

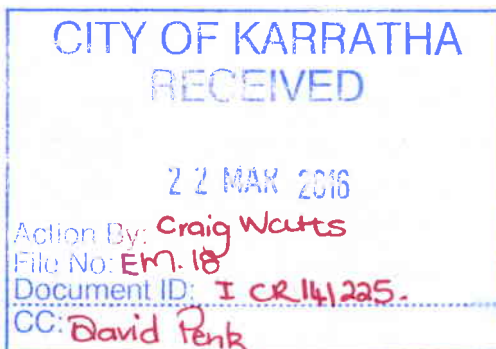


Our future is SAFE



16 March 2016

Mayor Peter Long
City of Karratha
PO Box 219
KARRATHA
WA 6714



Tishka Hanlon
Darrell Hutchens

Dear Mayor Long

**RE:REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN CITY OF KARRATHA (CITY) AND SAVING ANIMALS FROM EUTHANASIA
(SAFE)**

On the 30th of June this year, the current MOU between the City and SAFE will expire. The team at SAFE are very proud of the success of the partnership to date and would like to request a renewal of the agreement to sustain SAFE's work into the future.

The alliance between SAFE and the City is an exemplary one and provides a model for building effective working relationships between animal rescue agencies and local governments across the country. The values of our two organisations are clearly aligned, with a focus on teamwork, integrity and leadership to achieve favourable social, environmental and economic outcomes for our community.

We are particularly proud of the positive working relationship we have with Ranger Darrell Hutchens and his team. Darrell's work complements our innovative foster care programme (a model which has been an inspiration for animal welfare agencies across the country), helping us work towards our goal of zero euthanasia for healthy, rehomed animals. In the last two years alone, SAFE has rehomed a total of 894 animals, with 345 of those rehomed through the collaborative approach of SAFE and the City. That number makes up about 40% of the total number of animals assisted by SAFE during this period. It has also helped to see the rates of animals euthanased by Rangers down 33% since 2013.

SAFE Karratha has also worked in conjunction with the Ranger team and local vets to implement a co-operative animal desexing programme for all animals re-homed by SAFE, so the City can be assured that not only do Rangers avoid euthanasing healthy animals, but that SAFE animals are desexed and thus pose no risk of perpetuating the overpopulation problem.



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The benefits of SAFE to the Karratha community are varied and far-reaching. Remoteness, isolation and transience elevates the role of animals as providers of emotional support. The proven physical and mental health benefits of pet ownership are well documented, as are the positive effects of volunteer work for both individuals and the community. Our volunteers over the past 13 years have included the suicidal, troubled youth, people with disabilities, over 80 juveniles and adults undertaking community service as well as those community members just wishing to make a valuable contribution. Many residents new to Karratha choose to volunteer with SAFE. We have observed their reliance on volunteering as a means of maintaining emotional and mental well-being in a new and remote location.

Finding new homes for lost or abandoned animals, particularly cats, also plays a significant role in protecting our community's natural environment.

We are seeking to move from a three year MOU agreement to a term of five years, and respectfully request a review of the funded amount. The current contribution of \$44k annually has remained constant since 2013, but we find our operating costs have increased significantly. An annual amount of \$65k would see SAFE's operations sustained.

It is hereby requested that SAFE make a ten minute presentation at the Council Briefing on Monday April 11th 2016 (prior to the Council Meeting on April 18th) where we could submit our strategic plan and go into greater detail on how the proposed funds would be acquitted.

Mayor Long, I eagerly await your reply and look forward to discussing this matter with you further in the very near future. Please don't hesitate to contact me on 0439 355 163 or 9185 4634.

Yours sincerely

Sue Hedley

SUE HEDLEY

Founder

Saving Animals from Euthanasia

CC: Chris Adams, CEO City of Karratha
David Pentz, Director Development Services, City of Karratha