

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

PO Box 2063, Mt Waverley

Dear Sir/Madam

Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to *Inquiry into the problem of feral and domestic cats in Australia.*

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. Mt Waverley (FoDCReserve) are environmental volunteers in the City of Monash (south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne) who have cared for an 11 hectare piece of remnant bushland in the middle of suburbia for more than 52 years. The birds and wildlife within this space and more widely are abundant and must be protected from domestic cats.

FoDCReserve represents over one hundred memberships including families, strongly support your *Inquiry* as it dovetails with a proposed cat curfew to be considered at a City of Monash Council meeting in April 2021.

The Friends are very disappointed that the long-awaited curfew mooted by the City of Monash in 2017 has been delayed as they are aware over recent decades of many birds, animals and lizards etc having been killed, maimed or injured by domestic cats.

Cats are known to wander widely, especially at night time, and we urge the introduction of a broad-scale curfew. We acknowledge that cats are loved family companions, but they are instinctively hunters and killers of birds, lizards, animals and wildlife. They can climb trees to access nests and are naturally skilled predators.

We have urged the City of Monash to bring to the attention of cat owners the many benefits of a night time curfew which will:

1. protect their cats from being killed or injured especially whilst crossing roads;
2. protect them from being engaged in fights with other animals thereby making them susceptible to injuries resulting in infections and abscesses;
3. protect them from the spread of diseases.

Domestic cats will not be disadvantaged by this night time curfew as they can easily become accustomed to a nighttime routine inside the home.

We urge your *Inquiry* to act urgently in this matter also. Thankyou.

Regards

John Clements

President

On behalf of The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

Mt Waverley 3149

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