

## Council to Introduce Cat Curfew and Dog Leash Areas

At its meeting yesterday the South Gippsland Shire Council considered community feedback on a cat curfew and dog leash orders.

There was significant public support for a cat curfew. This does not mean that cats must stay indoors. It simply means that cat owners are responsible for ensuring that their cats remain on their own properties.

There was also overwhelming support – 96.8 per cent of respondents – for dogs being on-leash within our township areas. Township areas are those that contain general residential, commercial and industrial areas. It does not include parks, reserves or trails within townships.

As a result of this feedback Council adopted a 24-hour cat curfew and a leash order for all township areas. Both measures will come into effect on 1 April 2019.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Cr Don Hill was pleased that community members had taken the time to provide feedback.

“The results of this survey showed overwhelming support for this policy.

“It is important to note that the cat curfew means to keep the cat to the property boundaries – it does not mean the cat must be kept inside the house all the time,” said the Mayor.

Information about keeping animals in South Gippsland is available at:

<http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/homepage/20/animals>

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