



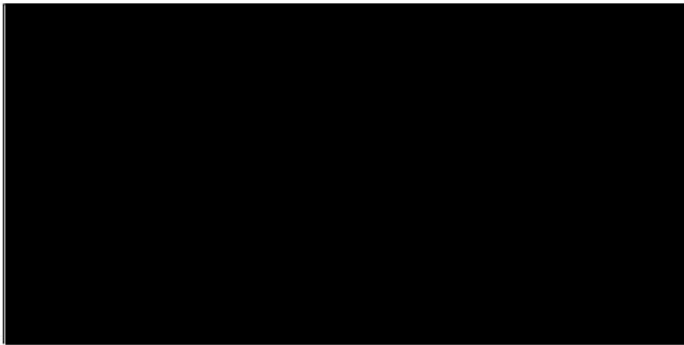
Ref: [REDACTED]

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10 February 2025



OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST - CAT BYLAW MANAGEMENT

I refer to your request of 20 December 2024 for the following information:

"...As part of reviewing our Dog Control and Animal Nuisance bylaws, I have been asked to put together some data on how cat management is working in the territorial authorities that have specific cat bylaws or have set some rules around microchipping, registration or desexing in their animal management bylaws. Could you please supply the information requested in the questions below in relation to cat management.

- 1. How long has your Council had either a Cat Management bylaw or included Cat Management in their Animal Management bylaw?*
- 2. How many complaints about cats has your Council received under your Cat/Animal Management bylaw per year for each year they have had a bylaw?*
- 3. What have been the outcomes of the complaints received so far?*
- 4. How are the Council managing complaints about cats in breach of the bylaw?*
 - a. What are the cat management processes and potential outcomes?*
 - b. How are the Council planning to manage cats that may have to be seized?*
- 5. Have the Council had to employ extra animal control staff with the addition of cat management to your bylaws?*
- 6. How many prosecutions have been taken against cat owners?*
- 7. How many prosecutions do the Council envisage they will undertake in the next 12 months? Five years?*
- 8. Are the Council keeping a cat register? If not, how are they tracking cat registrations, microchipping and desexing?*
- 9. Is the Companion Animal Register sharing information with the Council about cats registered in the area?...".*

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

The information you requested is below:

1. Just over one month, the Cat Management Bylaw was adopted on 05 December 2024, it was publicly notified on 18 December 2024 and it commenced on 19 December 2024. <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/services/licensing-and-environmental-health/cat-management-bylaw/>
2. None.
3. Not applicable.
4. Council has not received any complaints relating to breaches of the Bylaw. The Bylaw has a transition period until 1 June 2026 before current cat owners need to comply with the bylaw requirements.
 - a) Council is taking an educational approach to compliance and enforcement, providing education on cat welfare and letting owners know the benefit of having their cat desexed, chipped and the chip registered.
 - b) The Bylaw does not provide an option to seize cats.
5. No.
6. None.
7. No, prosecutions will be taken over the next 12 months due to the transitional period and, as the Bylaw has only recently been implemented, it not possible at this early stage to estimate how many prosecutions are likely to occur in the next five years.
8. Council is not keeping a cat register. The Bylaw requires cat microchip registrations to be registered with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
9. Yes. We received data from NZCAR for our Cat Management Bylaw development and will continue to receive information from in order to monitor cat microchip registration numbers.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ryno Botha, ryno.botha@ncc.govt.nz or on 03 546 0235.

Ngā mihi



Michelle Joubert
Acting Group Manager Environmental Management