

Cat Curfew and Dog Leash Order Survey Opens

South Gippsland Shire Council is providing residents an opportunity to share their thoughts through a survey on a potential cat curfew and dog leash order.

A dog leash order would provide clear areas where dogs can play free of restraints while a cat curfew would require cats to be confined within property boundaries during particular times.

Council is aware many neighbouring municipalities have dog leash orders and cat curfews and wants to understand how the South Gippsland community feels about such arrangements.

Council would not ask for dogs to be kept on a leash within private properties. It would only be public areas such as streets, beaches, parks, rail trails and commercial areas. Similarly the cat curfew would not require owners to keep their cats contained within a cage or within their homes but rather to their property.

The surveys are available to access at oursay.org/catcurfew and oursay.org/dogleashorder until 31 October 2018. Paper copies are also available at Council offices, 9 Smith Street, Leongatha and local libraries.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Regulatory Services Jamie Thorley is encouraging all members of the community to take part in the surveys.

"We encourage all community members to take part in the dog leash order and cat curfew surveys as we want to hear from all our community members about the potential changes.

"These orders are being considered for the protection of our community and local flora and fauna in South Gippsland. Ultimately we want to ensure pets live harmoniously in our region," said Mr Thorley.

PR2294 19/9/17