By-law made under the Local Government Act 1999
and the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

CATS BY-LAW 2025

By-law No. 6 of 2025

For the management and control of cats within the Council's area.

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. Short Title

This by-law may be cited as the *Cats By-law 2025*.

2. Commencement

This by-law will come into operation four months after the day on which it is published in the *Gazette* in accordance with Section 249(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

3. Definitions

In this By-law:

3.1 **cattery** means a building, structure, premises or area approved by the relevant authority pursuant to the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* for the keeping of cats on a temporary or permanent basis;

3.2 **cat** means an animal of the species *Felis catus* over 3 months of age;

3.3 **control**, in relation to a cat, includes the person having ownership, possession or charge of, or authority over, the cat;

3.4 **keep** includes the provision of food or shelter;

3.5 **premises** includes:

3.5.1 land;

3.5.2 a part of any premises or land;

Part 2 – Cat Management and Control

4. Limit on Cat Numbers

4.1 A person must not, without permission, keep any cat on any premises where the number of cats on the premises exceeds the prescribed limit.

4.2 Permission under subparagraph 4.1 may be given if the Council is satisfied that:

4.2.1 no insanitary condition exists on the premises as a result of the keeping of cats;

4.2.2 a nuisance is not caused to any neighbour as a result of the keeping of cats on the premises; and

4.2.3 all cats kept on the premises are desexed.

4.3 The **prescribed limit** on the number of cats to be kept on premises is two.

4.4 The prescribed limit does not apply to:

4.4.1 a cattery;

4.4.2 a veterinary practice;

4.4.3 a pet shop; or

4.4.4 any premises that the Council has exempted from the requirements of this paragraph;

4.4.5 cats owned by a person who carries on a business as a cat breeder provided that the person is lawfully operating such business in accordance with all relevant approvals and any conditions reasonably imposed by the Council.

Part 3 – Registration and Identification of Cats

5. Registration of Cats

5.1 Where the Council has resolved to adopt a registration scheme for cats, a person must not keep a cat in the Council's area for more than 14 days unless the cat is registered in accordance with this By-law.

5.2 An application for registration of a cat must:

5.2.1 be made to the Council in the manner and form (if any) and accompanied by the fee (if any) as prescribed by the Council; and

5.2.2 nominate a person of or over 16 years of age who consents to the cat being registered in his or her name; and

5.2.3 identify with reference to an address the premises at which the cat is kept; and

5.2.4 otherwise comply with any other requirements determined by the Council.

5.3 Registration under this By-law remains in force until 30 June next following the grant of registration and may be renewed from time to time for further periods of up to 12 months.

5.4 Subparagraph 5.1 does not apply to premises comprising an approved cattery.

5.5 The Council may, by resolution, revoke a resolution to adopt a registrations scheme under subclause 5.1 should it see fit to do so.

6. **Identification of Cats**

6.1 Every cat must be identified in the prescribed manner at all times while the cat is not effectively confined to premises of which the owner of the cat is the occupier.

6.2 If a cat is not identified in the prescribed manner required by paragraph 6.1, any person who owns or is responsible for the control of the cat is guilty of an offence.

6.3 A person is not guilty of an offence by reason of the fact that the cat is not identified in the prescribed manner if:

6.3.1 the cat:

6.3.1.1 is travelling with the person; and

6.3.1.2 is not usually kept within the area of the Council; or

6.3.2 the person is responsible for the control of the cat only by reason of the cat being kept, for business purposes, at prescribed premises; or

6.3.3 the Council has granted the owner of the cat an exemption from the requirements of this paragraph or an extension of time within which to comply with the requirements.

6.4 For the purposes of this paragraph:

6.4.1 the **prescribed manner** in which a cat is to be identified at all times while the cat is not effectively confined to premises of which the owner of the cat is the occupier is by means of a collar around its neck to which a tag is attached legible setting out:

6.4.1.1 the name of the owner of the cat, or a person entitled to possession of the cat; and

6.4.1.2 either:

(a) the address of the owner or other person; or

(b) the telephone number of the owner or other person.

6.5 **prescribed premises** means:

6.5.1 a cattery;

6.5.2 a veterinary practice;

6.5.3 a pet shop; or

6.5.4 any premises for which the Council has granted an exemption.

Part 3 – Miscellaneous

7. **Revocation**

Council's *By-law No.6 – Cats*, published in the *Gazette* on 20 March 2018, is revoked on the day on which this by-law comes into operation.

The foregoing by-law was duly made and passed at a meeting of the Council of the Mid Murray Council held on the 19th day of August 2025 by an absolute majority of the members for the time being constituting the Council, there being at least two thirds of the members present.



Mr Ben Scales
Chief Executive Officer