THH Speaker of the NT Parliament is threatening to ignore planned new dog bylaws in Darwin’s rural areas.

Litchfield Shire Council is considering changes including registration and limits on the number of dogs that residents can own.

But local resident and CLP Member for Goyder Kezia Purick — who has six dogs — said the council needed to reveal their reasons behind the proposed changes.

“I’m not going to register my dogs and I’m not going to apply for multiple dog permits,” she said.

“I don’t believe they are based on sound logic and reasonable thinking.”

But Litchfield Mayor Allan McKay said the community was simply being asked if they wanted the existing bylaws updated.

“We’re not telling the public what we’re doing, we’re asking them what they want,” he said.

But Independent Member for Nelson Gerry Wood backed Ms Purick.

“They don’t seem to be bringing in anything different,” Mr Wood said.

“What I can’t understand is the reason for these changes, the existing bylaws are fine.”

Mr McKay said the proposed changes would give more power to the council to deal with problem dogs.

He said any changes would be used reactively not proactively when problems arose.

Woman mauled by mad moggy

By AMY SPEAR

A TERRITORY woman spent four weeks in hospital after she was attacked by a domestic cat.

Fran Wickes, of Millner in Darwin, was taking her “mostly indoor” moggy for a morning walk outside on May 15 when she heard caterwauling.

When she checked, she could see a visiting cat and tried to get it to leave.

But the cat, which Ms Wickes said was known to her, turned and leapt on to her skin and “took a big bite and dug in all four paws and claws.”

When it dropped off and looked as though it may leap again, Ms Wickes used a palm frond to shoo it away.

She said she was stunned and visited Casuarina Community Clinic initially, who advised her to go to Darwin hospital to treat her injuries.

Ms Wickes continued to expect to stay overnight.

When it dropped off and flipped over, Ms Wickes said it had leapt on a child, it would have been disastrous,” she said.

Darwin council loaned her a cat trap, but she said this particular cat seemed to know all about those and all she caught was possums.

Ms Wickes said the incident was an “experience” but one she’d rather not go through again.

The council is considering introducing penalties for domestic cat attacks, as part of a review into its animal management bylaws as a result of the attack.

Mills dismisses federal job talk

FORMER chief minister Terry Mills has ruled out taking a job with the Federal Government if it wins the election.

Mr Mills again put to bed rumours that he had been in discussions with Opposition Leader Tony Abbott about taking a Commonwealth job in Asian relations.

This would have forced a by-election in the Palmerston seat of Blain.

Mr Mills said he had been to Indonesia in recent months to try and improve relationships damaged when the Labor Government banned live cattle exports.

“I was asked to help by senior Indonesians on a couple of matters and I reported back to the Coalition as was appropriate,” he said.

“I have outstanding connections in Indonesia. I was asked to give some assistance and it is in the Territory’s interest and the national interest, and I was just adding value where I could.

“I imagine that might continue, in fact I suspect it probably will.”

Mr Mills admitted being looked after her for a few days, before heading to the emergency department expecting to stay overnight.

But she ended up spending four weeks in Royal Darwin Hospital to treat her injuries.

Ms Wickes continued to have two weakly dressings following her hospital stay, with the final one removed just last week.

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