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Local Government Collaboration

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Local Government Bulletin

UPDATE ON MANAGING UNWANTED CATS AND DOGS PILOT STUDY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide an update to Councils on the State's approach to managing the unwanted Cats and Dogs Pilot Study.

BACKGROUND

On 8 June 2008 the Premier, the Honourable Anna Bligh, announced a \$500,000 two phased strategy to reduce the high euthanasia rates of cats and dogs in Queensland including a two year pilot study by three or more self nominating local governments on methods to reduce the euthanasia rate of unwanted cats and dogs in these areas with a view to establishing a State-wide approach.

PILOT STUDY

The Government has committed up to \$380,000 for the pilot studies including a Statewide survey. These pilot studies are multiple aims. Firstly, the Pilot Study will provide both Local and State Government with statistical evidence of the effectiveness of measures adopted by local governments in increasing desexing rates of cats and dogs. Secondly, effective measures introduced by the pilot studies could be incorporated in a State-wide approach to reducing euthanasia rates. Finally, it allows local governments to proactively address animal control measures within their areas and where those measures prove effective, to showcase their achievements State-wide.

Without limiting the range of innovative ideas that local governments might come up with, the Premier suggested councils could pilot registration software, work with local vets to provide discounted or free desexing, offer heavy registration discounts or even introduce by-laws that make desexing compulsory.

The Minister for Main Roads and Local Government has received a broad and diverse range of expressions of interest from Councils for the Pilot Study and these will be the basis of selection of participating Councils.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation is currently investigating the proposals for pilot initiatives and participating Councils will be announced as soon as possible, so that work on Pilot initiatives can commence. A stakeholder working group will be convened to assist in formulating workable models for the pilot study.

Michael Kinnane
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