

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: **The Rural City of Murray Bridge and National Desexing Network launch subsidised desexing program to prevent unwanted cats**

Contact: **Heather Barclay / Chief Executive Officer**
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Date: **Tuesday 7 November 2023**

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has funded and launched a subsidised desexing and microchipping program aimed at assisting residents in managing the cat population. This initiative has been supported by a co-funding grant from the Dog and Cat Management Board, in collaboration with the National Desexing Network and a local veterinary clinic.

This initiative will be available to residents of Murray Bridge Council, including pensioners or those with a low income, who are managing the care of multiple cats or have welcomed a stray into their home. Eligible residents can take advantage of having their cat desexed for a fee of \$50, with the added option of microchipping available for \$5.

This program is managed by the National Desexing Network. Residents seeking support can contact them at 1300 368 992 to determine their eligibility. Upon confirmation, they will receive a desexing voucher and can proceed to schedule an appointment with the participating veterinary clinic.

Please note that these subsidies are conditional on the availability of Council funds and are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mayor Wayne Thorley is a strong advocate for this beneficial program, highlighting its dual role in alleviating the financial burden on the Council related to animal management and in contributing to the preservation of native wildlife by reducing the number of stray and unwanted cats.

“Desexing is a responsible choice that not only curbs the number of unwanted animals but also contributes to a healthier, longer life for pets,” Mayor Thorley remarked.

Dr. Joy Verrinder, Strategic Director of the Animal Welfare League Queensland's National Desexing Network, recommends desexing cats between the ages of 2 and 4 months to prevent unwanted behaviours and early pregnancies. She commends the Council and Murray Bridge Vet Clinic for their commitment to this community service.

The National Desexing Network is renowned for its year-round Cooperative Desexing Programs, which have been instrumental in achieving significant milestones, such as the elimination of euthanasia for healthy and treatable cats in the Gold Coast City area.

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For media inquiries and interview opportunities with Council, please contact Heather Barclay, Chief Executive Officer, at 8539 1174. For more details about the program, reach out to Joy Verrinder, NDN Strategic Director, on 0417 788 063.

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