



# **ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY**

## **TOWNSVILLE 2020**

### **CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS**

<b>TOWNSVILLE 2020</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wildlife Rescue</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Stopping Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Getting along with Flying-Foxes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Caring for Townsville's Companion Animals</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Keeping Townsville Clean</b>	<b>7</b>

# Wildlife Rescue

The Animal Justice Party will fight to ensure that animal rescuers, who are providing an important public service to our community, are properly funded by Townsville City Council for the work they do in our city. Currently there are no dedicated grant categories for wildlife carers or rescuers. Injury to wildlife is a sad reality of modern living; we have a collective duty to provide the best care possible where an animal is hurt.

## **Our commitments for Townsville 2020 are:**

1. Introduce Native Wildlife Carers Grants, like Brisbane City Council, to a total of \$50,000 per annum. This will increase the capacity for native animal care, rehabilitation and release.
2. Introduce a council-funded 'wildlife ambulance' to transport critically injured wildlife to a veterinarian or qualified wildlife carer, within a \$120,000 per annum budget.

# Stopping Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty

Violence, especially domestic violence and animal cruelty, is unacceptable. The Animal Justice Party believes that all levels of government must do more to end violence, including assisting those fleeing domestic violence. Research shows many human victims will not leave a violent home without their companion animal, who may also suffer. We must make it easier for human and animal to leave together, safely.

## **Our commitments for Townsville 2020 are:**

1. Work with the Federal and State Governments to establish a domestic violence shelter that houses human and non-human companion animals.
2. In the interim, temporarily care for animals from violent homes until the human guardian can find a safe, permanent home. A dedicated section of the local pound can be used. Link in with other social services.
3. Make it easier for those fleeing domestic violence to change their companion animal's registration details or reclaim their companion from Council shelters.
4. Run a community awareness program teaching Townsville residents about domestic violence and links with animal cruelty

## Getting along with Flying-Foxes

Flying-foxes are incredible animals with an important role in the reproduction of plants, pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds. Townsville is home to 5 or more permanent camps. Spectacled flying-foxes are unique to our region. The Animal Justice Party will push for these wonderful animals to be welcomed, protected and celebrated in Townsville.

### **Our commitments for Townsville 2020 are:**

1. Protect the 5+ flying-fox camps in Townsville by stopping nearby clearing and planting native food trees on adjacent public land.
2. Trial protective fencing around flying fox camps at Dan Gleeson Memorial Park, together with signs informing residents of the ecological importance of flying foxes. This will simultaneously promote better public use of the park, and protect important flying-fox colonies.
3. Hold a review into the amount of electrified and barbed wire fencing in Townsville and surrounding suburbs which is known to injure and kill flying-foxes. Amend local laws and policies to protect flying-foxes.
4. Run eco-tours and viewings of the flying-fox camp at the Palmetum botanic gardens, especially at dusk as they leave for the night. This will enable the public to learn about the ecological importance of flying-foxes in our local area.

# Caring for Townsville's Companion Animals

The Animal Justice Party knows that companion animals have a special place in Townsville's heart; they're family and this city is their home too. We think there's much more we can do to make this city safer and more inclusive of their needs, from better animal-friendly infrastructure to better animal-oriented services.

## **Our commitments for Townsville 2020 are:**

1. Increase transparency within the Townsville City Council to ensure public access to information about the management of lost/unwanted animals.
2. Increase funding for the Townsville pound, increase staff, and holding capacity in order to reduce the kill rate from 45% (cats) and 25% (dogs) to 10% by 2025, reducing further over time towards zero.
3. Change the language used by Council; call animals 'companions' and not 'pets'. Recognise the needs and individuality of animals in Council communications and explain the obligations of human guardians, including the financial cost (>\$1,500p.a) over their lifetime.
4. Introduce compulsory desexing of cats by amending Schedule 3 of the *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*. This will help stop overpopulation and reduce predation pressure on native animals.
5. Provide Council-funded community 'guardian and companion' education sessions teaching animal behaviour, first aid, care and socialisation.
6. Introduce higher registration fees for undesexed/breeding age dogs that have come from a 'pet shop' or breeder.
7. Increase the duration of Council's free pet microchipping events in order to increase accessibility to all members of the community.

# Keeping Townsville Clean

The Animal Justice Party is dedicated to busting litter and pollution which is damaging to our local environment, including our precious waterways. We believe that the solution involves getting community, business and industry on board with 21st century waste management and introducing innovative ways to build roads and drains.

## **Our commitments for Townsville 2020 are:**

1. Place “drain socks” on storm drains to catch litter before it ends up in the local waterways.
2. Trial using recycled plastic to resurface roads, like Redland City Council.
3. Introduce a community compost program to assist Townsville residents with management of organic waste.
4. Reward business using eco-friendly practices with a Council star-rating scheme to indicate their level of eco- and climate-friendly practices, monitored through transparent and independent compliance procedures. Businesses that achieve high ratings receive council discounts and positive publicity.
5. Make all Council events “plastic free” and encourage local community groups and businesses to do the same.