 - Sharon MacKenzie	i believe that the council are going to inhibit people to have animals in their yards.	The intention is to prevent nuisance from occurring and allow for action to be taken if it occurs.
151 - Rob Markillie	We don't need more control	As above. Council operates under a compliance model which prefers working with people to resolve matters, moving to formal compliance depending on severity and degree of cooperation.
161 - Lexie Crawford	Could be overly restrictive	As above
Rooster / poultry		
20 - Gretchen Hart	Everyone should be allowed to keep hens in town, but not roosters.	The intention is to not be overly controlling or restrictive and to allow for consideration of individual circumstances. If animals cause a nuisance, controls allow action to be taken.
153 - Megan Allott	Roosters should not be kept in urban areas	As above
93 - Lawrence Richmond	There is very little information relating to changes relating to Rural properties. I.E poultry keeping.	Bylaw focus is on regulating nuisance which is more likely to happen in urban areas.

142 - Bridget McCauley	I think there needs to be more consideration as to how sections of this bylaw affect Urban Zone D. This has been clarified in the section regarding stock keeping, but not in the section regarding keeping of **poultry**.	The Residential D zone is classed as an Urban area in the Proposed Bylaw. (See Officer Comment 142 - Bridget McCauley)
150 - Erin Mitchell	I fully support poultry being kept clean, so no vermin and smells but I dint believe that saying 10m from a property and 2m from boundary fence is not feasible in town/urban areas. I believe a license should be held for those who wish to keep poultry and inspected hearly to ensure they are clean, free from vermin and not causing a nuisance to neighbour's- much like dog ownership & RDO's.	Exception is allowed for these setbacks under certain circumstances. If Council becomes aware of concerns about keeping of animals these can be investigated and either action taken or referred to other agencies. There is currently no licence required to keep poultry.

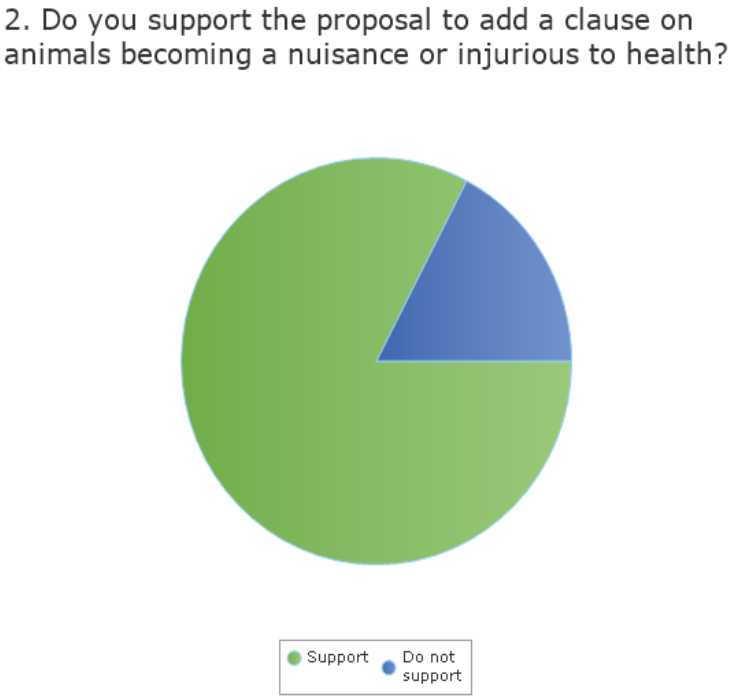
Key change one: Addressing the risk of animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health and reflecting that in the Bylaw purpose

'Injurious to health' *is the phrase we use in the bylaw to address the situation when animals could hurt people or make them unwell.*
We are proposing to add a clause to help Council deal with situations where animals become a nuisance or injurious to health. For clarity and consistency, we also propose to reflect that in the Bylaw purpose.

2. Do you support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health?

Total number of responses: 98

	Number of people	%
Support	81	82.65%
Do not support	17	17.35%
Total	**98**	



Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
Submitter name	**Submitter comments**	**Staff comments**
56 - marion logan	agreed- noise is just one frustration; animals can be a health risk. we should be able to choose our own not have others imposed upon us	
58 - Richard Mabon	A sensible change.	
170 - Deanna Walsh	This can be a subjective term. Is the animal at risk of causing physical harm that may or may not require medical attention? Or is the animal causing an emotional distress because an opposer of the animal is choosing to fixate on its presence? eg a person is suffering emotional distress because they don't like the neighbour having a few chooks or a beehive, because it isn't something they would do themselves. If there is a scenario of animals persistently breaching containment then yes, there needs to be action.	There is no blanket answer to this. Each situation will be required to be investigated and action taken based on its circumstances.
198 - Christian Fitzgerald	Seems like a practical solution	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	Companion Animals NZ supports the addition of a clause addressing animals that become a nuisance or injurious to health. This is consistent with the One Welfare framework, which recognises that animal welfare, human wellbeing, and environmental health are interconnected. Nuisance behaviour and zoonotic disease risks affect not just neighbours and wildlife but the welfare of the animals themselves. A nuisance/health clause reinforces responsible guardianship, and we support updating the bylaw's purpose statement *See Full Submission Feedback document for entire submission*	
221 - John McGirr	Owners must be responsible and be accountable	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the Council making changes to the current bylaw to help manage situations where stock repeatedly escape and create a risk to the public. Stock that have escaped their pens or fields are also at risk of becoming injured or lost.	

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
	Additional considerations to prevent animals from causing nuisance and being injurious to health Animal husbandry and welfare are linked. Environmental conditions and how an animal interacts with their environment directly influence how they feel (Mellor et al., 2020). Where there is poor husbandry, there is often poor welfare. SPCA advocates for bylaws that promote good husbandry to reduce the potential for nuisance and help prevent welfare problems. Below we provide our recommendations on the draft Animals Bylaw 2026. SPCA advocates for the inclusion of conditions for animal enclosures that promote positive animal welfare including: • A condition specifying animals have appropriate companionship and be kept in appropriate social groups. For example, sheep and goats experience fear and vocalise more when socially isolated (Cockram et al. 1994; De et al., 2018; Forkman et al., 2007; Siebert et al., 2011). • A condition specifying that animals can access shade, shelter, and nest material suitable to their species-specific needs. For example, poultry housing should protect animals from thermal stress and drafts; and resting areas should include species-appropriate bedding and nesting material and remain dry (EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, 2023a, b). • A condition prohibiting the permanent tethering of livestock. Tethering compromises an animal's welfare leading to frustration and stress because they cannot behave and move around normally (Beaver et al., 2021; Hydbring-Sandberg et al., 2022; van der Staay et al., 2010). Permanent tethering can increase fear when it interferes with an animal's instinct to flee when alarmed (Beaver et al., 2021; Forkman et al., 2007). Tethered animals may lack sufficient shelter from all conditions or access to appropriate feed and water. Tethered animals can become entangled and harm themselves leading to painful injuries and are at risk from being harassed or attacked by other animals or people. • A condition that pigs have access to housing of sufficient size that allows for movement and natural positions, adequate ventilation, protection for thermal extremes, and a dry laying area. We advocate that Council require pigs to have nesting material and separate areas for toileting, eating, and separation from offspring by choice. Expression of natural behaviours and	Other legislation (such as Animal Welfare Act) applies and staff and contractors will liaise with other agencies as required. Suggest this is a welfare issue, however could be a matter for specific situation resolution. Current stock licencing conditions do not include access to shade, shelter or nest material. Poultry house or run needs to be 'properly constructed' and have a rainproof roof. Suggest this is an animal welfare issue dealt with by other legislation May be an animal welfare issue

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
	behavioural interactions with their environment is important for a pig's welfare (Johnson et al., 2022; Kells, 2021; reviewed by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, 2021). o We have recently seen Palmerston North City Council amend their Keeping of Animals Bylaw which now requires pigs to have suitable nesting material and separate spaces for resting, eating, and toileting.	
Enforcement		
13 - Anna Stratford	I am in a situation where my neighbors have nuisance animals, poultry, pigs, sheep, horses, ducks. My property is surrounded by roosters and chickens its like having noisy rats from dawn to dusk breading and making a racket. I have requested them deal with it for the last 4years, with no success. They have a piggery, breading pigs and piglets, they fight and stink! Their homes are inappropriate. They can have upwards of 70 piglets at a time, as well as boars and sows. These pigs get onto my property. They have at least 20 horses. Multiple cattle and sheep, all of these escape to the road or my property. All of this on a small 8.1ha approx property. There are animals everywhere its like living next to an out of control zoo. It's severely impacting our lives. We are concerned when we want to sell it will have an impact. It is getting worse year on year. I just want it to be sorted out. They also rely on stockwater from the race or town supply for these animals, if we are to loose the race how are they to water these animal and irrrigate their paddocks? I also believe alot of the wild cats we have come from their property also.	This appears to be a matter relating to a specific site. Officers confirm the site has been investigated by ADC staff. Case was referred to ECan and MPI who have found no grounds for further action.

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
	They have rubbish and junk everywhere we are starting to notice alot of wasps. We had a problem last summer we got some beekeepers out to have a look they told me they are on the neighbors place. I do not believe these animals are cared for properly. We have never seen a vet there despite them having atleast 100 animals at a time breading etc. I have spoken to council and have found they are powerless due to the laws. The rules need to change!	
86 - Jasmine Marsden	I believe there should be a strike system, as isolated incidents can happen to anyone. I think there should be a way to support those to make proposed changes to keep animals within property lines if affordability is an issue, or even an options to help them rehome safely. I think there will be a lot of unnecessary drama around nosie complaints, and these should be handled with appropriate care and caution to respect the wishes of both parties.	Council operates under a compliance model which prefers working with people to resolve matters, moving to formal compliance depending on severity and degree of cooperation.
108 - Robin Burton	Animals should be under control at all times and if roaming be impounded.	Agreed in part. It is an owner's responsibility to have an animal under control. Animals (other than dogs) found wandering must be secured so that they are not a danger to themselves or the public. There are legal and physical difficulties in impounding.

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
127 - Elena Tomov	all need to be dealt on a case by case basis not just stringent rules.	Council operates under a compliance model which prefers working with people to resolve matters, moving to formal compliance depending on severity and degree of cooperation.
150 - Erin Mitchell	I believe there should be an avenue for neighbours or people who feel that poor ownership is affecting them- wether that be noise, smells or vermin.	Council has various tools to help address nuisance. Reporting of issues to Council is encouraged.
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	MCFF supports Council's intent to address situations where stock repeatedly escape and create a genuine risk to public safety. However, cl 15.1 imposes a duty to prevent an animal "becoming a nuisance or injurious to health," including being uncontrolled on a public road, with no threshold of frequency or fault attached. Taken literally, this could capture a single, isolated escape, for example following storm damage to fencing, a gate left open by a third party, or a vehicle strike on a boundary fence. This is important because cl 15.2 gives Council the power to direct an owner to reduce animal numbers, upgrade fencing, or take other action, and cl 15.3 allows Council to recover the cost of undertaking that work itself if the owner does not comply in time. These are significant powers, and we consider they should be reserved for cases of ongoing or repeated failure to maintain adequate containment, not a single incident outside an owner's reasonable control. We recommend cl 15.1 be amended to make clear that an isolated incident, where an owner has taken reasonable precautions and the escape results from circumstances outside their control, does not in itself constitute an animal "becoming a nuisance or injurious to health" for the purposes of this clause. We further recommend that before issuing a notice under cl 15.2, Council have regard to whether the owner has already taken reasonable steps to remedy the	Our enforcement procedures already include a “score matrix” which takes all this into account and an escalation approach which favours informal resolution where possible. Officers propose to update clause 15.2 to reflect that each case is subject to an escalation approach before deciding the most appropriate action.

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
	immediate cause of the escape, and that the time specified in any notice reasonably account for genuine remedial work already underway. Specific wording for these amendments is detailed in Appendix 2.	Officers propose 15.1 to stay as is as this sets out the basic requirement with 15.2 then clarifying the escalation approach.
Funding		
68 - Sue-ann Carr	I do believe animal owners should take all the necessary measures to keep animals contained and not becoming a nuisance. I do worry that if it is the council needing to take measures to keep animals contained (e.g. get someone to build or fix fencing) the owner will not pay the bill, so this cost will be incurred on the rate payers. Maybe they have a timeframe to pay up or the animals are taken away.	Comment noted, if adopted, protocols will be developed to protect ratepayer funds.
Incidents		
31 - Rose Hawkes	Safety is top priority for all concerned as i have seen some horrible injuries especially to our daughter and a neighbour where dog lunged for her neck and because of her height latched onto her shoulder and if it had been a child i dread to think. Thank you for putting people first and their emotional wellbeing and health. Some injuries can be life long especially emotional.	Noted / Consider for Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.
55 - Amanda Watson	Its very scary coming upon a cow that has escaped from its property. Even scarier in the dark. It's known that in some area's this happens too often. It's also for the benefit of the animal. They dont want to be hurt either.	Comment noted. Our contracted staff conduct a full risk assessment before taking appropriate action.
109 - Sally Warwood	yes it can be scary if an animal attacks someone	As above
Other suggestions		

Yes, I support the proposal to add a clause on animals becoming a nuisance or injurious to health		
75 - Di Davidson	Also need progress on helping animals in need of help from violence	Council staff have relationships with other agencies including MPI and SPCA who can assist under certain circumstances.

No, do not support		
190 - Andrea Chalmers	There are multiple Acts and Bylaws which gives the Council means of control of animals and stock aready. Do not need to reinvent the wheel.	These provisions are to refine existing controls and avoid duplication.
Enforcement / Overreach Council control		
18 - Deborah Manhire	Council have enough power already. It is very easy for those with power to abuse that power. Council can therefore make any situation fit within the definition of injurious to health, regardless if it's justified or not.	Comment noted, processes have safety checks, including escalating signoff requirements, particularly for formal action.
20 - Gretchen Hart	this leaves too much discretion to council workers. There are already laws to deal with this. The council does not need to regulate this further.	Refer above.
142 - Bridget McCauley	Any animal could potentially pose a risk. I think this should be targeting animals that are actually causing a nuisance or a risk to health rather than just potentially could cause it.	The general intention of the bylaw is to allow response to actual nuisance rather than precautionary restrictions.
151 - Rob Markillie	This will give you powers to stop back yard animal keeping in the event of a "fabricated" animal health pandemic.	In the event of a pandemic type event it

		can be expected that Council, businesses and individuals will be subject to directives and controls issued by central government.
Funding		
33 - Chris Pringuer	Cost to benefit I do not think this is worthwhile.	See Officer Comment *33-Chris Pringue*r question 1.
Other		
77 - Karen Taylor	Animals only hurt when humans provoke them.	
129 - Sharon MacKenzie	I believe that the council will use this change in policy to kill peoples animals and therefore redue a persons ability to produce their own food.	This is not the intention of the changes to the bylaw.
161 - Lexie Crawford	from what i can gather from reading the consultation document, this clause has not been written. Therefore, I can't say whyher or not i would agree with it or not. Without having it written out, the council could make rules that are far too restrictive and unfair on animal owners. It would be better if the council wrote the clause BEFORE asking whether people supported it or not. As this hasn't been done (or if it has, it doesnt seem very clear), then I cannot support it.	The draft Bylaw, available on itsourplace.nz, shows the proposed clause.
Roaming and other nuisances		
37 - Helen Lewis	cats can be contained easily enough	The new proposed clause on the keeping of cats currently does not include rules on the containing of cats.

Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw > Key change one - Bylaw purpose

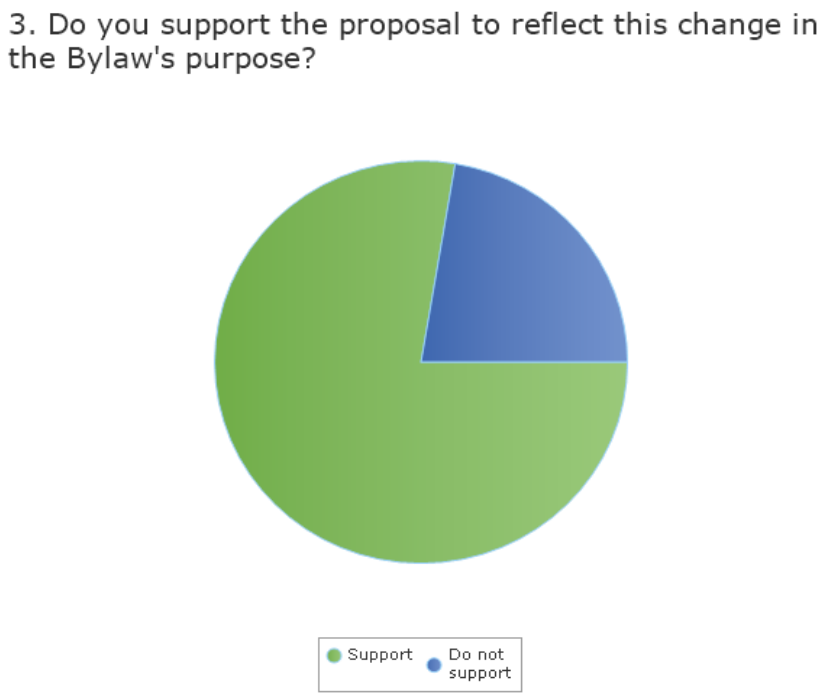
*With the addition of this new section, we're also proposing to update and expand the **purpose** of the bylaw so it remains consistent.*

The purpose of this bylaw is:
- to outline requirements for the keeping of animals, bees and poultry. The requirements are deemed necessary for the protection of neighboring property owners and/or occupiers from nuisance.
- to maintain and promote public health and safety - (NEW)

3. Do you support the proposal to reflect this change in the Bylaw's purpose?

Total number of responses: 85

	Number of people	%
Support	66	77.65%
Do not support	19	22.35%
Total	**85**	



Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the proposal to reflect this change in the Bylaw's purpose		
6 - Debbie Woods	I like the idea of making the owner comply to fence issues and be charged if not	
55 - Amanda Watson	Common sense and clarity.	
58 - Richard Mabon	Consistent with Council's general bylaw-making powers.	
109 - Sally Warwood	Think its a good idea. Peace of mind for others.	
170 - Deanna Walsh	Repeating my answer from Question 2: This can be a subjective term.	See comments to *170 - Deanna Walsh* under Question 2.
221 - John McGirr	By laws must be updated from time to time to support the thinking of the residents in our community	
Bees		
152 - Kelly Foster	i have two children with anaphylaxis reaction to bees so having our home safe is important	
171 - Mary Schmack	A neighbour had 8 beehives in a small section close to 2 schools- our homes -gardens -cars etc nearer had bees every where Vey worrying esp when children around .	
Other		
31 - Rose Hawkes	In case of infectious disease and reduce a nuisance to neighbours sparking bigger issues.	

No, do not support the proposal to reflect this change in the Bylaw's purpose		
33 - Chris Pringuer	I do not see the need.	Opinion noted.
93 - Lawrence Richmond	Hard to find any specific change, other than change in wording.	The intention is to provide greater clarity on requirements
Funding / Costs		
190 - Andrea Chalmers	This will only add extra costs to the rate payer in times when the Council should be looking at reducing costs - certainly not adding to them. There are Bylaws now in place to keep the public safe.	As above
Overreach Council control		
18 - Deborah Manhire	We do not need anymore control over our lives, and most Kiwis don't want a nanny state.. As it is New Zealand is fast becoming less of a democracy and more of a big brother is watching situation. The SPCA are there to protect animal welfare. If animals were in such a state as to be deemed a nuisance by neighbors the SPCA can become involved.	The intention is to provide greater clarity on requirements
20 - Gretchen Hart	this is not the role of the ADC. There is no need for this. Other government departments are charged with this.	As above and officers will liaise with other agencies where appropriate.
161 - Lexie Crawford	Could be overly restrictive	The intention is to provide greater clarity on requirements
Rooster / poultry		

129 - Sharon MacKenzie	I believe the changes are because the government is planning to scare people with a ‘bird flu’ pandemic. The council are putting these changes in now So they can legially kill people poultry. I suggest the methods used to determine whether poultry has ‘bird flu’ flause positives much like the Covid 19 tests gave flause positives. Again this bylaw will be used to kill healthy poultry and try to cause panic mongst the population. It will reduce the ability to provide for themselves and have healthy eggs to eat.	The Bylaw is intended to address nuisance issues. Any Government direction relating to measures for managing bird flu will be addressed separately and is not part of the Bylaw.
Horses		
142 - Bridget McCauley	As stated above, these other sections have not been considered in light of Urban zone D and the how it will be affected (other than Keeping of Stock). horse riding also need to be considered (as part of moving stock). In urban zone D there are no footpaths, berms are wide and often not well mown, akin to berms in the rural zone. It can often be safer to ride a horse on the berm in this area rather than on the road, especially if there are trucks travelling past.	Residential D Zone is considered an Urban Area under the Bylaw. Officers propose to clarify in bylaw definition.

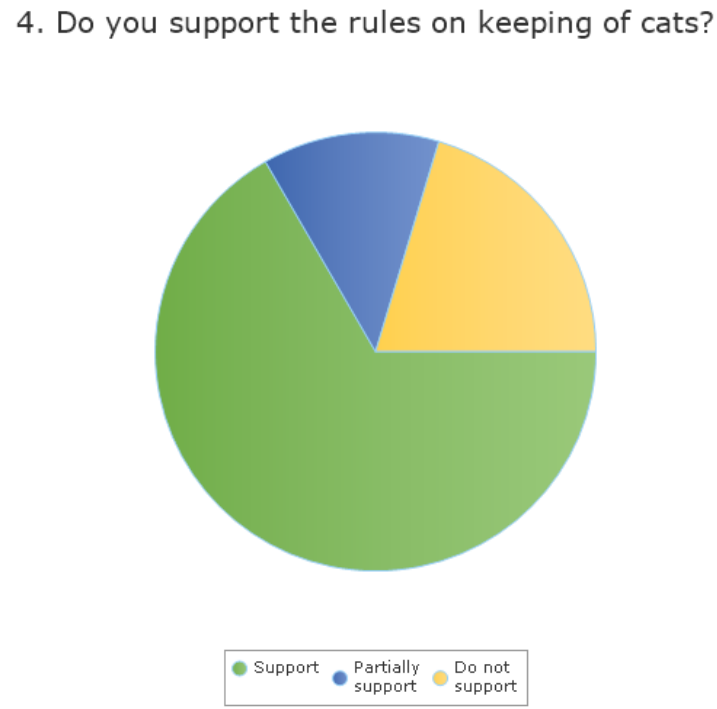
Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw > Key change two - Keeping of cats

We are proposing to add rules to encourage responsible cat ownership such as microchipping, desexing and registering all cats over four months old with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register, and a restriction on feeding stray cats.

Total number of submitters: 108

4. Do you support the rules on keeping of cats?

	Number of people	%
Support	72	66.67%
Partially support*	14	12.96%
Do not support	22	20.37%
Total	**108**	



Topics within feedback (in support / partial / not supporting)

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats

I. General
II. Biodiversity / wildlife
III. Definitions
IV. Desexing& microchipping
V. Enforcement
VI. Feeding of cats other than your own
VII. Funding / Costs
VIII. Number of cats
IX. Other
X. Registration
XI. Roaming and other nuisances
XII. Toxoplasmosis

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats

I. Desexing& microchipping
II. Enforcement
III. Feeding of cats other than your own
IV. Funding / Costs
V. Number of cats
VI. Overreach Council control
VII. Registration

Partially support the rules on keeping of cats

I. General
II. Changes don't go far enough
III. Desexing& microchipping
IV. Feeding of cats other than your own
V. Funding / Costs
VI. Roaming and other nuisances
VII. Other suggestions

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
General		
28 - Mac McElwain for Methven and foothills birdsong initiative	Long term we would like to see fewer cats in New Zealand. This policy is a great initial step in bringing this about. We welcome anything that helps to create larger numbers of responsible cat owners and reducing the numbers of wild, stray or feral cats.	
44 - Rosemary Hinchliffe	100% yes! Love your work, team.	
56 - marion logan	yes long overdue	
58 - Richard Mabon	Did this for our cat. Cost is relatively minor compared with the ongoing costs of feeding, vaccinations, etc.	
75 - Di Davidson	very good, necessary	
92 - Robin Burgess	stray cats	
115 - Jackie Clearwater	The changes proposed do not go far enough	
116 - harley hawkins	I am writing this in regards to the changes to the responsible cat owners proposed by law changes. I agree with the proposed changes of desexing and microchips for cats. This is a good idea because there would be less stray cats and be less killing cats because people will be able to scan the pet cats and return them to their owners and stray cats will be destroyed. So there will be far less stray cats and kittens that could get hurt.	
144 - brent Cook	As above, I strongly agree with this.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
198 - Christian Fitzgerald	I support registering, desexing and microchipping cats so as there can be safe a control of removing feral cats without risk of losing registered domestic cats.	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	Companion Animals NZ is dedicated to ensuring companion cats enjoy a good quality of life. Numerous studies highlight the positive impact of the human-animal bond for both cats and their owners. Our organisation's focus is on promoting a Good Life for animals through responsible guardianship. We believe that microchipping and registration are essential parts of this commitment. This is why we support local government cat bylaws aimed at encouraging responsible cat guardianship and fostering community involvement in these issues. Cat management is increasingly recognised as an important component of animal management frameworks, sitting across public health, community wellbeing, animal welfare, and environmental outcomes. A growing number of councils (15 currently) across Aotearoa have adopted bylaws incorporating one or more of the following cat management measures These bylaws are increasingly becoming mainstream across New Zealand. They reflect growing recognition across local government that responsible cat guardianship is most effective when supported through a combination of education, community engagement, and appropriate regulation. Even in areas with few formal complaints, the unregulated growth of stray and feral cat populations poses a significant threat to both animal welfare, community health and the native ecosystem. The exact number of stray cats in New Zealand is not definitively known, however one study has estimated it to be around 196,000 (Farnworth, 2013). Other sources (RNZ 2025, May 8) give us the following national cat population estimates: • Feral cats: ~2.4 million • Stray cats: ~200,000 • Pet cats: ~1.2 million These estimates paint a concerning picture - feral cats outnumber owned cats by approximately two to one. With most companion cats in New Zealand being free roaming (Farnworth, 2010) the likelihood of interaction between pet, stray and feral cats is extremely high. Consequently, there is huge potential for non-desexed owned cats to mate with stray or feral cats and produce unwanted litters contributing towards the overall cat overpopulation issue in New Zealand.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	Companion Animals NZ supports the Ashburton District Council's initiative to require all cat owners to microchip, register (on the NZ Companion Animal Register), and desex cats over four months of age as proposed by the Council, and we support the two exemptions for desexing around cats kept for breeding purposes or where it may adversely affect the cat's health and/or welfare. We also support the transition period to 1st January 2027. *See Full submission for more stats and details*	
128 - Courtney Sutton	Basic cat rules are long overdue. Microchipping and NZCAR really is a bare minimum requirement for domestic animals and is a one off cost.	
149 - Grahame Kelly	Certainly very happy for wild or stray cats to be rounded up and maybe put up for adoption etc., or in the case of wild cats, being euthanised or some other appropriate method of controlling them.	
150 - Erin Mitchell	same as dogs, should be chipped and de-seed and registered. Its a simple ask to prove responsibility of an animal.	
221 - John McGirr	Stray cats are a problem - more control is necessary	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA advocates for bylaws with requirements for cat owners to desex and microchip their cat by four months of age and the register the microchip on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. The New Zealand Companion Animal Register is a private, charity-based database and is the only place where a cat's microchip can be registered in New Zealand. There is a one-time fee for registration. We have seen a steady increase in Councils adopting bylaws to promote more responsible cat ownership (please see Table 1 for more information). We are starting to see an effect us these bylaws with a small proportion of owners indicating they have desexed or microchipped their cat because of a new bylaw (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2025). *See more background information in pdf attachments*	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
233 - Ian Fraser for Department of Conservation	The Department of Conservation's Raukapuka District Office SUPPORTS the proposed introduction of rules regarding microchipping and de-sexing of cats, and of restrictions on feeding cats. Domestic, feral and stray cats have significant impacts on native wildlife - including various threatened species – in the Ashburton District. They can also carry diseases that may impact wildlife, domestic animals and humans. These proposed changes are an important first step in reducing the negative impacts of domestic cats on the environment. We encourage the council to continue to engage with cat owners and, over time, to encourage them to consider the advantages to the environment and to their pets of keeping their cats inside or con? ned on their properties. While many consider it impossible (or even inhumane) to con? ne a cat on their property, this has become accepted practice for dogs. Options to help contain cats on properties are already available in New Zealand (for example see Cat Containment Systems Cat-Proof Fences | CATFENCE)	
I. Biodiversity / wildlife		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	You may be aware that earlier this year feral cats were added to the government's Predator Free 2050 strategy. This means it is more important than ever to ensure policies are future-proofed to ensure companion animals are easily identified in any cat control programmes. Compulsory microchipping is an essential part of this to ensure owned cats are easy to identify in any cat management operations. Cats are both important companion animals and introduced predators that have a significant impact on our native species. Cats are an apex-predator in New Zealand; they are highly skilled hunters (regardless of ownership status) that have the ability to devastate bird, bat, lizard and invertebrate populations. Without control measures cats are the biggest threat to predator control undertaken by council and community groups. Finally, we encourage the Ashburton District Council to advocate for national legislation around cat management to ensure there is a consistency of approach across the country. In 2017 LGNZ	We await Government's decision and possible national direction.

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	passed a remit to advocate to central government about a better legal framework for cat management. Although there hasn't been much action taken on this.	
29 - Maree McGrath	Cats are becoming a huge problem not only by attacking wildlife but invading other people's properties. Should be treated same as dogs, restricted to own property.	
76 - Ken Body	To help protect our bird life	
89 - Matt Poole	The registration, microchipping and desexing of Cats is essential and a great step forward. From a conservation point of view this would greatly increase the ease to distinguish between domesticated and feral cats. We even have traps that can sense a microchip and protect a chipped cat in the wild	
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	Keeping cats contained would also provide significant environmental benefits. Cats are effective predators and can have a substantial impact on native birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Restricting roaming—whether through indoor housing or secure outdoor enclosures—would help protect vulnerable wildlife while still allowing cats to live safe, healthy lives.	
133 - Clare Lutton	I feel that cats (being introduced predators) should be kept inside to protect and restore our native birds and wildlife. Our beautiful cat is an inside girl and she is very happy. And we have a tui and many other native birds that visit our safe, predator free garden in Methven.	
162 - Val Clemens for Forest & Bird Ashburton / Community Conservation Trust / ADBAG	Having a strong interest in conservation & maintaining our biodiversity, I support measures that will lower (or eliminate) the presence of feral cats, but also the roaming of domestic cats. Microchipping & desexing may also lower the practice of dumping unwanted cats near country houses.	
177 - Donna-Marie Field	I support the cat management rules proposal. Cats are great pets however they are also hard on the invertebrate, lizard and bird populations. The introduction of the rules will make it easier for identifying stray cats and hopefully reduce the number of kittens and therefore the dumping of kittens in the river beds and at the beach and countryside.	
186 - John Evans	As a member of "The Lake Heron Conservation Group" we find an increasing number of cats being caught. This in an area where there are no domestic cats. The toll on the endangered indigenous	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	animals is almost unsustainable. One runholder managed to capture 39 cats in four months while trying to stop his hens being eaten.	
194 - Lyn Womersley	Strongly support. Protection of our birds in the long run and our gardens	
195 - Gen de Spa	Now that serious efforts are being made to protect and restore native biodiversity, the reasons cats should not be roaming on other properties is the same as for dogs - we don't want them killing other animals. At Staveley Camp, large amounts of public funding and voluntary efforts are going into the protection and restoration of the forest here, but the presence of domestic cats makes the job of dealing with feral cats much more difficult, as well as a little bit pointless if we still retain a number of cats who can freely roam and kill. All moves to limit numbers of cats and, sadly, their freedom to roam at will, need to be taken at this stage of our nation's history if we wish to hold on to the bird species that give this country its special flavor.	
196 - Candida Eason	we need to protect our birds from cats so we need this measure to reduce cat numbers	
210 - Wendy Matthews	as a cat owner i feel this is a responsible step, and will help to manage stray populations and their impact on wildlife.	
143 - Nicky Snoyink for Forest & Bird	Please see attached submission We would like to congratulate Ashburton District Council on its Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw and are pleased to see clear cat specific provisions being proposed. Forest & Bird encourages councils, through their bylaws, to adopt meaningful cat policies and regulations to support responsible cat ownership, to minimise risk to human health and the risk of nuisance cats to native species. We support all the cat specific provisions being proposed in this review. However, we request that a provision for a cat limit be included to further support officers when they respond to nuisance	The option to limit the number of cats was

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	requests. Our submission only relates to cat provisions of the proposed bylaw. Forest & Bird supports the provision for all cats over the age of four months to be microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with New Zealand Companion Animal Register. Forest & Bird supports the provision for all cats over the age of four months to be de-sexed and considers the proposed exemptions to be reasonable. Forest & Bird does not support trap, neuter and re-abandon (TNR) programmes either. Trap, neuter, re-abandon operations are unethical and do not control cat populations.10 We endorse the objective of the National Cat Management Strategy Group: "Every cat in a lap.	presented to Council during the review but decided not to include in draft bylaw. Council could reconsider during the deliberations (noting the preferred educational approach rather than allocate additional resources for active enforcement).
II. Definitions		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	The Trust recommends that when the ECAN Regional Pest Management Plan is being reviewed Ashburton District Council asks for feral cats to be included as a site led pest and there is a clear definition of feral cats included. We would recommend that feral cats are defined as cats without a microchip. The could also include a provision around feeding cats on public land. This will further support your bylaw.	Comment on ECAN Regional Pest Management Plan noted. Officers propose to include the definitions of companion, stray and feral cat as currently defined in the in the Code of Welfare, Companion Cats.
III. Desexing & microchipping		

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	Desexing, microchipping and registering cats are an important part of responsible cat ownership. Many owners already undertake these behaviours in order to look after and care for their cats. Earlier this year, a survey of New Zealanders found that 71% of New Zealanders consider microchipping an essential part of responsible cat ownership and 77% of cat owners consider desexing important. Both cat owners and non-cat owners were strongly supportive. (Full report here, see page 28: https://predatorfreenz.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Awareness-and-perceptions-of-Predator-Free-2050-research-2026.pdf). Thirty-one local councils around the country have some measures regarding cat ownership in their animal bylaws. These include compulsory microchipping (and registration), compulsory desexing and limits on the number of cats a household can own. We strongly support the addition of Compulsory microchipping, desexing and limits around feeding to your bylaw. This will help set clear expectations for responsible cat ownership and enable better management of unowned cats. Compulsory desexing of cats is important as it ensures that cats are not having unwanted litters of kittens or breeding with local stray or feral cats. Microchipping and registration is an important way to identify a cat as being owned. This ensures that cats can be returned to their owner when they are lost or injured. It also enables clear identification of an owned cat when cat control is being undertaken in areas that are close to populated areas. Microchipping of owned cats would make it easier to undertake feral cat control in areas near human habitation, while keeping owned companion cats safe from harm.	See officer comment on limiting number of cats per household above (*143 - Nicky Snoyink for Forest & Bird*)
81 - Stuart Stratton	I would like to see a timetable in place for making the microchipping and desexing of cats compulsory. Until microchipping is in place trapping in urban areas will risk capturing companion cats. Desexing of cats will be a beneficial step towards controlling overall cat numbers.	See proposed timeline in Bylaw: *Existing cat owners shall be granted a transition period from the commencement of this bylaw, during which they are required to desex,*

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
		microchip and register any cats they already own. This transition period shall extend until January 1, 2027.
99 - Lewis Price	cats as much as they are great companions there has been a increase in cat dumping a mandatory desexing and chipping would help with feral cat population	
10 - Jenny Snook	Dogs have to be microchipped and registered so why not cats too!	
109 - Sally Warwood	I'm all for the change and have my cat microchipped as well as desexed. If having a cat microchipped good to have details of the cat with it.	
128 - Courtney Sutton	And cat desexing is an absolute no brainer given how prolific they are.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	**Benefits of desexing and microchipping cats** Desexing provides welfare benefits to the individual cat and helps address problems with cat overpopulation. Desexing companion cats helps reduce the number of kittens that enter shelters and are euthanised. Cats are typically desexed in New Zealand around four to six months. This aligns with the age at which kittens typically enter puberty, however, some kittens can enter puberty as early as fourteen weeks of age. Therefore, we support the requirement for desexing to happen by four months of age to help ensure no accidental litters are born and break the cycle of unplanned litters born each year. Desexing can be safely performed at an earlier age than four months. Early desexing does not adversely affect the physiological or behavioural development in cats; it is a faster procedure with a quicker recovery time for the kitten and reduces the likelihood of some cat behaviours such as spraying, straying, and vocalising later in life. Microchipping and registering the microchip helps ensure a lost or injured cat's owner can be	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	identified and contacted (Lancaster et al., 2015; Lord et al., 2010). Most New Zealand cat owners allow their cats to roam which further illustrates the need for cats to have a reliable form of identification. Desexing companion cats is one of the few humane methods we have for managing stray cats, as it reduces the flow of unplanned litters of kittens from the companion cat populations into the stray cat populations. Microchipping and registering microchips for cats can help us reunite a lost cat living as a stray in the community. SPCA has worked closely with Whangarei District Council, Auckland Council and Local Boards, Waitaki District Council, and Dunedin City Council to address the barriers to desexing and microchipping cats. We encourage the Ashburton District Council to consider supporting their community members in becoming more responsible cat owners. See more background information in pdf attachments	
IV. Enforcement		
16 - Ceri Jones	not sure why this doesn't apply already - i think compliance would be unlikely but any responsible owner is already doing this	
81 - Stuart Stratton	The proposed voluntary approach is unlkely to be very successful.	This is first step towards promoting more responsible cat ownership around the district.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	**Keep track of nuisance complaints** SPCA urges the Ashburton District Council to ensure people are aware they can report cat nuisance and include complaints associated with cats such as property damage, spraying, and defaecating on neighbouring properties, and fighting with other cats causing injuries that require veterinary treatment.	Agree, the bylaw is intended to assist with managing these issues.

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	SPCA is concerned that the true scale of nuisance related to undesexed, and roaming companion cats is not fully communicated to Local Councils. Our organisation receives emails and calls from the public about cat nuisance (e.g., the neighbour's cat is toileting in their garden). We have a website article offering advice and tips for keeping a cat out of your garden, however, these strategies place the onus of managing nuisance on those who do not own the cat. Our organisation considers preventing nuisance a cat owner's responsibility. SPCA is concerned about issues related to keeping cats such as disease transmission. Cats are the definitive host of toxoplasmosis, and exposure to cat faeces in waterways, soil, sandpits, vegetable beds, and gardens is a risk factor for transmission to people and other animals (Aguirre et al., 2019; Stelzer et al., 2019). Companion cats with access outdoors and stray and feral cats have a higher likelihood of being infected with toxoplasmosis due to exposure from eating infected prey animals (see Roberts et al., 2021). **Promoting more responsible cat ownership** SPCA acknowledges that regulations alone will not address problems with cat overpopulation, and we fully support complementary non-regulatory approaches to cat management. We are happy to support and work with Ashburton District Council to provide comprehensive services for cat owners to help achieve more responsible cat ownership. This includes overcoming the cost of the procedure, which is the primary barrier to desexing (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020).	
95 - Deanne Smeaton	Also maybe some information should be provided if stray cats are around on the neighbourhood. Who is best to contact etc. (if this is to go ahead)	Information would be provided through Council channels if adopted
V. Feeding cats other than your own		
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	**Rules against feeding cats other than one's own** SPCA acknowledges that the rule proposed in this bylaw is aimed at reducing nuisance from cats congregating at feeding sites. Feeding cats encourages cats to congregate and breed if they are	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	undesexed. We are glad to see the Council will allow feeding to continue when people are trapping stray cats. Feeding stray cats facilitates trapping which helps with rehoming, desexing, or provision of veterinary care. We urge Council to have pathways for those who provide care to stray cats to continue to feed the cats provided they are working on desexing the cats. Cats regularly fed by people become dependent on the person for food. Feeding can also help monitor cat populations in the area which facilitates desexing and rehoming efforts.	
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	Restrictions around feeding cats is also an important addition to the proposed Animals Bylaw. We strongly support the addition of this to your bylaw. Feeding of unowned cats with a number of cat colonies being fed in public areas, resulting in fouling and impact on the native wildlife. These cats are often unhealthy, malnourished and not desexed, leading to problems with local owned cats such as fighting and disease.	
55 - Amanda Watson	In 'Good Faith' I support this. The good cat owners I believe with do this or already be doing this. Will be great to help lost cats be returned to their homes. Encouraging public not to feed strays and ferals will be a lot harder - but will be good to have rule for it.	
95 - Deanne Smeaton	Support, but wording around feeding should also exclude having someone feed cat when you are away is allowed.	Feeding considered here is only applicable for stray and feral cats, and not feeding done with the agreement of the cat owners in their home. Officers propose to clarify this in the relevant clause 12.2.
148 - Annie Jacobs	I think this is a good step in the right direction. Further education action is needed on not feeding other animals that aren't your own.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
VI. Funding / Costs		
8 - Janette Martin	I also feel a small registration fee each year as you do for dogs but not as much.	Council will not be undertaking or charging for cat registration. Cat Register is managed by a charity trust and it's a one-off payment during microchipping.
31 - Rose Hawkes	We are currently fostering for PussNBoots of a kitten dumped and they chip and desex kittens before a forever home is sought. I personally know that there are so many unwanted kittens because the adult cats are not desexed and the off spring are the ones who suffer. PussN Boots do an amazing job and are one of many groups fighting for the human rights of cats. They fund raise to cover the medical bills and work in partnership really to suppor this council change, Just a heads up for a donation to this group for the hard mahi work that they do.	Noted
123 - Joshua Magpali	I am writing in regards of the Keeping of Animals Bylaw. In my opinion we should add more changes to the bylaw. Desexing and microchipping pets might cost too much for low income households. Pets that are exempted and are caught in a trap will be put down because they have no chip to trace back to. I suggest there should be an income threshold check and allow or support low income earners to get free access to microchipping and desexing of their pets.	SPCA runs a subsidised "snip and chip" to reduce cost of microchipping and desexing.
168 - guest user	Ashburton is over run with cats and cat rescues spending thousands of vet bills with money they dont have. Too many cats they need to stop saving stray cats that are unwell and spend it on vouchers for people to desex there kittens.	
VII. Limits on Number of cats		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	Limiting the number of cats per household is also an important provision for managing cat nuisance in areas. Approximately 21 councils around the country have limits on the number of cats per household and it is an important inclusion to manage overpopulation of cats in an area. There are also public health issues for owners and neighbours of households with a number of cats. We'd recommend introducing a limit of 2 cats per household.	For council to reconsider as well as stance on enforcement.(See comment p29 - *Nicky*

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
		Snoyink for Forest & Bird). Limits would require a phased introduction with the community to avoid difficult situations and decisions.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	**Reasonable limits on the number of cats per dwelling** SPCA supports reasonable limits on the number of cats per dwelling as this can help ensure an individual cat's welfare needs are met and they experience a good life. If a limit on the number of cats per residence is considered, we urge the Ashburton District Council to set the limit no lower than three and to have a permission system for a person to have more than three cats per dwelling. We encourage the Ashburton District Council to include microchipping, desexing, and keeping cats at home (on the owner's property) as criteria for a person to have more than the permitted number of cats.	As above
143 - Nicky Snoyink for Forest & Bird	**Forest & Bird requests a limit of three cats per household** 18. Forest & Bird is supportive of all the policies in this bylaw that reflect the need to better manage the negative impacts of cats. Forest & Bird therefore requests Council consider including a three cat limit to further regulate cats across the district. 19. Imposing cat limits to households where cats pose a nuisance, e.g. from cat hoarders, is an easy way to address and abate the nuisance. In this context, the requirement to microchip would also enable officers to enforce the cat limit when required because it would be possible to identify the owners of nuisance cats. 20. Cat limits are the most common form of cat regulation in Aotearoa. New Zealanders show a high level (>65%) of support for limits to be placed on the number of cats owned per household.12	As above

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	Nearly a third of councils nationally (19/67) have a cat limit. Over 50% of councils that regulate cat numbers have set the limit to three (Table 1.). 21. Forest & Bird requests Ashburton District Council add an additional clause to limit cat numbers. This would align with Whanganui, Palmerston North, Buller, Ruapehu and Tararua District Councils, whose bylaws are arguably the most comprehensive in the country.	
23 - Lisa Williams	fully support the proposed keeping of cats bylaw changes. However i do not believe they go far enough to assist in the problem, there also needs to be a limit on the number of cats a household may have.	As above
VIII. Other		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	We notice that you have proposed a phasing in approach for existing cats, giving cat owners 6 months from the bylaw coming into effect to microchip and desex their cats. This is a sound approach and the Trust supports this approach, however we recommend that there is a clear expectation that any cats born after the bylaw is introduced are expected to be microchipped and desexed immediately. We also recommend that you run an education and awareness campaign. In other areas they have run “snip and chip” campaigns to support people to undertake the necessary actions, these have been very successful. Many councils have done this well, and would be willing to share their experience and learnings of this process. The Environment Select Committee report (August 2023) was supportive of a national legislative framework for cats. Although this national process is slow we hope that it will gain some momentum with this government. Support and advocacy from local authorities would help the progression of this and help support councils have a consistent approach across the country. Please ensure your local MP is aware of the issues you face around cat management and the need for a national cat management act for consistency around the country.	Current proposal is for the cat regulation to take affect from 1 January 2027, Council can decide on a later date. However, clarification can be added on the expectation that for cats born after the bylaw is adopted the new rules apply straight away.
IX. Registration		

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
10 - Jenny Snook	I think the draft proposal is a great idea. Dogs have to be registered with council and so should cats. I hope Christchurch City Council looks at adopting the same policy with cats.	Council is not proposing to manage Cat registration in this bylaw review.
128 - Courtney Sutton	As a cat owner, (not by choice but through the cat distribution system) fully support this. Basic requirement should be microchipping and NZCAR registration. This isn't about council revenue gathering, its about being able to keep track of your animal if something goes wrong, provides great data around cat stats particularly because NZ's endemic wildlife largely consists of birds.	
173 - Brenda Lester	Fully support the reasons for proposed added rules. Wording on Registration of Microchipped Cats with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register is a great advantage when locating and reuniting lost cats with their owners, **however** it must be reiterated to cat owners they must ensure they notify the New Zealand Companion Animal Register changes of address and/or contact details otherwise contact with the owner of a found cat is a struggle.	Noted.
X. Roaming of cats *and other nuisances*		
11 - Les Hunter	All cats should stay on owners property instead of polluting neighboring properties	
29 - Maree McGrath	Cats are becoming a huge problem not only by attacking wildlife but invading other people's properties. Should be treated same as dogs, restricted to own property.	
46 - Rebecca Perkins	Alongside the well-documented environmental concerns associated with feral cats, I am concerned about the lack of responsibility that is often expected of cat owners compared with owners of other animals. In practice, many cats are allowed to roam freely across neighbouring properties. If a dog enters another person's property and attacks a pet, most people would regard the dog owner as responsible. However, when a roaming cat kills a neighbour's bird, rabbit, rat, mouse, hamster, or other small pet on that neighbour's property, the burden is often placed on the owner of the prey animal to have provided stronger cages, fencing, or supervision. This creates an inconsistency in how responsibility is assigned.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
54 - Tessa McIntosh	would also support requirement for cats to be kept within their owners property via catio/ invisible fence/ rollers on top of fences etc	
56 - Marion logan	cats - feral, unneutered, and unwanted cats are a significant issue for people and for the cats themselves. Council stepping in is long overdue. Animal rescue groups, SPCA, etc., are overwhelmed and it is resorting to band-aid measures. We need to change people's attitude toward cats. They currently seem exempt from being a nuisance and aren't required to be kept on the owner's property. This has been normalised. In many overseas places, it is not. cats pooing, fighting and being a nuisance to other animals (rabbits/guineapigs) is a nuisance and the poo where children play is a health risk.	Noted
92 - Robin Burgess	cat shit on the next, and fights on the next door etc. properties Thers got to be legal protection for the next door property owners when its not there animal that's escaped or wonders	
108 - Robin Burton	The cat owner is responsible for keeping it within that properties boundary. While this may not be possible for cats to be restrained like dogs, this does not mean the owners are disilved of their responsibility. They also kill wildlife.	
115 - Jackie Clearwater	I hope cats are included in this? They spread disease, they defecate in peoples gardens, other than their owners. If my dog defecates in a public space I'm legally obliged to pick it, which I do! Shouldn't the same apply to cat owners?	
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	I appreciate the proposals you have put forward regarding cat management, but I do not believe they go far enough to address the wider issues associated with free-roaming cats. I support responsible cat ownership and believe stronger measures would benefit cats, their owners, local wildlife, neighbouring residents, and the wider community. At present, cats are the only commonly kept companion animals that are generally permitted to roam freely beyond their owners' property without the same registration and containment expectations that apply to dogs. I believe cat ownership should be held to a similar standard of responsibility. Introducing stronger requirements would help address many of the issues identified by the Council. Requiring cats to remain on their owners' properties would improve their welfare by lowering risks such as injury or death from traffic, illness, and becoming lost. It would also reduce avoidable	We await Government's decision and possible national direction.

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	distress for both animals and their owners, as well as veterinary costs resulting from preventable harm. Residents should be able to enjoy and maintain their homes and outdoor spaces without unwanted animals entering them or causing damage. Free-roaming cats can damage property, leave waste, spray to mark territory, dig in gardens, and contribute to disputes between neighbours. No other common household pet is generally permitted to roam freely onto other people's land, and cats should not be treated as an exception. The current approach also places an unfair burden on neighbouring residents. Those who wish to keep roaming cats off their property are often expected to bear the cost of deterrents, fencing modifications, or other measures, despite not owning the animals themselves. Responsibility for containing a pet should rest with its owner, not surrounding neighbours. A proactive approach would help prevent conflict and improve overall compliance. While I support the Council's proposals as a positive step, I believe a more comprehensive approach is needed. This should include mandatory microchipping, registration, and requirements for cats to be kept within their owners' property boundaries. I encourage the Council to strengthen the proposed rules by adopting these measures. Doing so would improve the welfare of owned cats, better protect native wildlife, reduce impacts on neighbouring properties, and create a fairer and more consistent approach to responsible pet ownership. Cat owners should be expected to prevent their pets from affecting other people, their property, and the environment, just as other pet owners are. If full implementation is not considered appropriate at this stage, I would encourage a phased approach with a clear pathway toward stronger containment requirements in the future.	
133 - Clare Lutton	I feel that cats (being introduced predators) should be kept inside to protect and restore our native birds and wildlife. Our beautiful cat is an inside girl and she is very happy. And we have a tui and many other native birds that visit our safe, predator free garden in Methven.	
144 - brent Cook	As already mentioned, we no longer grow vegetables because of the cats destroying the large garden we once had. Between scratching it up, and fouling the soil, we had to give up on it.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
148 - Annie Jacobs	I'd also like to see more done around responsible cat ownership. I don't own a cat as my section is too small and I don't have a catio, however, I should not have to clean up regular dumps in my gardens of cats' faeces owned by others. If it was wandering dogs, council can support me; why don't we have the same responsible ownership for cats?	
152 - Kelly Foster	i am a cat owner my cats x4 are microchipped desexed and all registered with nzcar its important to be responsible as they too have as much to give as a dog. My cats also have perimeter collars so arent able to leave our property we also have fence cat nets so they cant climb them it's not just about other people its about you animals safety too	
156 - Daniel Trail	I think cats should have similar rules to dogs. On leash if outside of your property apart from certain areas. They are a total nuisance in this town and roam uncontrollably. While I don't believe these rules are strict as they should be they are definitely a step in the right direction.	
160 - Brian R Chamberlain	I would like to see it compulsory for all cats to be registered, permanently identified and kept on owners property unless on a leash. This can be done. Our next door neibour is a responsible owner with two cats which never roam. They keep them on their property. I have seen motorhomers with cats happily on a leash. As a keen gardener it is very disheartening to prepare the soil sow seed plant plants and go out next morning to see them dug up and buried. As one of the few gardens in our area with cultivated soil cats use our garden as a toilet every night. I am sick of it. I have kept animals all my life since early 1940s and had to keep them on our own property always. Why are cats an ekeption allowed to roam destroy peoples gardens, kill young birds and native fauna,and spread toxoplasmosis TB and other diseases to farmed animals. I believe it is time something was done and hope you will give this serious consideration.	
195 - Gen de Spa	Cats are pretty much the only animals that there is no responsibility on the owners to control, yet if they cause a nuisance on other people's properties, those people can be prosecuted if they harm the cat (as opposed to dog owners, whose dogs can be legally shot if they are on someone else's land).	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	All moves to limit numbers of cats and, sadly, their freedom to roam at will, need to be taken at this stage of our nation's history if we wish to hold on to the bird species that give this country its special flavor.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	**Keep cats at home to reduce nuisance** SPCA advocates for cat owners to keep their cats at home and supports bylaws that facilitate this behaviour. There are public health risks, nuisance, and property damage related to companion cats whose owners allow them to freely roam from their property. There are roughly 1.26 million companion cats in 35-40% of households across New Zealand (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2025; van Heezik et al., 2010). Recent studies indicate that most cat owners do not restrict their cats from roaming from their property (Bassett et al., 2020; Companion Animals New Zealand, 2026; Gates et al., 2019). The likelihood of undesexed companion cats contributing to the stray cat populations is exacerbated by most cat owners allowing their cats to roam freely. A cat can experience positive welfare and their physical, health, and behavioural needs can be met whilst keeping them at home as indoor-only cats or with access to a secure outdoor enclosure or a garden with an escape-proof fence (de Assis & Mills, 2021).	
I. Cat as a disease vector- Toxoplasmosis		
25 - Jessi Morgan for Predator Free New Zealand Trust	Cats are the primary host for Toxoplasmosis Gondii, meaning it can only reproduce in cats. Toxoplasmosis is a major production pest, causing miscarriage and stillborn foetuses in sheep. Many farmers immunise against Toxoplasmosis but the immunisation is not 100% effective and toxo “storms” can still go through flocks of sheep like this example last year (https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/133152303/toxoplasmosis-wipes out-12k-of-lambs-bringing-cat-control-issues-to-the-fore). Humans also contract toxoplasmosis which causes miscarriages in pregnant women and illness in non-pregnant people. Toxoplasmosis also affects Maui and Hectors dolphins, kaka, kea and other native wildlife.	
46 - Rebecca Perkins	The impacts extend beyond pet ownership. Many gardeners regularly deal with cats using vegetable gardens and children's play areas as litter trays. This is not merely an inconvenience. Cats are the definitive host of the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes toxoplasmosis.	

Yes, support the rules on keeping of cats		
	Research reported by RNZ suggests that around 10,000 New Zealanders may have experienced vision impairment associated with ocular toxoplasmosis. Internationally, ocular toxoplasmosis is recognised as a significant cause of infectious eye disease and visual loss. The issue is not whether cats should be allowed as pets. The issue is whether cat ownership should carry similar responsibilities to the ownership of other animals. Reasonable measures such as microchipping, desexing, registration, and requirements to keep cats contained on their owner's property would help reduce impacts on wildlife, neighbouring properties, and public health while still allowing people to enjoy cat companionship. People should be free to own cats, but the costs and consequences of that ownership should not be imposed on their neighbours, local wildlife, or the wider community. https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests-and-threats/feral-cats/ www.rnz.co.nz/news/health/561287/10-000-new-zealanders-may-have-lost-vision-due-to-toxoplasmosis https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-82830-z	

Partially support the rules		
19 - Nicola Pace	I would support this if there was a guideline to say no microchip traps are to be used within a town boundary or within 100m of any dwelling. Even if a cat is microchipped there is room for error within these traps, so if we are trying to keep the public and wildlife safe, can we also keep our domestic felines safe within their own boundary. Live traps should only be used and should be checked every 12 hours	
21 - Kelly MacDonald	desexing yes everything else no	
77 - Karen Taylor	desexing yes, the rest no	
86 - Jasmine Marsden	I agree with mandated desexing of cats. I agree with mandated microchipping of cats. I appreciate consideration of age and health issues as exemptions. I don't agree with putting down unregistered cats/strays, without first trying to socialise and rehome them where possible. Putting them down should be a last resort for if they are suffering severe health issues or so feral they couldn't even be a barn cat. I think that local rescues could be supported in socialising and rehoming these strays to ease the strain on our environment, and humanely respond to the overpopulation of feral cats. The only reason strays are such a big problem is because people have been irresponsible and let them down by abandoning them, not getting them fixed and neglecting them. So it is up to us to make that right instead of just culling them.	Noted – Referenced situation is when a cat is caught in a trap, it will be scanned by volunteers. If microchipped and registered, it can be returned to its owner. However, if that cat is not chipped and does not appear to be a pet, it may be humanely put down.

Partially support the rules		
Changes don't go far enough		
9 - guest user	Proposed changes dont go anywhere far enough, there are many frustrated residents in this town who are sick and tired of picking up cat droppings and having valuable food plants fouled and scratched out of their gardens, Council does not realise that with the modern small sized sections and close in new townhouses there is not enough open space for a cat to run freely. In many such new developments in agroup of townhouses only a few have earth gardens many of which are becoming cat toilets. To be a cat owner in this modern world you should fence in your section to keep your animal on your land rather than let it run free,in many cities around the world this is already the case,	Council could consider additional rules on the roaming of cats. Currently we await Government's decision and possible national direction.
115 - Jackie Clearwater	This change in the bylaw doesn't go far enough. Cats should be required to be kept inside, particularly at night. The proposed changes will do little to help our biodiversity or the nuisance cats cause in our community.	As above
124 - Aldrian Bulosan	In my opinion, I think that these changes are good because it improves the safety of both humans and animals. Trapping the cat and scanning is the simplest yet effective way of checking if a cat is chipped and desexed. But my question is,why put the cat down if you can just disinfect the cat? The scanning idea can help with lowering Tuberculosis symptoms along with Toxoplasmosis. Support is required rather than destroying the actual cat.	
Desexing and microchip		
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	54 Council proposes to introduce rules for the responsible ownership of cats that would include the requirement for all cats, whether urban or rural, over the age of four months to be **desexed and microchipped**. MCFF supports measures to manage cats within urban areas. Cat management is a genuine regional issue, given the impact of feral and stray cat populations on biodiversity and animal health. 55 In urban areas, we consider the proposed requirements are justified. Cats are indiscriminate predators of native wildlife, and research shows that even well-fed, owned cats retain a strong hunting instinct, with studies indicating owners are typically aware of only around 25% of the animals their cat actually kills. 2 Desexing and microchipping urban companion cats addresses this at its source, by reducing	Semi-owned cats are typically stray cats and greater biodiversity values affected by cats in Mid-Canterbury are found in rural areas and within rivers/streams network. Also, microchipping and desexing does not remove cats' ability to

Partially support the rules		
	unwanted litters that feed stray and feral populations, and by enabling cats found roaming in sensitive habitats, including the district's braided riverbeds, to be distinguished from feral animals and returned to their owners. 56 For our members, the more significant issue is feral and stray cats, the primary vector for **toxoplasmosis.** Toxoplasma gondii is the second most common cause of ewe abortion in New Zealand.3 The parasite cycles specifically through cats, with livestock infected by ingesting oocysts shed in cat faeces via contaminated pasture, hay or water.[3] A 2014 Landcare Research report prepared for Hawke's Bay Regional Council estimated the region's farmers spend approximately $336,000 per annum vaccinating sheep against toxoplasmosis, a cost that prevents an estimated $1,032,180 per annum in lost lamb production in that region alone.4 Farmers carry this cost directly. Management of the urban cat population will help ensure that unwanted litters from owned cats do not continue to contribute to the district's stray and feral populations. 57 However, MCFF does not support applying these requirements to rural cats, and recommends cl 12.1 be limited to urban areas. Farm cats are working animals kept for rodent control around woolsheds, grain stores and hay barns. They are often semi-owned, tolerated across a property rather than owned in the urban sense, and ownership of any particular cat is frequently unclear. Microchipping and registration on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register serves no purpose for these animals: the register exists to reunite lost pets with owners, which has no application to a cat that lives and works on the property it would be returned to. 58 An urban-only approach is also consistent with neighbouring practice. Mackenzie District Council's Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2021 applies its cat provisions to urban areas only and encourages rather than mandates microchipping and desexing. Neither Timaru nor Waimate imposes any cat-specific requirements. A district-wide mandate would make Ashburton an outlier relative to every council with which it may amalgamate under the reorganisation options currently being considered.	hunt or to be used for rat control. Desexing is considered particularly important in rural areas, where owned, semi-owned and feral cats are more likely to interact, increasing the risk of contributing to feral cat populations.

Partially support the rules		
	The age threshold While MCFF supports the desexing, microchipping and registration requirements proposed for cats in the district (limited to urban cats), we recommend the applicable age be changed from four months to six months. Our preferred relief is that cat desexing and registration requirements are not applicable for rural cats, and our alternative relief is that amendments are made to the age threshold for all cats across the district. 60 We do not consider the four month threshold is supported by strong reasoning in the Statement of Proposal, and recommend six months for the following reasons. First, establishing a cat's precise age is often not straightforward in practice, particularly for farm cats, rescued or rehomed cats, or cats acquired without documentation, and a narrow four month compliance window leaves owners little room for error where the animal's exact age is uncertain. Second, a six month threshold is the prevailing national standard among councils that actually require desexing (as opposed to microchipping and registration alone), including Whangarei, Ruapehu, Manawatu, Palmerston North, Buller and Wellington City. Adopting a shorter, less common threshold in Ashburton would create an inconsistency with neighbouring and comparable districts without any stated justification for departing from prevailing practice. 61 It is important that all Ashburton District residents understand the potential for cats to spread disease and their impact on biodiversity. We encourage the Council to use the tools it has available to educate the public about the risks of feral cats, such as toxoplasmosis as part of the Council's annual communications plan.	**Age threshold** Kittens can reach puberty and become capable of reproducing as early as 14 weeks (around 3.5 months). Typically, 4 months recommended in the current proposal is consistent with current guidance from SPCA New Zealand and the New Zealand Veterinary Association, which support pre-pubertal desexing (before puberty) to prevent accidental litters. Kaikoura, Far North, Porirua, Nelson City, Tararua, Palmerston North, Hutt City, Selwyn, Whanganui all stated 4 months.
153 - Megan Allott	Do not support compulsory desexing.	
37 - Helen Lewis	All cats should meet the desex/microchip/chip registration with NZCAR. All kittens can be desexed at 12 - 16 weeks HOWEVER nearly all of the Vets in mid-Canterbury	Some local Ashburton Vets confirmed that desexing can be done

Partially support the rules		
	will not desex before 5 months for pet owners and as we know cats can get pregnant from 4 months!! This will be something the Council will have to address with the local Vets. Most of the NZCatFancy Inc Breeders desex/vaccinate/microchip kittens before they go to new homes your Policy makes sense however you will need to address the issue of age at which Vets will desex kittens.	at 4 months for both male and female cats.
Feeding of cats other than your own		
219 - Lynnette Bridge	I dont have a problem with feeding stray cats if the potential is to catch desex and rehome	
153 - Megan Allott	Support microchipping but not restricting the feeding of strays as this is a way to get them friendly enough to catch rehome.	
224 - Sue Scott	I agree it is responsible to desex cats to keep population of unwanted cats down and people should not be feeding and encouraging other peoples cats or strays/feral cats. I do not think it is necessary to make rules people microchip and register cats as most people do anyway. Most owners are responsible. Stray/feral cats can be a problem and there are already things in place to deal with that.	
Funding / costs		
93 - Lawrence Richmond	I consider if microchips ate required for the public good then owners who comply shouldn't have to wear the cost, particularly those with more than one cat. Secondly I feel the one size fits all syndrome has been applied to so called stray animals. We personally have rehomed cats that belonged to elderly people who had died, the family to care for the cat, but chose to dump it instead	

Partially support the rules		
	One on the Ashburton river bed that, through some campers, found its way to the then Mid Canterbury SPCA, from where we rehomed it, pedigree Cornish Rex. The second, within the last six months, was dumped on the State highway and found its way here . It was originally seen by the neighbours wearing a collar and bell. It came here, was obviously a pet, and has moved in permanently. We checked lost cat sites on the internet with no luck and took it to our vet to check for a microchip, nothing.	
123 - Joshua Magpali	I am writing in regards of the Keeping of Animals Bylaw. In my opinion we should add more changes to the bylaw. Desexing and microchipping pets might cost too much for low income households. Pets that are exempted and are caught in a trap will be put down because they have no chip to trace back to. I suggest there should be an income threshold check and allow or support low income earners to get free access to microchipping and desexing of their pets.	
127 - Elena Tomov	The stray cat issue needs to be helped by the council. Why not add $5 to all annual rate bills (on top of your usual high annual increase it's not a big difference) and put that money towards catching and de-sexing the stray cats or donate this extra money to one of the local cat charities so they can continue to help with the problem or to one of the local vets so people on low incomes or pensioners can get their cats desexed at a cheaper rate. The council needs to be proactive in assisting the rate payers not expecting them to pay more money to microchip their cats. Our excessively high increase in living expenses make it hard enough to survive. Most cat owners are responsible and treat their cats extremely well and they are helping the community by giving cats a home, but with another expense (microchipping) they won't be able to and therefore there will be more stray animals as feeding them costs enough and with extra microchip charges it becomes not a viable option. Again, nominate a vet and give them some financial help to help with the problem don't pass it onto the ratepayers again. Desexing should be done and the reason people don't is because it is expensive not because they don't want to. Cat owners that live on main roads such as Saunders Road have a high mortality rate amongst their pets so it would be a high cost and waste of money to microchip every cat that then may get killed on the road. Cat owners are already helping with the stray cat problem, don't make it harder and more expensive for them. It will result in less people helping adopt strays.	

Partially support the rules		
Roaming and other nuisances		
37 - Helen Lewis	i believe it is essential that cats be kept on the property to which they belong given that now there are a wide range of cat containment systems available.	
144 - brent Cook	Dog owners have been paying registrations and are penalised when they let their dogs roam, for not taking proper care of them etc for decades. Cat owners allow their cats to roam, have multiple cats (often more than two), and give them little to no care. An easy example of this being a problem is we had to give up having a vegie garden as the neighbourhood cats constantly defecated in it, souring the soil, killing the plants. This is a typical theme for most gardeners here. We spoke to our neighbours about it, and the attitude was between a shrug and a laugh. Cats are pests, their waste is toxic to humans, they kill birdlife at a far greater speed than any dog is capable of. Yet they have never been subject to any controls. Cat leavings are exceptionally dangerous as it carries Toxoplasma Gondii, which is a parasite affecting muscle tissue or the brain in humans. Particularly for pregnant women, and vulnerable people living with disability (for example immune problems).	
Other suggestions		
6 - Debbie Woods	I support but its only going to be the owners that already do this. Its not addressing the already huge feral or unneutered population. Need to promote more Chip and Snip cat days for known strays. so people can trap and get them desexed for free and let them go where collected again	
86 - Jasmine Marsden	Could there be a community cat cafe where some of the proceeds go to the care and support of socialising and rehoming strays where possible. That way there is less strain on the ratepayers and more of a community approach in dealing with the problem humanely.	Community could initiate this initiative. See the Mid Canterbury Fund Finder for community grants and funding.

Partially support the rules		
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	**Bylaw versus a Policy** MCFF questions whether the introduction of cat-specific rules by way of a Bylaw is the most appropriate way to address the perceived problem of cat management. We instead recommend Council adopt a Cat Management Policy, similar in approach to that adopted by Gore District Council. 63 Section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to satisfy itself, before making a bylaw, that a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem, and that it does not give rise to implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. A bylaw is, by its nature, an enforceable instrument, intended to be backed by inspection, infringement and prosecution powers where necessary. Council has, however, been explicit that it does not intend to resource active enforcement of the proposed cat rules, and instead intends to rely on an educational approach. In our view, this signals that Council itself does not consider the compliance and enforcement machinery of a bylaw to be necessary to achieve its stated objective, which is behaviour change through education rather than compulsion. 64 Where the intended approach is educative rather than enforcement-based, a policy is the more appropriate instrument. Policies allow Council to set clear expectations for responsible cat ownership, including desexing, microchipping and registration, and to support these expectations with communication, partnership with SPCA and rescue organisations, and community education, without creating an enforceable obligation that Council does not, in practice, intend to enforce. Gore District Council's Cat Management Policy is a useful example of this approach already operating successfully elsewhere in the South Island. It is also easier, and more cost effective, for Council to update a policy as needed compared to a bylaw review. 65 We are concerned that introducing an unenforced bylaw risks undermining the credibility of Council's regulatory instruments more broadly. A bylaw that residents come to understand will not be enforced sends a weaker compliance signal than a clearly framed policy that is transparent about its educational intent from the outset. We consider Council is more likely to achieve genuine, lasting change in cat ownership behaviour through a well-resourced, clearly	**Bylaw versus a Policy** Most councils that address cat management do so through bylaws or guidelines. A bylaw was the more appropriate option as it provides clear community expectations, supports education and voluntary compliance, and gives Council proportionate regulatory tools should intervention be required in the future. The option of developing a cat management policy was discussed with Council at the 31 March workshop. While a policy could be used to promote responsible cat ownership, it would not provide a formal regulatory framework or any mechanism for Council to respond where issues arise.

Partially support the rules		
	communicated policy than through a bylaw provision it has already signalled it will not actively police. 66 If Council nonetheless proceeds with a Bylaw rather than a Policy, we ask that Council provide a clear statement addressing the s.155 test, in particular why a bylaw rather than a policy, has been assessed as the most appropriate mechanism, given the stated educational intent behind these provisions. Within the Consultation Document, the s.155 test has been applied broadly to the entire Bylaw but has not specifically addressed whether a bylaw is the most appropriate way to address the perceived problem. 67 Our primary relief is therefore that Council develop a stand-alone cat management policy, subject to consultation. However, if this relief is not granted then we seek amendments to the Bylaw as outlined within this submission (summarised in Appendix 2)	**S155 test:** Officers considered the proposed cat management clause under section 155 and concluded that a bylaw clause is the appropriate approach. While education and advocacy remain important, the clause provides a clear framework for responsible cat ownership and supports the protection of native wildlife and biodiversity. Officers are satisfied that the clause is proportionate and consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
Desexing & microchipping		
19 - Nicola Pace	if an owner is required to keep an animal safe by microchipping and desexing, then there needs to be a guideline around keeping your pet safe within the community by local groups who wish to trap cats. Currently there is no guideline around only live traps to be used within town boundaries or 100m from any dwelling. AT220 or microchip traps do not fall within the NAWAC guidelines for cats therefore they could cause an inhumane death within a town boundary.	
20 - Gretchen Hart	no. Microchips are unreliable. Even when chipped the chips can stop working or move and not be read. I've experienced this with two of my pets and the vet said it was common. Your policy will put pets at risk of being euthanaisia if this occurs. Just need more active in relation to supporting cat rescues who catch and desex. Work with the current system, not against it.	
68 - Sue-ann Carr	I agree domestic cats should be desexed (unless a registered breeder) but do believe 4mths is a bit young, I would say by 6mths to be desexed. (I know vets desex by age 4mths but some kittens are tiny). I worry about the micro-chip as I have had to have my cat microchipped a second time as the scanner did not pick up her first micro chip, so this may happen for others and council may see them as a stray. I dont feel paying to have them registered is fair, mine is registered with the vets, that should be enough.	
159 - Elizabeth Bell	there is a cost with microchipping and I wouldnt want to do this to my cats as it is not proven that it doesnt harm the cats. In fact I have heard that the chip can migrate and cause harm and even death.	
215 - Lynette Lovett	Another cost who is going to monitor this policy. Another nice to have. If cat population becomes extinct how are you going to control the rats/mice etc.	The purpose of the proposed cat management clause is not to eliminate the cat population. The clause promotes responsible cat ownership while supporting the protection of indigenous biodiversity and animal and

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
		human health. Cat ownership, including registered breeding, will continue to be permitted.
Enforcement		
48 - Paul Cornelius	Govt have told Local Govt to reduce rates and regulations. It appears you are not listening, this is the type regulation not wanted. It has already cost staff time to draft the proposed rules and continued ongoing administration and field enforcement. I note electric fences for other animals, have to be checked daily, who checks this ,nobody just wasted regulation. The problem cat owners will be the first one to NOT microchip their cats. Trying to enforce this type of regulation is impossible. Vets will love this, pensioners, who are going to pay $100 more for rent, will not. Council need to grasp the fact they cannot keep on pushing up rates and costs to ratepayers especially at over double the inflation rate. You mention to primary educate, this can be done outside of regulation, in the current media formats that Council use. Environmental issues, are already, undertaken by Ecan, eg trapping cats at bird colonies. This can easily be done when unitary authorities are formed.	
68 - Sue-ann Carr	I agree domestic cats should be desexed (unless a registered breeder) but if the council are not enforcing checks on this, then the issues of cats will not change, and what is the point of the council proposing this? You will only get the responsible owners that will do this, if it is enforced.	
92 - Robin Burgess	Some tighter controls around keeping of cats, if a neighbor can be sued if the cat jumps the fence of it owners and gets injured by a dog or another cat in the next property, this happened in the north island recently which it is just a stupid law, this means all cats should stay inside their house or property boundary because the owners of the next property shouldn't be liable as they could be away at work. As we say your cat your problem. Also, this opens a can of worms as if a cat shits on the next-door property and that owner gets sick from that cat's poo in the garden then whose liable.	
207 - Paula Annand	You have admitted in your wording that ‘responsible’ cat owners already desex, vaccinate and treat their cats for parasites. What makes you think that irresponsible cat owners are suddenly going to do all of this and microchip them as well. We already have welfare organisations in Mid-Canterbury whom desex and rehome unwanted/stray cats. I would prefer to see any ratepayer	

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
	spend go to these organisations who would and already do contribute to lowering the stray cat population in Mid-Canterbury. Your bylaw wont make a scrap of difference. Historically Methven had a stray cat problem due to the overseas tenants leaving for the season and leaving their cats behind. Maybe you should be talking to landlords to impose strict no pet policies for overseas tenants.	
149 - Grahame Kelly	My wife and I are pensioners. We own and adore out cat. We are comforted that it keeps vermin like mice and rats etc off our property. Yes, it sometimes brings a bird or mouse to the door to show her worth!!! Cats are natural hunters and will continue to to that. Out cat visits two of our close neighbours with absolutely not issues, in fact when they neighbours visits us she will sit on their laps. I would be pretty disappointed if we had people capturing cats going between neighbours and taking them away to be checked for microchips etc.	
Feeding of cats other than your own		
161 - Lexie Crawford	As for the feeding of stray cats. I believe people should be allowed to feed stray cats as much as they like. If these cats are being fed by people, they're less likely to kill native birds for food. Many people who feed stray cats end up taking these cats in as their house pets eventually once they build up the trust, and therefore it shouldnt be controlled. Deciding whether or not people are ALLOWED to feed animals with food that their OWN MONEY would be overreaching beyond what a council should be able to control.	
185 - Adi Avnit	While I support micro-chipping and registering cats from the animal welfare point of view, I object to clause 12.2 about feeding cats. No person should be made a criminal because they have the compassion of feeding abandoned cats.	
Funding / costs		
151 - Rob Markillie	more expense	
211 - Robyn Ayton	Only the people who look after their cats and breeders of cats might willingly get cats microchips. It is expensive to feed and look after cats all your bullshit will making having animals inaccessible	

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
	for a lot of families and animals can teach children a lot of life lessons. Feels like the people who care are just getting made examples of again.	
Number of cats		
68 - Sue-ann Carr	I feel registered breeders, should have a limit of cats that they breed from. Where I got my cat, the owner didnt have a clue which kitten was which as she had too many. I feel there should be a limit on number of cats kept in a home as domestic cats, two or three is plenty.	Breeders may be subject to controls under other legislation such as the Resource Management Act or Animal Welfare Act. Council could consider a restriction on the number of cats per household.
Overreach Council control		
18 - Deborah Manhire	We don't own cats, but again council are encroaching on freedoms.	
33 - Chris Pringuer	Sounds like a sneaky money grab for the council.	
129 - Sharon MacKenzie	why does the council feel a need to control every aspect of our lives. Is it not enough that we are forced to pay extremely high rates for poor to average services. The council sends money it doesnt have and we a rate payers have so little say. It it not enough that the coucil overspent on an ugly building - a monument to itself that went massively over budget. Now you want to take away the joy from people of having pets, raising animals that are useful.	
161 - Lexie Crawford	i Believe that the council is overextending their control over cat owners. People should not be forced into putting their cats through medical procedures. Microchipping and desexing cats are both texhnically medical procedures and therefore should not be something that is forced. All medical procedures carry risk of injury or death and therefore should be up to the owners	This bylaw provision is intended to be educational and encouraging in nature.

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
	whether they choose to carry these out or not. This is especially true since it will be up to the owners, not the council, who will need to pay for these procedures. Having to register cats is also something I do not support as it is another fee for people to pay and one they should not have to. Life is expensive enough today without the council adding MORE fees to our lives.	
170 - Deanna Walsh	I do not support registration of cats, enforced desexing of cats, or, compulsory or encouraged microchipping of cats. Registering of cats is like registering guns. It only tells you where they once were. Yes, if a cat is found wandering it could be reconnected with owner. However, just as with the gun register, it is only the law abiding compliant citizens that are going to comply. A poor animal custodian is not going to comply with desexing or registering or ensuring their animal is not a nuisance. Are domestic cats really the big problem in the district? Or is it more likely the unwanted cats that get dumped on a country roadside, or at the river? These are the ones that are breeding unrestrained, expanding the population of unwanted wild felines. If desexing was mandatory then it could be argued there would be fewer kittens/cats being dumped, but a person inclined to dump an animal is really unlikely to care about such things as opting to desex. This policy is the council delving into additional areas that it doesn't need to spend time and ratepayer money on. Councils in general need to trim back operations to core responsibilities for key efficiencies.	The intention is to change behaviour in the community to control cats and reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens becoming stray and feral.
179 - Robyn Kelland	It should be the owners choice to microchip or desex. What provisions are in place for breeders?	
190 - Andrea Chalmers	When does purchasing and adding a cat to the famiy need to be controlled by local government. A cat can greatly benefit a person's mental health as they are a great companion pet. The proposed changes is going mean that the cost of purchasing (only from a breeder under the new rules) and owning a cat is going to be out of reach for the many people whose lives are greatly enriched by a cat especially the elderly and those that live by themselves. This rule could also mean that people who do have an unregistered cat, will not sort medical health for their pet if it is not desexed.	

No, do not support the rules on keeping of cats		
	I believe public health is more at risk by removing wild cats from the district as these cats keep down rats, mice, stoats, rabbits etc. Having lived rurally for more than 40 years, I have not seen an increase in feral cats. Barn cats (wild) are welcomed as rats, mice, birds (and nests) can do major damage to farm machinery. I have seen no decrease in bird life, in fact bird life has increased due to farmland being a lot more productive than in the past (due to irrigation) and I consider a bylaw to desex all cats over 4 months as an extreme rule and will be a threat to our biodiversity due to an increase in pest population. There are methods available ie trapping for the sensitive parts of the district.	
215 - Lynette Lovett	I don't believe farm cats should be part of this policy. They are needed for vermin control. Cats that are dumped in high country can be shot. Covid told us if you have no noise and cars out of town bird life returns. Our farm like all others are full of birds. Native especially. should not apply to farm cats	As per comment above (Submission 228).
Registration		
94 - Grant McFaull	registering cats is NUTS	

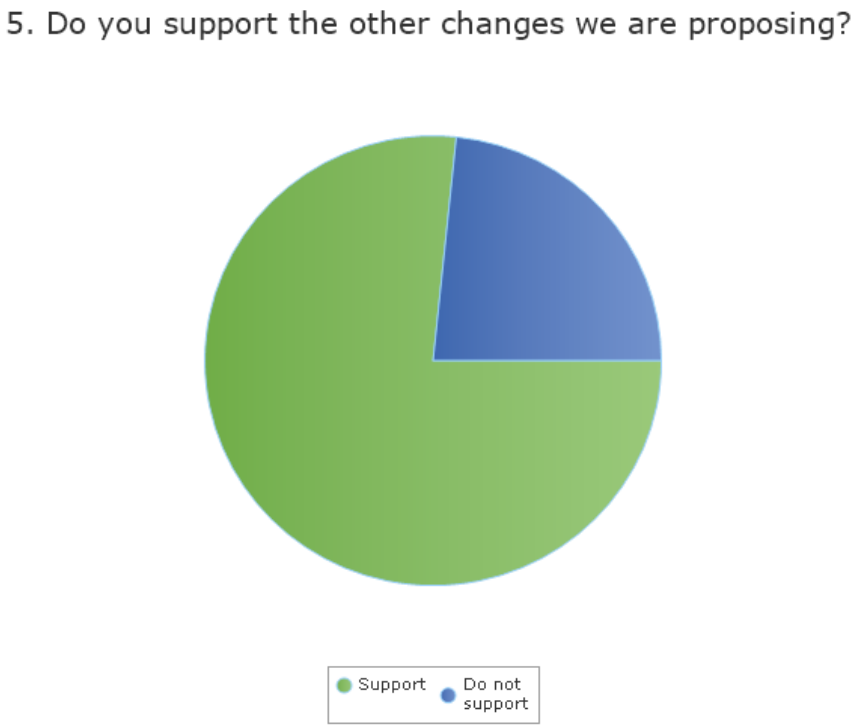
Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw > Other changes

We are proposing other smaller changes on pages 12-13 of the consultation document.

5. Do you support the other changes we are proposing?

Total number of responses: 77

	Number of people	%
Support	59	76.62%
Do not support	18	23.38%
Total	**77**	



Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the other changes		
58 - Richard Mabon	All seemed sensible at a quick glance.	
108 - Robin Burton	These changes are for the benefit of our community	
149 - Grahame Kelly	I'm happy for the controls required to keep people and cats, dogs safe.	
150 - Erin Mitchell	makes sense	
221 - John McGirr	Good rules that bring issues into line - Definitions need to be clear and easy to understand and that has been done in this case	
Definitions		
44 - Rosemary Hinchliffe	In 13.2, it could be worth defining 'humanely' in 'dispose of the animal(s) humanely' so this is not left to interpretation, or, requiring a registered vet to carry out this action.	Current practice is that Council recommends the owner of the property to use a veterinarian.
Other		
10 - Jenny Snook	At present it is just support the cat policy changes.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Change is only made in the best thoughts of the greater good for our community.	
92 - Robin Burgess	If owners don't take responsibility of their animals, then they shouldn't have them	
109 - Sally Warwood	It can be hard with different animals and bees about, have to adjust to living close to others.	

142 - Bridget McCauley	Unsure of exactly what pages this is referring to, the Draft bylaw only goes to page 7.	
Roaming and other nuisances		
9 - guest user	As above please realise this is a serious concern to a growing number of locals	
Rooster / poultry		
41 - Kate White	I am very pleased to see in 10.3 the requirement for a poutry house to have a concrete floor has been removed!	
55 - Amanda Watson	Good to have simplified, clear and in some places numbers mentioned. you haven't mentioned NO ROOSTERS 'allowed.	The bylaw currently allows for roosters in urban areas as long as they do not cause a nuisance. All situations are considered on their merits. In some instances roosters may be appropriate and therefore an outright ban is considered disproportionate.

No, do not support the other changes		
18 - Deborah Manhire	I personally don't agree with any of your ideas. People love their animals and council should drop these proposed changes.	The intention is to clarify measures to prevent nuisance from occurring.
93 - Lawrence Richmond	not enough detail.	
161 - Lexie Crawford	I support the changes to improve clarity but only that.	
190 - Andrea Chalmers	I believe the current Bylaws are sufficient and do not need to add increased financial burden to the rate payer.	
Feeding of cats other than your own		
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand	In regard to subclause 12.2, we do NOT support the subclause as it is currently written: 12.2 No person must intentionally feed a cat other than a cat they own, unless it is temporary and for the purposes of trapping or capture, where that feeding • encourages stray or feral cat populations, • results in nuisance or fouling, or • adversely affects wildlife or public health. 12.2 No person must intentionally feed a cat other than a cat they own, unless it is temporary and for the **purposes of a recognised stray cat management activity (including trapping, desexing, treatment, identification, reunification, or rehoming),** where that feeding • encourages stray or feral cat populations, • results in nuisance or fouling, or • adversely affects wildlife or public health. This is consistent with both the NCMG report (NCMG, 2025) and SPCA's position (SPCA, n.d.), which support managed TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). A "temporary...trapping" exemption only covers the moment of capture, missing the coordinated management a TNR colony needs beyond that single moment.	12.2: Officers can update clause accordingly.

Funding		
33 - Chris Pringuer	the benefit for the cost is not worth it.	
Horses		
6 - Debbie Woods	Again id like clarity on the Riding of horses in urban areas. I think there should be a rule about collecting the manure for sure especially in town.	See question 1 comment on submitter (6- Debbie Woods)
Overreach Council control		
129 - Sharon MacKenzie	i think the council sound be more honest with the public. Say you are getting prepared for a fake 'bird flu' pandemic. You are planning to kill all poultry in the guise of keeping us SAFE. That you will be providing false tests to prove that the poultry do indeed have 'bird flu' and will process to kill peoples healthy poultry. Cats also have their uses. They kill pests such as rats and mice - which also spread disease. The council has over reached its power in this document. I do not like any of the changes.	The Bylaw is intended to address nuisance issues. Any Government direction relating to measures for managing bird flu will be addressed separately and is not part of the Bylaw.
Rooster / poultry		
77 - Karen Taylor	Poultry limits need removed, especially for rural and any Breeder apart of the Ashburton Fanciers Society.	The restriction of 12 poultry is stated in section 17. Definitions of the District Plan. The Bylaw is consistent with this existing control.

Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw > Further comments

Total number of submitters: 35

6. Do you have any other comments?

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Bees		
222 - Roger Bray	With respect to **beekeeping in urban environmen**t the requirements of the American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan should be better articulated if necessary. The requirement to register locations and include code numbers on beehives etc are part of the rules within the PMP and should not need to become part of council bylaws. What is to be achieved by misleading those that read the council bylaws? NZ society has changed where there appears an increasing intolerance between members of the community. For clashes between neighbours, I do not think it appropriate Council should be placed in a position to enforce a bylaw where for example a poultry owner exceeds the number of poultry on site because say, an (unplanned) number of chickens hatched from a sitting of eggs, or bee poop landed on a persons washing.	Reference to the requirement to register any apiary with The Management Agency (not Council) is added as a clarification and common in Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaws throughout the country.
Funding / costs		
127 - Elena Tomov	The council would be helping the ratepayers by researching solutions, not just making each household pay for their rules and decisions. We are all already struggling financially and mentally with all price rises and looking for extra money we don't have.	Reviewing the bylaw is a legal requirement and Council is not proposing changes that require additional rate funding.
159 - Elizabeth Bell	We pay a nassive amount in rates and we seem to have zero say and what are the wildlife we are supposed to be saving from cats? Fantails are the only native brds here on our property and the council didnt care about the other wildlife eg rabbits and other birds and	

	bees etc, when it came to stopping our stock water race sustem which I might add was what brought life to the Canterbury plains.	
224 - Sue Scott	Cost can be difficult for many people, yet desexing cats is a priority to prevent feral/stray cats from roaming around, cost is a factor with all the many requirements coming from a more and more regulated system.	
Horses		
56 - marion logan	just having horses have to walk on the road seems very hazardous . am i reading that correctly? surely horses should be footpath or burm. 6:4 insufficent feed animals must be removed except horses. needs change chickens are feed, sheep can have winter food	Officers are proposing a change to clause 9.2 to make the riding or leading of a horse allowed on the road *or* berm, not footpaths. RE 6.4: Other legislation (Welfare Act) provides for this concern. Staff would work with other animal welfare agencies if required.
Overreach Council control		
129 - Sharon MacKenzie	Leave us alone :). Let us enjoy the blessing of having animals in our yards. Animals are great companions; a source of food & pest control. They teach children compassion. Haven't the council/government already taken so much off us. It seems taking away all joy in the guise of SAFETY is your true purpose.	
159 - Elizabeth Bell	Why are the council constantly making changes and adding more rules. It's unnecessary and upsetting to many of us. People should be able to have cats without having things like what you are proposing forced on them. Also why do you always listen to those who dont like cats and those who dont have them themselves.	

161 - Lexie Crawford	A lot of these changes seem to me like a major overreach of control	
170 - Deanna Walsh	New Zealand is increasingly becoming a society with rules and policy for every aspect of life. This discourages common sense, general thinking by citizens, respect for others, self determination, self responsibility and community congeniality. It leans more to the covid era (error) "dob in your neighbour" mentality. We do not want or need that in society.	
224 - Sue Scott	I do have concern about more regulations being implemented by council. people do need to have reasonable consideration for neighbours yet things seem to be becoming get more and more tied up in council regulation.	
Other		
6 - Debbie Woods	I think this part was not explained in detail of the changes. Apart from the cats and the stock fences. You cant say your going to change it but not actually list what changes are being made	Changes are provided in the tracked change document.
53 - guest user	feel it is about time for a cat registry.	Registries such as the NZ Companion Animal Register provide this service.
56 - marion logan	why no pigs- if the smell is not a nuisance and space is sufficent to not cause a problem	Council's action would be based on proven nuisance, generally based on complaints.
75 - Di Davidson	Support protection for local biodiversity but not by destroying someone else's work - Wakanui Beach being a fine example of destroying someone else's work - I note the domain is full of exotics - are you going to destroy that?	
92 - Robin Burgess	FOR MANY OF PEOPLE IVE TALKED TO THAT SAW ON TV1 7 SHARP LAST MONTH AND SAW THE DOG OWNER THAT GOT SUE FOR BY THE NIEGHBOURS CAT OWNER WHICH CROSS THIER FENCE TO GET HERT ARE UPSET ON HOW THIS LAW IS UPHELD. WHAT THIS DOES IS DISCOURAGES ANY ONE TO SAY IF YOU RUN OVER SOME ONE ELSES CAT OR HERT IT ACCIDENTLY, IT PROMOTES DISOHNISTY.	

149 - Grahame Kelly	Yes: I'm would be concerned if these controls were unduly being influenced to the likes of Forest and Bird enthusiasts who would likely be excited by the prospect of NOT CATS in an over the top effort to save the birds around the district. And do get me wrong, we love birds visiting our section. We feed them and have a bird bath that they visit every day. Domestic cats I believe would be unlikely to venture into the bush or riverbed areas to cause concern of some of the rarer species of birds. I think the rarer species have more immediate threats to their survival.	Domestic cats have been found in traps in the riverbed areas.
194 - Lyn Womersley	This questionaire, while important is somewhat lengthy and having to further comment each time is tiring	Noted
211 - Robyn Ayton	Maybe if the council took responsibility for the roads and footpath in the Ashburton district they would not have time to think up so many stupid ideas.	
Other suggestions		
153 - Megan Allott	Stock should not be allowed to be kept in urban areas	Various controls and regulations control locations of stock.
221 - John McGirr	Cats are of concern, rule needs to be extended to secure the area. A Cat that is not chipped etc as proposed must be disposed of without consultation - reduces costs and over time should reduce the numbers of stray cats. If owners do not follow the rules it also tells me they have no regard for others in their community, if they have a stray cat or a cat that is not chipped it must be destroyed on the spot - do not spend the time and money chasing an owner who does not care and does not want to obey the rules. Owners of cats visiting neighbor's property to piss and shit deserve to have their animals taken off them and neutralized. This task has to be approved so that property owners who have this animal issue bestowed on them have the right to naturalize the threat by whatever means available to them.	

228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	**Definitions -** "Companion cat", "feral cat" and "stray cat". The draft Bylaw fails to include important definitions for different types of cats, despite these being adequately defined within the Statement of Proposal. The Bylaw's only relevant definition is "feral animal," meaning an animal in a wild state, not domesticated or cultivated. No specific definition of "companion cat," "stray cat," or "feral cat" is provided, despite both "stray" and "feral cat" being used operatively in clauses 12.2 and 13. Given there is no national cat legislation to anchor these terms, unlike the position for stock and dogs under the Dog Control Act 1996, the Bylaw's own definitions are the only safeguard against inconsistent or inaccurate classification of cats found in the district. In practice, a stray cat (a lost or abandoned companion cat, still dependent to some degree on humans) is a materially different animal, in welfare, ownership and legal terms, from a genuinely feral cat (self-sustaining, not dependent on humans, generally avoiding human contact). The generic "feral animal" definition does not capture this distinction. This gap creates a risk under cl 13.2, which requires the owner of the property from which a "feral animal" emanates to abate the nuisance, including by disposing of the animal(s) humanely. Without a clear definition distinguishing stray from feral cats, a lost or abandoned companion cat could be treated as feral and be subject to destruction, rather than being reunited with its owner or rehomed. We recommend Council adopt definitions of "companion cat," "stray cat" and "feral cat", consistent with the widely used categories set out in the Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare, issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999: **Companion cat** means a common domestic cat that lives with humans as a companion and is dependent on humans for its welfare. **Feral cat** means a cat which is not a stray cat and which has none of its needs provided by humans, and which does not generally live around centres of human habitation. **Stray cat** means a companion cat that is lost or abandoned, and which is living as an individual or in a group (colony). Stray cats have many of their needs indirectly supplied by humans and live around centres of human habitation. These recommended definitions are drawn directly from the Code, issued by National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and recognised under the Animal Welfare	**Definitions** Definitions for each cat's category were provided in the consultation document, based on the Code of Welfare, Companion Cats. Officers agree to include these in the bylaw. Noting that responsibility for Feral cats sits with Regional Council's under Biosecurity Act and Predator Free 2050 project. The intention of the bylaw is to minimise the number of cats and kittens becoming stray or feral.

	Act 1999 as evidence of acceptable welfare practice. The Code provides the closest thing New Zealand has to a legislative framework for cat categorisation, in the same way the Dog Control Act 1996 provides for "stock" and "public place" elsewhere in this submission. Aligning the Bylaw's definitions to the Code ensures consistency with the standard already applied by SPCA, MPI, and the wider veterinary sector, and means any decision under cl 13 to abate, trap or destroy a "feral" animal is made against a definition with recognised national standing, rather than a Bylaw-specific term with no external reference point. Inconsistent or undefined categorisation has caused real difficulty elsewhere. Auckland Council's attempt to classify some stray cats as pests alongside feral cats faced significant public backlash and required subsequent revision1. We recommend Council adopt settled, nationally recognised terminology from the outset, rather than a generic "feral animal" definition that is not drawn from, and is not consistent with, the Code. **Stock** The draft Bylaw narrows the Dog Control Act 1996 definition of "stock" to exclude both possums and pigs (swine), which otherwise fall within the Act's definition. MCFF supports both exclusions. *See more details in full submission* **Nuisance from animals (cl 6)** Clause 6 currently prohibits keeping any noisy animal, bird, or poultry in an urban area that causes a nuisance to occupiers of neighbouring properties. The draft Bylaw proposes to remove the word "noisy," so that the clause instead prohibits keeping any animal, bird, or poultry that causes a nuisance in an urban area, whatever the source of that nuisance. The Statement of Proposal does not explain why this broadening is necessary. As currently drafted, cl 6 serves a clear and narrow purpose, addressing noise nuisance from animals in town, distinct from other forms of nuisance. Removing "noisy" expands the clause to cover any form of nuisance, including odour, general amenity effects, or other unreasonable interference as defined in cl 5, without any stated rationale for why the narrower, noise-specific rule is no longer considered sufficient. A breach of cl 6 exposes an owner directly to the general breach and penalty provision including a fine of up to $20,000 on summary conviction, with no requirement for prior notice or an opportunity to remedy the nuisance first. This means the same underlying	**Stock** *noted* **Clause 6: nuisance from animals** The updated definition of ‘nuisance’ includes a specific reference to noise. The new proposed heading of section 6. covers the full purpose of the bylaw, rather than just noise.

	conduct, an urban animal causing a general nuisance, could be pursued by Council under two different clauses with materially different procedural protections for the owner, without any guidance in the Bylaw as to which applies, or why. We recommend Council remove cl 6 in its entirety, on the basis that it duplicates the substance of cl 15 once broadened beyond noise, while providing materially weaker procedural protection for the animal owner. Clause 15 is capable of addressing any genuine nuisance from animals, birds, or poultry in urban areas, including noise, without the need for a separate, overlapping provision. **Stock Licensing in urban areas – capture of lifestyle blocks (cl 8.1)** Clause 8.1 requires a stock licence, granted at Council's discretion and subject to conditions it may impose, for any stock kept on a property within an "urban area," other than land zoned Residential D. "Urban area" is defined in clause 5 as "properties not within rural A, B and C zones of the Ashburton District Plan". This definition, combined with cl 8.1, may capture some lifestyle blocks within Residential C and located in the district's townships and rural villages, including Methven, Mayfield and Mt Somers. These properties may be large enough, and used in a manner consistent with, keeping a small number of stock (for example, a few sheep, a horse, or house cows) for lifestyle or hobby farming purposes. Under the current drafting, an owner of such a block would need to apply for and hold a Council stock licence, be subject to Council-imposed conditions, and risk having that licence revoked, in the same way as a genuinely urban residential property keeping stock in a suburban section. The rationale for stock licensing in urban areas, protecting neighbouring residential amenity from stock kept in close proximity on small urban sections, does not apply in the same way to lifestyle blocks in township environments, which are typically larger and where neighbouring properties are likely to be in similar lifestyle or rural-residential use themselves. We recommend Council extend the Residential D exemption in cl 8.1 to cover larger lots located within rural villages, so that a stock licence is not required for ordinary lifestyle block stock-keeping in properties of this nature. This can be achieved by exempting	If Council agrees for the new clause 15 to be included in the bylaw this could indeed replace clause 6. **Stock Licensing in urban areas** The point is noted, however given these areas are zoned for development, it can be expected that landscapes and activities will change over time. It is considered appropriate that Council maintains control over this to ensure effects are managed.

	properties of a minimum 4000m² lot size alongside the existing Residential D exemption. The 4,000m² threshold is drawn from the District Plan, being the minimum net area for the Residential D zone5, the zone that cl 8.1 already exempts. A property of that size provides the same physical separation from neighbours regardless of its zoning, therefore a size-based exemption treats like properties alike and avoids requiring a discretionary licence on one side of a zone boundary and none on the other for sections of the same size in the same township. Council retains its powers to address any actual nuisance arising on an exempt property. The same issue arises under cl 7.1, which prohibits pig keeping outright on any property in an urban area, with no licence pathway available (the First Schedule confirms no stock licence may be issued for pigs). Combined with the broad "urban area" definition, this prohibits a lifestyle block in Methven, Mayfield or Mt Somers within Residential C from keeping even one or two pigs for household purposes, while a rural-zoned property across the road may do so subject only to the District Plan. Consistent with our recommendation on cl 8.1, we recommend cl 7.1 be amended to exempt properties with a net site area of 4,000m² or more from the urban prohibition, with pig keeping on those properties instead subject to the District Plan and Resource Management Act 1991 in the same way as rural land. Recommended wording is set out in Appendix 2. **Stock licensing – neighbour consultation process (cl 8.2)** Clause 8.2 provides that, in considering an application for a stock licence, Council "shall give due consideration to the opinions and submissions of the occupiers of neighbouring properties." We have significant concerns with this process as currently drafted. The clause provides no detail on how this process is intended to operate in practice. It is unclear whether neighbouring occupiers are proactively notified of an application and invited to comment, or whether their "opinions and submissions" are only considered if volunteered; what timeframe applies for any such input; what weight Council is meant to give to a neighbour's objection relative to other planning or animal welfare considerations;	**Stock licensing – neighbour consultation process (cl 8.2)** Council Officers have responsibilities to both occupiers and neighbours in assessing applications and making balanced decisions, noting that decisions can

	or what recourse an applicant has if a licence is declined or made subject to onerous conditions on the basis of a neighbour's opinion alone. This creates a real risk that a stock licence application, otherwise consistent with the District Plan and this Bylaw's other conditions, could be declined or restricted based on a neighbour's personal preference or an existing, unrelated dispute between neighbours, rather than on any genuine nuisance, biosecurity, or animal welfare concern. An applicant has no way of knowing in advance what standard their neighbour's opinion will be tested against, since none is specified, and no equivalent right of reply or opportunity to address concerns raised is provided for in the clause. The clause as drafted also fails to account for reverse sensitivity effects. Reverse sensitivity arises where a new or incoming land use is permitted to encroach on an existing, lawfully established activity, and the existing activity is then constrained, or made harder to continue, because of complaints from the new arrival, rather than because the existing activity's own effects have changed in any way. Clause 8.2, as drafted, allows a stock licence application, including a renewal or an application arising from a change in adjoining land ownership or use, to be assessed against the opinions of neighbouring occupiers without any distinction between a longstanding, lawfully established stock-keeping activity and a new proposal. This means an established rural or lifestyle stock keeper could have their ability to continue an existing activity curtailed simply because a new neighbour, who has chosen to locate next to an existing stock-keeping property, later objects to its ordinary and reasonably foreseeable effects. This is the reverse sensitivity problem in its classic form, and it is inconsistent with the general principle, well recognised in resource management law and practice, that new development bears responsibility for locating appropriately relative to existing lawful activities, rather than existing activities bearing the burden of accommodating change brought by new arrivals. We do not consider it appropriate for a regulatory decision to be pivotal on undefined, unstructured consideration of a neighbour's opinion. If neighbouring input is to form part of the decision-making process, we recommend the clause be amended to specify a clear, structured process: proactive written notification to neighbouring occupiers of the application, a defined period for response, disclosure of any submissions to the applicant	be challenged legally and so require careful consideration. In certain circumstances, especially where surrounding landuse has intensified in appropriately zoned areas, existing activities may no longer be appropriate. As previously stated, Council uses an escalating compliance model, unless very serious, the approach would be to resolve matters informally if possible.

	with an opportunity to respond, and confirmation that Council's decision will be based on relevant matters (nuisance, animal welfare, District Plan compliance, and the conditions already set out in the First Schedule), rather than a neighbour's opinion in isolation. Our preferred approach is that Council remove cl 8.2 altogether and rely instead on the objective licence conditions already set out in the First Schedule (adequate fencing, water supply, stocking density, and manure management), which provide a more consistent and defensible basis for assessing an application than an unstructured neighbour consultation process. **Stock licence revocation (cl 8.4)** Clause 8.4 provides that a stock licence "may be forthwith revoked" if the stock to which it applies wander off the property, create a nuisance, cause damage to property, exceed the permitted number, or if any licence condition is not met in full. This power applies with no notice to the licence holder, no distinction between an isolated incident and a pattern of repeated non-compliance, and no opportunity to remedy the issue before revocation takes effect. This is inconsistent with the approach we have recommended elsewhere in this submission for cl 15, where we have argued that a single, isolated escape, where the owner has taken reasonable precautions and the incident results from circumstances outside their reasonable control, should not automatically be treated as a breach. Clause 8.4 does not reflect this distinction at all. A single instance of stock wandering off the property is, on its face, sufficient grounds for immediate revocation, regardless of the owner's diligence or the cause of the escape. We recommend cl 8.4 be amended to require Council to give written notice of an intention to revoke, specifying the grounds and a reasonable period in which the licence holder may remedy the issue (for example, repairing fencing) or make submissions, before any revocation takes effect. Immediate revocation without notice should be reserved for cases of repeated or serious non-compliance, consistent with the approach we have recommended for clause 15.	**Stock licensing – revocation (cl 8.4)** Agreed – add/amend

	Other issues 88 The definition of "urban area" uses the conjunction "and" ("properties not within rural A, B and C zones"). Read literally, no property is within all three rural zones at once, so the definition would capture the entire district. This should be corrected to "properties not within any of the rural A, B or C zones of the Ashburton District Plan". 89 Clause 1 of the Bylaw should read The title of this bylaw is Ashburton District Council Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw 2016. 2026 90 Clause 15.3 states "…may be liable for costs associated with Ashburton undertaking…". "Ashburton" does not make sense, and this should be updated to "Council" or "Ashburton District". See more details in Full submission	**Other issues** 88. Agreed
Roaming and other nuisances		
51 - Ray Watts	As well as Micro Chipping and de sexing cats, I think the following should be given serious consideration. Cats should be restricted to their owners property unless restrained when outside that area. Cat owners be required to register their cats as Dogs are required to do. Similar fees enforced. Please give these suggestions serious consideration, as for far too long cats have been roaming and causing annoyance in many neighbour hoods.	Noted
110 - Kem Johnson	Cats should be required to be microchipped, desexed and kept indoors. I have moved from a farm where every cat that trespassed was trapped or shot. After I did that, birds flourished. Fantails, wax eyes and paradise ducks returned. Every spring, Christmas kittens appeared in the live trap. Apparently, no longer of interest of the family. Cats not only kill small valuable livestock but are serious vectors of disease. I now live in a rural village where neighbour's domestic cats are allowed to roam; hence no significant bird life on my property. A shame. No question that any feral cat should be immediately disposed.	Noted
115 - Jackie Clearwater	1. My dog spent it's first 6 yrs of life in the country, Never saw a cat. Now that he lives in town when he sees a cat he goes crazy and wants to chase, catch, kill and eat the cat. (I	

	think he sees them as a rabbit) I don't let that happen. I restrain him on a lead, I do not allow him to enter private property (in pursuit). However, cats are allowed to trespass on my property. When my dog sees them on our property he wants to protect him patch and goes tearing around the section barking his head off, especially at 2am in the morning! I'm sure my neighbours don't appreciate that and neither do I. Under the current bylaws I could be prosecuted because my dog is being a nuisance, (barking in the middle of the night). However, the cause of this commotion (the cat) is free to continue on it's way with no repercussions. Is that fair? 2. I own a rental property at the north end of Creek Rd. Across the fence are several Kai Ngaora houses. One of these properties has up to 10 cats, you can see them sunning themselves in the driveway of this house. My tenant can't leave the doors of the house open, to air the house reduce dampness/mildew issues/health homes, because a Tom cat, possibly one of the 10 from over the fence , comes into the house and sprays everywhere! How would you feel if that was your house? Is that acceptable? Under the current bylaws I can't lay a hand on that cat, he has more rights than I do. On page 15 of your booklet "Have Your Say" it says "When Councils are making.....and protect people's rights and freedom" I'm a 100% sure that Tom cat has more Rights and Freedom than I have, What are you going to do about that? 4. Earlier this year I stayed in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. The bird life was fantastic. Melbourne has had a cat policy for 20years, we are well behind the 8-ball, cats must be registered, microchipped, de-sexed, and kept inside! We have a long way to go!	
162 - Val Clemens for Forest & Bird Ashburton / Community Conservation Trust / ADBAG	Strongly support any measures that regulate cat roaming, but also those that make cat owners take responsibility for the behaviour of their cats.	
Rooster / poultry		
77 - Karen Taylor	Poultry matters need to go via the Ashburton Fanciers Society as any changes could destroy the long standing club. This clubs events bring people from all over NZ and Australia to the area.	

222 - Roger Bray	I wish councillors to consider my views as a ratepayer and owner of animals covered within the bylaws currently operating in the Ashburton District Area. My wife and I currently own ratable properties in the Rural and Residential D zones. Firstly, I seek clarification regarding the boundaries that may be redrawn if there is to be amalgamations within boundaries of Territorial Authorities (TA). What bylaws are likely to apply if there is to be amalgamations and a redraw of TA boundaries as a result of the directive, presumably from the Minister for Local Government? Should I now treat the present consultation seriously if the animal Bylaws are likely to change at the whim of Members of Parliament or Councillors within Territorial Authorities? I am an active retiree that has time for other activities as my needs change. I have more time to devote to a hobby of breeding livestock that provides not only food from our property where we can control the inputs but also adds to the quality of my life and wellbeing. I do not consider limiting the number of poultry to 12 is realistic for those that keep poultry in any of the zones within ADC territory. Nor is it sensible for any number limits to be placed on those that keep poultry. If there is to be limitations to prevent factory farming on small titles, then this should be at the discretion of the council in conjunction with individual landowners. For example, if the purpose of keeping poultry is for the owner to consume produce then limiting the numbers to 12 at any one time does not provide sufficient latitude to raise animals to maturity whilst maintaining adequate breeding stock. For those that raise poultry for show or as part of a competitive hobby then limiting the numbers to 12 birds is unrealistic within a selection process for competition birds. I support bylaws around the provision of suitable housing for poultry and suggest owners of poultry should be able to let their poultry free range within the owner's land if he/she should so desire. The rules around trespass should apply if the owner of livestock is unable to keep them contained within his boundaries.	

General Support		
3 - Daniel Huisman	Sensible and practical changes.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	The council are doing a wonderful job and often it is thankless so thank you for all the work gone on behind the scene.	
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	I support the Council considering stronger cat management measures. I would encourage public education alongside any changes to support understanding of responsible cat ownership and any new requirements. If changes are introduced, a phased approach may help support a smooth transition for owners and improve long-term compliance.	Noted
Trapping		
19 - Nicola Pace	it has become a sad day when local community groups take it upon themselves with public money to not have any public information as to where traps are being placed within a town boundary. When groups were asked- i was told to mind my own business and they did not have to tell me. Im happy to keep birds safe and my cat desexed but its biggest predator has become local community groups.	
75 - Di Davidson	Excellent work going on at Hakatere, trapping.	
115 - Jackie Clearwater	3. On behalf of the local Forest and Bird I do predator trapping down at the mouth of the Ashburton River. We are trying to protect the rare and endangered ground nesting native birds. This past season I've caught 2 kittens in traps and my trapping neighbour upstream has caught a cat. Rate payers put money into Biodiversity in our district. Seems to me the council are spending money on Biodiversity (which I totally agree with) while stroking the cute little kitten. Get your priorities right!	
231 - Edith Smith	*See full submission booklet for details* I support the goals set out in the scenarios box 2and 3 for Cat Management and hope Council will make the most of this opportunity to create an effective cat management plan.	

	Domestic cats have special places in their family homes and I believe with education and encouragement, there will be wide acceptance of the proposals in the plans. This week I attended the annual Braided River Seminar at Lincoln College. Predator control featured, with a focus on the dominant introduced predator species, domestic, stray and feral cats. The nesting sites on the Ashley Rakahuri River have been closely monitored by the local conservation group and they have very good records of cats predating the rivers birdlife. Trail cameras help observers understand the activities of the individual cats. i have observed birds along and in the Ashburton Hakatere River, as well as trapped predators on the river track and at Ashton beach. This was without the concentrated monitoring at Ashley Rakahuri river, but we can only presume cats have predated our bird life in similar numbers, and a similar number of casualties will have occurred.	

Feedback on dogs – to be considered through the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy

Feedback on dogs – to be considered through the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy		
11 - Les Hunter	dogs should be kept on leads in public places.go to dog parks.	*Consider for Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*
31 - Rose Hawkes	Safety is top priority for all concerned as i have seen some horrible injuries especially to our daughter and a neighbour where dog lunged for her neck and because of her height latched onto her shoulder and if it had been a child i dread to think. Thank you for putting people first and their emotional wellbeing and health. Some injuries can be life long especially emotional.	*Consider for Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*
108 - Robin Burton	For dogs, there has to be a set time of minutes per hour after which the animal is deemed a nuisance	*Consider for Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*
149 - Grahame Kelly	Having been bitten by a dog, as a pensioner, I am aware that some people keep (angry) dogs on their property, and sometimes these dogs venture off the property and put people or road users at risk. So better containment measures should be required for dog owners.	*Consider for Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*