

Media Release

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Cat Management Bill 2009 passed by the Tasmanian Parliament – cats and dogs now equal under the law

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust acknowledged the passage of the Cat Management Bill 2009 through the Tasmanian Parliament today as a historic achievement and probably one of David Llewellyn's most important achievements as a minister.

"The Tasmanian Government has produced what is perhaps Australia's best cat control legislation, which will empower those who want to control cats, reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned cats and put in place safe-guards for peoples much loved pet cats," said TCT Director Peter McGlone.

The Cat Management Bill passed through the Legislative Council this afternoon with minor amendments. The amended bill was returned to the lower house at about 4.30pm where it was immediately passed. The Bill will become law as soon as the Governor gives consent, expected in the next few days.

The Cat Management Bill 2009 proposes a phase-in of compulsory de-sexing and micro-chipping of pet cats. The other key elements of the legislation are to provide public and private land owners clarity on where and how they can destroy cats and providing a registration system for cat breeders.

"Compulsory de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats will be phased in over a four-year period, giving cat owners time to prepare for these measures becoming compulsory."

"The legislation will require cat owners take responsibility for their pets in the same way that dog owners currently do. If cat owners care for their cats then they will get their cats de-sexed and micro-chipped and stop them straying. Responsible cat owners have nothing to fear from this legislation."

"De-sexing benefits cats by ensuring there are less unwanted kittens produced, to be abandoned and suffer a premature death, and micro-chipping ensures pet cats which stray are given a chance of being reunited with their owner."

"The TCT strongly supports measures in the legislation that permit owners of private reserves, farmers and owners of land isolated from other residences – as well as managers of Public Reserves and State Forest – to destroy any cat they find on their land."

The TCT urges the State Government to provide funding in the next State Budget to help subsidise the cost of de-sexing and micro-chipping of cats.

Further information:

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