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Strategic Policy and Legislation Division

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Local Government Bulletin

Consultation – Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill 2008

Purpose

The purpose of this Bulletin is to inform local governments that the deadline for receipt of submissions commenting on the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill 2008* has been extended to **Friday 3 October 2008**.

Background

On 8 June 2008, the Premier announced that legislation would be introduced by the end of the year to make cat and dog registration and micro-chipping compulsory in all parts of the State. The commencement of the microchipping and registration provisions will begin with the larger South East Queensland Councils and roll out progressively across the State. The purpose of the legislation is to provide a legislative framework to implement the Government's animal management policies, and in particular reduce high euthanasia rates of unwanted cats and dogs. Regulated dog (proposed to include dangerous, menacing and restricted dogs) provisions will apply to all local government areas upon the expected commencement date of 1 July 2009.

This Bill will provide a broad, uniform framework for cat and dog management in Queensland and is expected to incorporate the following issues:

- mandatory registration of cats and dogs;
- mandatory microchipping of cats and dogs;
- impounding and seizure powers of local government officers;
- dangerous dogs;
- restricted dogs; and
- approved inspection programs tailored for animal management purposes, for example, increasing approved inspection program timeframes from 3 months to 6 months.

Timeframe Extension

On 18 August 2008, the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government, sent a letter to all local governments seeking submissions in response to the drafting instructions for the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill 2008* by 22 September 2008. In response to a number of concerns, the closing date for receipt of submissions has been revised. Closing date for submissions is now **Friday 3 October 2008**.

The revised timeframes must be maintained to ensure synergies with the relocation of Chapter 17A (Regulation of Restricted Dogs) of the *Local Government Act 1993* to the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Bill 2008*.

In addition to the formal submission process, local governments are welcome to contact the Department on an individual basis and discuss the proposed legislation. Local governments are welcome to contact the Department and make an appointment to peruse the draft legislation. Unfortunately, we are unable to e-mail electronic copies of the draft Bill. Your feedback will play a vital role in developing the first stage of the State-wide legislative framework for the management of cats and dogs in Queensland. To ensure ongoing policy and legislative development, the Government has undertaken, in conjunction with information obtained from the pilot studies, to review the direction of its animal management policies in late 2009 and late 2010.

All submissions should be addressed to:

Mr Logan Timms
Senior Policy Officer
Strategic Policy and Legislation
Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation
PO Box 15031
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Or emailed to: CatsandDogs@dlgsr.qld.gov.au
Appointments to view the draft legislation at 41 George St, Brisbane, are welcome.

Further information

Any further enquiries on this matter should be addressed to Logan Timms, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Policy and Legislation Division, Phone: (07) 3225 8078, Fax: (07) 3246 3639, logan.timms@dlgsr.qld.gov.au. The Department's postal address is PO Box 15031, City East, Queensland 4002.

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