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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Indiscriminate breeding is responsible for the birth of thousands of unwanted cats and kittens in Victoria every year. Alarmingly, the figures for the financial year 2005/06 show a marked increase of more than ten per cent in the number of unwanted cats making their way into welfare shelters. More than 53,000 cats arrived and more than 35,000 of those had to be euthanased.

I believe the current situation is ethically and morally unacceptable. It is also incredibly taxing on those animal lovers who work in animal welfare shelters. Sadly, schemes designed to educate and encourage desexing have not worked. Put simply, every Animal Welfare Shelter in Victoria is of the view that the answer to this problem is the introduction of mandatory desexing for cats at the point of sale.

Further, the latest research carried out by the State Government Bureau of Animal Welfare shows almost 84 per cent of Victorians support mandatory desexing.

Mandatory desexing will not only help resolve the problems in relation to cat overpopulation, it will have a significant and positive impact on the environment. The Victorian Government has amended the appropriate legislation so that councils can now easily introduce mandatory desexing and several councils already have.

I urge you to introduce mandatory desexing for cats as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address: