

## Implementing the Cat Curfew and Dog Leash Order

South Gippsland Shire Council's Cat Curfew and Dog Leash Order will be in effect as of Monday 1 April. However, as it will take some time for the Local Law to align with the policies an amnesty period will be in place while the community adjusts to the new rules.

Council is aware of the concern by some community members about the changes, particularly with regard to the cat curfew. The introduction of the cat curfew will not change what is already law under Victorian legislation, but it will change how it can be enforced following the amnesty.

Community members will be notified when the Local Law has been adjusted as this requires a full review process. The amnesty will be lifted at this time and notice will also be provided to the community in preparation.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Regulatory Services Jamie Thorley wanted to clarify the situation, particularly in relation to the cat curfew.

"We understand some members of the community have been apprehensive about the upcoming cat curfew. There is no specific way that owners are required to comply, only that they take precautions to ensure their cats are contained to their yard or property.

"We appreciate everyone's patience while these new changes are implemented and as they are finalised within the Local Law," said Mr Thorley.

Community members needing more information or who still have concerns can contact Council's Local Laws team on 5662 9200.

Those wishing to see the survey results showing support of the Cat Curfew and Dog Leash Order can view the December 2018 Council Minutes at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings)

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