

## Item 11.2

### Notices of Motion

#### Pet Bans in NSW Strata Schemes

By Councillor Forster

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) pets play a crucial role in many people's lives. They offer vital companionship, have well-documented mental and physical health benefits, and are increasingly recognised as part of the family;
  - (ii) according to a 2019 study by Animal Medicines Australia, there are over 29 million pets in Australia, and we have one of the highest pet ownership rates in the world. Approximately 61 per cent of households in Australia own pets;
  - (iii) in NSW, prior to the commencement of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015, there were three model by-laws regarding pets. These model by-laws offered a choice to ban pets, to allow pets with permission, or to allow small pets without permission. One of these by-laws could be registered when the strata scheme was established, however the default by-law was to ban pets;
  - (iv) under post-2015 strata laws, there is no model by-law banning pets, while the new default by-law is that pets are allowed, and the owners corporation must be notified;
  - (v) the two new model by-laws either allow pets to be kept if the owner's corporation is notified, or allow pets to be kept with written approval, which must not be unreasonably refused;
  - (vi) blanket pet bans in NSW strata schemes still exist and it is difficult for pet-owners to overturn these blanket bans in strata as it only takes a small minority, 25 per cent of voting owners, to object for the by-law to remain; and
  - (vii) there is a current NSW Parliament ePetition calling for the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 to be amended to allow the keeping of pets in all strata schemes and invalidate retrospectively any by-law that prohibits the keeping of pets; and
- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Premier, The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, the Minister for Customer Service, The Hon. Victor Dominello, and the Member for Sydney, Mr Alex Greenwich MP, expressing the City's support for the ePetition and its call for the removal of blanket bans of pet ownership in NSW strata schemes.

S129260