Cat Amendment Local Law 2026

Tabled Submission Report

City of Melville
Prepared for Council consideration
August 2026

This report summarises public submissions received on the proposed Cat Amendment Local Law 2026 and tables de-identified submission comments for Council consideration.

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Summary

The City of Melville undertook public advertising for the proposed Cat Amendment Local Law 2026 from 20 May 2026 to 30 July 2026 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 (WA).

The proposed amendment local law seeks to amend the City of Melville Cat Local Law 2025 to remove the reversal of onus of proof provisions and ensure compliance with recommendations raised by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

This report provides a summary of the engagement undertaken, participation outcomes, key themes raised in submissions, and tabled submissions to inform Council's consideration of the proposed Cat Amendment Local Law 2026.

Participation

All submissions received were made through the online submission form. Other submission pathways were available, including written, in-person and phone submissions.

Submission method	Number
Online form	6
Phone submission	0
Hard copy submission	0
Email	0

Communication and reach

Channel	Information	Results
Website	Local and Statewide Public Notices page and Melville Talks engagement page	Published 20 May 2026 to 30 July 2026 1,124 combined views
eNewsletter	Melville Matters and Melville Talks	Combined subscribers: 18,760
Social media	Facebook	Reach 7,767
Newspaper	PerthNow Melville and Melville Herald	Combined distribution: 36,510
Public notice display	Civic Centre, City libraries and recreation centre notice boards	Displayed during public consultation period
Direct email	Previously engaged participants and Melville Sounding Board	Combined emails issued: 506

Consultation findings

Level of support

Level of support	Number	Percentage
Support the amendments	0	0.0%
Object the amendments	1	25.0%
Neither support or object the amendments	3	75.0%
Total	4	100.0%

Tabled comments

The following comments are presented as submitted, with identifiable personal information removed and replaced with [removed].

No.	Level of support	Submission comment	Officer response	Proposed action
1	Object the amendments	All of it. Being a person who has been bitten twice by dogs outside their yards now this law should be applied to both dogs and cats. Improve my safety and the safety of my kids and their kids.	The submission is noted. The comment raises broader public safety concerns and refers to both dog and cat control. The proposed Cat Amendment Local Law 2026 relates only to removing reversal of onus of proof provisions from the Cat Local Law to address recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. Dog control and broader animal safety matters are outside the scope of this amendment.	No change proposed.
2	Neither support or object the amendments	Cats must be contained on owners property at all times. Same as dogs. Council can subsidise cat enclosures. No more nuisance/roaming cats killing wildlife.	The submission is noted. The comment raises matters about cat containment, nuisance or roaming cats, wildlife impacts and potential support for cat enclosures. These are broader cat management matters and do not relate to the proposed amendment, which is limited to removing reversal of onus of proof provisions.	No change proposed.
3	Neither support or object the amendments	What on earth does that mean? "remove the reversal of onus of proof" so what needs to be proved and what is it being reversed to?How can anyone have a say on this when it is incomprehensible? The cited link makes no mention of what proof is being affected.	The submission is noted. The phrase "remove the reversal of onus of proof" refers to removing provisions that placed a legal burden on a person to prove certain matters in relation to an alleged offence. The amendment ensures the Local Law aligns with recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. It does not introduce broader changes to cat control, prohibited areas, cat limits or enforcement powers.	No change proposed.
4	Object the amendments	Two cat limit (only one). Prohibited areas? Please! How are you going to police that one? Stop to ponder Cats are the absconder Don't let them wonder From home yonder. One cat because they do not require territorial negotiations which can spill out onto the streets And Prohibited areas won't stop cats destroying wildlife. Only allowed out on a lead. Must be kept at home otherwise.	The submission is noted. The comment raises broader issues including cat limits, prohibited areas, enforcement practicality, cats roaming, wildlife impacts and keeping cats contained or on leads. These matters relate to broader cat management and enforcement, rather than the specific proposed amendment to remove reversal of onus of proof provisions.	No change proposed.
5	Support the amendments	I would like to see stronger laws requiring cats to be kept inside homes at night	The submission is noted. The submitter supports the amendment but also suggests stronger laws requiring cats to be kept inside homes at night. The proposed amendment is limited to removing reversal of onus of proof provisions and does not seek to introduce new cat containment requirements.	No change proposed.
6	Neither support or object the amendments	Primarily admin changes, not sure why public feedback was invited.	The submission is noted. Public advertising was undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements for making a local law under the Local Government Act 1995, including where the proposed change is administrative or legislative compliance-related in nature.	No change proposed.