



## INFORMATION NOTE – Protection and Management of Fauna

This information note provides information on species and types of birds and reptiles found in the Town as well as information regarding the management of feral animals and household cats.

### Birds

There are a number of birds who frequent the Town's bushland and park reserves. They play both a useful role in balancing the natural ecosystem and can be a natural pest agent. Species of birds which have been sighted around the Town include:

Pacific Black Duck	Crested and Caspian Terns	Honeyeaters
Little Pied and Pied Cormorants	Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Welcome Swallow
Australian Pelican	Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	Tree Martin
Black Shouldered Kite	Tawney Frogmouth	Silvereye
Collared Sparrowhawk	Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Oystercatcher
Brown Goshawk	Rainbow Bee-eater	Splendid and Variegated Fairy-wren

### Reptiles

Reptiles such as the bobtail lizard, skinks, geckoes and snakes will become commonly present in your garden and the Town's parks and reserves over the spring and summer months. Reptiles require sun to generate energy to undergo their daily activities. This means as the sun becomes more apparent we will see more of them around. Reptiles will be seen basking on rocks or dead branches and even on pathways and roads.

Due to their slow movement, bobtails are often seen dead on the road. Please exercise caution and be on the lookout for reptiles such as bobtails that are on the move. In the garden, ensure you are mindful when using the lawn mower or whipper snipper and lifting up rocks and branches as reptiles are likely to be hiding underneath.

Although bobtails may look fierce as they characteristically stick out their tongues and hiss, this is only a defence mechanism when they feel threatened. It is important to respect the reptiles we share the Town with by not provoking them and interfering with their business. Reptiles are likely to favour the camouflage and escape option rather than the conflict. Bobtails are harmless to humans and pets, however snake bites are considered more serious. Ensure medical advice is sought as soon as possible if bitten.



## **Feral Animal Management**

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) comprising of the Town's of Mosman Park, Claremont, Cambridge and Cottesloe, Cities of Subiaco and Nedlands and the Shire of Peppermint Grove along with participation from the Cities of Stirling and Fremantle have collaborated their approach to feral animal management. The main feral animals of concern throughout metropolitan Perth are foxes and rabbits, which if not controlled threaten native flora and fauna.

While these Councils have their own feral animal programs in place, this new collaborated approach will increase the effectiveness of these individual programs. The collaborated approach will also allow for larger areas across local government boundaries to be monitored and controlled simultaneously. Controlling a feral animal such as a fox can directly influence other animals such as rabbits. By removing the predation from foxes, rabbit populations may increase which can effect native vegetation. Similarly, controlling rabbits will cause foxes to predate on other animals including native fauna.

Feral animal control is an integrated practice that requires efficient management to ensure the protection of local biodiversity. Residents are encouraged to report feral animal sightings on this simple observation form. [Click here to download the form.](#)

## **Responsible Cat Ownership**

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) in partnership with Cat Haven are reminding residents of the obligations and benefits of being a responsible cat owner. The 'Responsible Cat Ownership' campaign, which will run from October 2016 through to March 2017, is in response to a report received by WESROC on regional feral animal monitoring and control project that focussed on rabbits and foxes.

The report revealed cats to be a problem affecting native wildlife habitats in the western suburbs. Thirty eight motion sensor cameras captured cats on 73 occasions, rabbits on 35 and foxes on only five. A domestic cat survey for the seven councils has since been compiled and presently, there are 2813 cats registered.

Cat owners are reminded that under the Cat Act 2011, all cats must be microchipped, sterilised/desexed and registered with the local council before they reach six months old. Kittens can be sterilised from eight weeks of age.

If not already done, residents should get their cats vaccinated and microchipped by their vet at the same time and follow up with their annual boosters. Cat Haven offers concession card holders a discount on sterilising and microchipping your cat.

Some benefits of cat sterilisation include:

- Less chance of your pet developing certain types of cancers and infections
- Lifespan of a cat is 15 years compared to only three years if unsterilised



TOWN OF  
MOSMAN PARK



- A less temperamental and easier to manage pet
- Reduced risk of loss or injury from cats escaping to mate
- Reduced registration and vet fees
- No unwanted litters.

It is recommended that cats wear a collar with a bell on it to help reduce the chances of them catching native wildlife. Cats should also be kept indoors at night to prevent them from coming into contact with native and feral animals which pose a risk to their health (Feline immunodeficiency virus, and bites and scratches that can turn into abscesses).