

Subject: Media Release - \$3m to support Cat Act in WA

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Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

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\$3million to support Cat Act in WA

Portfolio: Local Government

- **Grants available to extend, manage and provide cat management facilities**
- **Pensioners/low income earners can source low cost cat sterilisation**

Local Government Minister John Castrilli today announced the availability of grants to support the introduction of the Cat Act 2011.

The funding is designed to assist local governments and the community prepare for the cat legislation, aimed at reducing the high proportion of stray cats in Western Australia.

Three categories of grants are for:

1. **Cat Management Facilities** - The provision of, or extension of, cat management facilities (cat pounds)
2. **Implementation Costs** (local governments only) - Funding for local governments to assist with the cost of microchip readers, ranger training, cat traps
3. **Sterilisation Programs** - Programs to support pensioners and low income earners to access low cost sterilisation for their cats.

Mr Castrilli said he encouraged local governments to work with non-government organisations to develop shared facilities.

"Local governments may be able to work with organisations like vet surgeries or catteries to enhance the facilities already in place within a district, such as increasing the number of cages available," he said.

"Innovative solutions that make use of resources already in existence is encouraged."

Organisations that undertake cat sterilisation can also apply for a grant to run low cost cat sterilisation programs which target pensioners and low income earners.

The Minister emphasised the \$3million grant program will be shared across the entire State.

"This funding is aimed to benefit both the metropolitan area and major regional centres," Mr Castrilli said.

"We need sterilisation programs to be run outside the key centres and I encourage applications to target regional areas."

Applications for implementation grants close Friday October 26, 2012.

Fact File

- **Assistance available to local govts for ranger training, cat traps and microchip readers**
- **Guidelines and applications available from**
- **<http://www.dlg.wa.gov.au> or contact Department of Local Government on 6552 1500.**

Minister's office - 6552 6600



Cat Act Implementation Grant Program 2012-13

Guidelines

1. Background

The State Government's introduction of the *Cat Act 2011* means that from 1 November 2013, all domestic cats will need to be identified, registered and sterilised. This is aimed at reducing the thousands of stray cats being euthanised each year and to provide for responsible cat ownership. The legislation will also help address the large stray and feral cat population that cause a nuisance, damage property and kill wildlife.

The State Government recognises that there is a need to provide some assistance with the cost of implementing this new legislation. The Cat Act Implementation Grant Program (CAIGP) is to provide financial assistance with the implementation of the Act. The funding package will help the local government sector prepare to administer and enforce the legislation, and low income earners by subsidising the cost of sterilisation.

For 2012-2014, a total of \$3.24 million has been made available to support successful grant applications.

The CAIGP is administered by the Department of Local Government.

2. Objectives of the Program

The overarching objective of the cat legislation is to reduce the number of unowned cats in Western Australia. This will be achieved through:

- encouraging responsible pet ownership by members of the community that own or look after a cat in some way (semi-own); and
- the implementation of cat control legislation across the State.

The anticipated outcome from a reduction in the number of cats is a reduction in:

- the number of cats being euthanised;
- the impact of stray cats on the natural environment and wildlife;
- the occurrence of nuisance caused by cats, such as noise, unwanted entering and damage to properties; and
- the number of cats living in poor conditions and in poor health.

3. Who Can Apply

Grants are available to the following eligible organisations that can demonstrate the need for assistance:

- ✓ Local governments in Western Australia;
- ✓ Regional local governments;
- ✓ Incorporated organisations based in Western Australia;
- ✓ Non-government organisations (NGOs); and
- ✓ Private and for profit organisations.

4. What Can Be Funded

Funding is available for those that can offer the best value for money in the following categories:

Cat Management Facilities	Miscellaneous Costs	Sterilisation Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of, or extension of cat management facilities • Shared facilities between local governments and NGOs are encouraged, as are extensions to current facilities within a local government, such as catteries or veterinarians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miscellaneous capital costs of implementation such as cat traps, microchip readers, vehicle fit outs and ranger training • Local governments only • All local governments are automatically eligible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilisation campaigns targeting pensioners and low income earners • Campaigns targeting regional and remote areas are encouraged

4.1 Funding for Cat Management Facilities

Six zones have been identified for joint cat management facilities (CMFs). These zones are:

Zone 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Fremantle, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Melville, Rockingham and Serpentine Jarrahdale
Zone 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (North) Fremantle, Mosman Park, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Nedlands, Claremont, Subiaco, Perth, Cambridge, Vincent and Stirling
Zone 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayswater, Bassendean, Belmont, Swan, Joondalup and Wanneroo
Zone 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gosnells, Kalamunda, Armadale, Canning, South Perth and Victoria Park
Zone 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandurah, Murray and Waroona
Zone 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunbury, Harvey, Dardanup and Capel

Local governments and NGOs are encouraged to collaborate in this bid.

Those local governments not identified in the zones above are encouraged to investigate a cost effective solution to providing a CMF. This may include collaborating with other local governments or NGOs and using current facilities within a town, such as providing additional cages to local veterinarians or catteries.

Grant applications will need to address, through a project plan and estimated budget, the following:

- Where the facility is to be located;
- Which local governments the facility will service;
- Who will maintain and run the facility on a daily basis;
- Whether the facility is a new facility or an extension to an existing facility;
- How many cats the CMF will hold;
- The breakdown of cost;
- The applicant's contribution;
- Contributions from other sources; and
- The proportion the proposed grant is to fund.

All facilities are to be completed by 31 October 2013.

4.2 Funding for Miscellaneous Costs

Funding has been allocated to fund the miscellaneous costs which may be incurred by local governments. These include the following:

- ✓ ranger training (microchipping course);
- ✓ microchip readers;
- ✓ cat traps;
- ✓ vehicle fit outs;
- ✓ update to a current registration database; and
- ✓ protective equipment.

The Western Australian Local Government Association may provide a list of preferred service suppliers for some of the above items.

Funding is to be expended by 1 November 2013.

Based on their municipal status, local governments are automatically eligible for a grant to assist with these costs on the following basis:

Shire	• \$2,535
Town	• \$2,935
City	• \$3,335

To receive the grant, local governments must first complete Part 4 of the Application Form and the estimated budget. These grants will not be assessed by an assessment panel; once eligibility is confirmed, the grants will be actioned.

4.3 Cat Sterilisation Programs

Funding has been allocated in 2012/13 to provide assistance to pensioners and low income earners with the cost of cat sterilisation. This will be made in the form of grants to local governments and/or other organisations.

Applicants must complete the application form and address the following points through a project plan and estimated budget:

- How pensioners and low income earners will be targeted;
- The regions that will be targeted. Programs targeting regional and remote areas are encouraged to apply.
- How many cats are expected to be sterilised during the program;
- When the program is to take place;
- How the program will be promoted;
- What organisations/bodies will be involved in the program;
- The delivery plan and milestones for the program;
- The applicant's contribution;
- Contributions from other sources; and
- The portion the proposed grant is to fund.

All programs are to be completed by 30 June 2013.

A further funding round will be opened in 2013 for sterilisation programs for the 2013-14 financial year. Being accepted or rejected for a grant under Round 1 does not prohibit an applicant from reapplying under Round 2.

5. What Cannot Be Funded

Funding is not available for:

- ✓ Recurring maintenance or operational costs of existing facilities;
- ✓ Landscaping;
- ✓ Commonwealth and State Government Agencies; and
- ✓ Administration/Project Management.

6. Application Process

An electronic application form is available via the Internet from www.dlg.wa.gov.au

Alternatively, an application form can be emailed, faxed or mailed on request. Refer to Section 12 of this Guideline for contact details.

6.1 Information Required for Assessment

Applications must be made on the approved application form and must include:

- ✓ name, address and contact details of the applicant;

- ✓ a detailed Project Plan which addresses the specific criteria outlined in these guidelines;
- ✓ a detailed Budget;
- ✓ a demonstrated commitment to proceed with the project;
- ✓ organisational structural arrangements, including a copy of the organisation's Certificate of Incorporation or an equivalent legal status document (if applicable);
- ✓ evidence that alternative sources of funding have been investigated, ie letters from other funding sources (if applicable) indicating if funds have been approved or declined;
- ✓ letters of support from those benefiting from or contributing to the project; and
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer's (or equivalent) signature on the application.

**Applications must be received by close of business on –
Friday, 26 October 2012**

As per Section 3.3, submissions for Miscellaneous Costs will be actioned upon receipt.

Applications deemed eligible will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- ✓ value for money for the project/program;
- ✓ demonstrated/proposed cooperation between LGs and/or organisations;
- ✓ efficient use of current resources;
- ✓ identified need for the project or program;
- ✓ evidence of community involvement;
- ✓ benefit to the community; and
- ✓ how it will meet the objectives.

7. Funding Schedule

Funding will be provided in a single payment unless otherwise specified in the Grant Agreement.

It is not expected that funds provided by the State Government will cover all costs. Applicant contributions are expected and should be identified in the application.

8. Assessment of Grant Applications

A preliminary assessment of each application will be completed by the Department to determine eligibility for funding. A CAIGP assessment panel will be convened to assess shortlisted applications, which meet the eligibility criteria.

The Department will assess the proposed budget (an attachment of the Application Form) against the funding criteria.

The applications will then be submitted to the Director General, Department of Local Government who will make the final determination of grant allocations.

All applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome following approval.

9. Awarding of Grant

A letter of offer will be sent to successful applicants from the Assessment Panel. All applicants (including those automatically eligible for a grant) will be required to complete a Grant Agreement and return it to the Department.

The approved final budget will be an attachment to the Grant Agreement.

The Project Plan will also be an attachment to the Grant Agreement.

10. Reporting

Reports are to be submitted by the Recipient, as specified in the Grant Agreement, on a template provided by the Department.

11. Management of Grant Funds

Funds will be paid after the Grant Agreement has been signed by the applicant and countersigned by the Director General.

The Department will provide the Recipient with a grant acquittal template, which is to be completed and submitted to the Department by the due date, as outlined in the Grant Agreement.

All monies not spent for the purpose for which they were provided must be returned to the Department.

12. Further Information

Please refer to the Department of Local Government's website for further information on the CAIGP - www.dlg.wa.gov.au

Please contact the Department on (08) 6552 1500, free call 1800 620 511 or via email grants.administration@dlg.wa.gov.au should you require any further information.

13. Application Lodgement Process

Applications should be submitted on the CAIGP Application Form by the due date to:

Cat Act Implementation Grants Program
Grant Administration Branch
Department of Local Government
GPO Box R1250 PERTH WA 6001

Or

via email grants.administration@dlg.wa.gov.au

