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## Plans to be lodged for new animal shelter

Orange City Council plans to build its new animal shelter in the Narrambla Business Park, to provide care for the city's stray pets until they are rehomed.

Orange mayor Reg Kidd said Council, last week, voted to proceed with a development application to build the new facility at 36 Astill Drive.

"For years, the Orange branch of the RSCPA looked after Orange's stray pets, by accepting lost pets, reuniting them with their owners, or rehoming those animals which could be rehomed," Cr Kidd said.

"In late 2017, the RSPCA announced this role would change. Council had to make alternative arrangements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community and of Orange's stray pets.

"During the last year, Council has kept Orange's stray pets at a private facility. This option was always intended to be temporary.

"The time has come for Council to build its own facility to take on this role.

"Council owns the parcel of land in Narrambla and given it isn't near any residential homes but is still within the city, it's a good location for this kind of facility."

Orange City Council's Companion Animal Committee Chair Cr Stephen Nugent said the new facility would be used to house stray pets, until they can be re-homed or while other options are explored.

"This is the best option for the community and for the well-being of Orange's lost and stray pets," Cr Nugent said.

"We aim to get this project up and running as soon as possible, the design is under way and we will shortly be going out to tender.

"Council intends to lodge the development application within the next fortnight to build the shelter.

"We're aiming to have it operational by July 2019.

"This facility will be Council owned and operated.

“It will provide a high-standard of care for the city’s stray pets and will be an easily accessible venue for people who are looking for a new family pet and would prefer to adopt one.

“We will be continuing with our arrangement with Canobolas Family Pet Hospital, where people can drop off found pets to the vet hospital to be scanned for a microchip.

“The staff at Canobolas Family Pet Hospital have been absolutely fantastic in this regard over the last 12 months.”

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