

City of Whittlesea Domestic Animal Management Plan Focus Group

The City of Whittlesea invites Expressions of Interest from local residents to join a series of Focus Groups to provide valuable insights to assist Council to shape the Domestic Animal Management Plan. We will seek, collect and analyse community feedback on a range of key domestic animal management issues, questions and concerns. We will ensure that community feedback sought through this process is acknowledged and understood by Council, and clearly informs the drafting of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, and through it the decisions Council will make on animal management issues for the next four years. The Focus Group is not a decision-making body of Council.

Participation in the Domestic Animal Management Plan Focus Groups will be capped at 120 people and participants will be chosen to reflect the diversity of the City of Whittlesea community. This diversity will include ages, genders, abilities, cultural backgrounds, suburbs and household structures.

Focus Group participants will be required to attend one 2.5-hour session and will receive a participatory gift voucher for their time. We will be holding three identical sessions across the municipality. The session dates and times are as below:

- Tuesday 24 June, 6.30pm to 9pm at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre
- Saturday 28 June, 9.30am to 12pm at Civic Centre, South Morang
- Monday 30 June, 6.30pm to 9am at Barry Road Community Activity Centre, Thomastown

Eligibility

To be eligible to be a member of the Focus Group you will need to:

- Be a resident of the City of Whittlesea
- Be willing and able to attend one focus group session
- Be willing and able to complete any pre-session reading, assistance can be organised for those requiring it
- Declare membership of any special interest group, community groups, networks such as animal advocacy groups, animal businesses, sporting clubs, hobby groups, seniors' groups, schools etc.
- Not be a current staff member, contractor or Councillor of City of Whittlesea.

If a participant believes that they may have a conflict of interest in any of the issues discussed during the focus groups, they must discuss that conflict with the facilitator. Should the facilitator decide that the financial interest gives rise to a conflict, the participant will not be permitted to contribute to discussions regarding that project.

All applications must be received by 5pm on Sunday 8 June 2025

Applications can be submitted:

- **ONLINE** at engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/dampfocusgroup
- **BY EMAIL** to engagement@whittlesea.vic.gov.au.
- **IN PERSON** at City of Whittlesea Customer Service Centre at 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang
- **BY MAIL** to City of Whittlesea, Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC VIC 3083.

Please ensure your application is marked **Expression of Interest Domestic Animal Management Plan Focus Group** and includes a completed application form.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information about the Expression of Interest, please contact City of Whittlesea Community Engagement team on 9217 2170.

Domestic Animal Management Plan Focus Group – Expression of Interest

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Email: _____

Residential address: _____

My age range is:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 18-24 years | ☐ 55 -65 years |
| ☐ 25-34 years | ☐ 65 to 74 years |
| ☐ 35-44 years | ☐ 75 years and over |
| ☐ 45-54 years | |

My gender identity is

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Non-binary
☐ I/they use a different term
☐ Prefer not to say

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

- ☐ Yes, please specify language spoken _____
☐ No

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

- ☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
☐ Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
☐ No

Do you identify as a member of the LGBTIQA+ Community?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Prefer not to say

Which of the following applies to you?

- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ Unpaid carer of a person with a disability
- ☐ Unpaid carer of an older person
- ☐ None of the above

Which of the following best describes your household structure?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Couple with no children
- ☐ Couple with children youngest under 15
- ☐ Couple with children youngest 15 – 17
- ☐ Couple with children youngest 18 +
- ☐ One parent family with children youngest under 15
- ☐ One parent family with children youngest 15 – 17
- ☐ One parent family with children youngest 18 +
- ☐ Multigenerational families (grandparents, parents and children)
- ☐ Group household/share household
- ☐ Other, please specify _____

What is your interest in this topic? Tick all that apply

- ☐ Dog owner
- ☐ Cat owner
- ☐ Use local parks, reserves or playgrounds
- ☐ Sportsclub member/player/volunteer
- ☐ Veterinarian/Vet Nurse
- ☐ Member of animal advocacy/rescue group, please specify _____
- ☐ Member of a dog club, please specify _____
- ☐ Member of a wildlife/environmental group, please specify _____
- ☐ Registered dog breeder
- ☐ Registered cat breeder
- ☐ Animal focussed business operator that provides services for animals but doesn't house them (i.e.: animal behaviourist or walker etc)
- ☐ Registered Domestic Animal Business that houses animals (i.e.: boarding kennels, shelters, training facilities or pet stores)
- ☐ Other, please specify _____

Tell us why you'd like to be a part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan Focus Group?

Please list any special interest groups, memberships or local networks you are involved in?

Privacy Statement

All information collected will be confidential to the City of Whittlesea. Any personal information you might provide will not be disclosed to any other organisation. The City of Whittlesea will protect your information in accordance with the principles in the [Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014](#). Read Council's [full Privacy Statement on our website](#).