

# Owner education is vital

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Ms Mercorella said blanket bans were undesirable because a one-size-fits-all rule rarely suited all cases. "Landlords want to ensure their property is well maintained and can be reluctant to allow pets due to the potential risk for damage," she said. At the moment, landlords cannot ask for more money or request a pet bond.

## Push to scrap unit pet ban, but agents say balance needed

State laws also prevent owners from charging more than four weeks' bond. Ms Mercorella said the REIQ recognised the benefits of pets but "think legislation needs to give them (landlords) contractual freedom so that both parties can negotiate terms that are satisfactory".  
Toowong real estate agent

Doug Disher said the Government's position was that it would be unfair to make a tenant pay more to have a pet, however it should consider the large number of people who could afford to pay a premium. He believed a pet bond was one answer to bringing balance to the issue. "We did a survey (a num-

ber of years ago) of 600 tenants and owners on our data base and asked, as a tenant, would you be prepared to pay a bond if it meant you could have your pet -- and 61 per cent said yes," Mr Disher said. "When we asked the owners 'would you be more likely to allow pets', 70 per cent said they would be open to

the idea if there was a pet bond." He said the government and the community were also well aware of the social and health benefits of pet ownership. Tenants Queensland CEO Penny Carr backed the calls for reforms to tenancy laws affecting pet ownership. She said the State Gov-

ernment's upcoming review of Residential Tenancy Laws next month provided a platform for looking at changes to the current laws. "It's very hard for renters to have pets and, moving forward, laws making the exemption of pets from properties need to be the exception rather than the rule," she said. Western Australia is the only state with a pet bond. It is set at \$260.

## Residents celebrate Budget win

KENMORE residents who have waged a long fight to fix a notorious intersection are celebrating after cash was allocated for the area in this year's Council Budget. Councillor Julian Simmonds (Walter Taylor) said he was delighted to confirm \$221,000 had been set aside to upgrade the intersection of Fig Tree Pocket and Kenmore roads, which has been the scene of numerous accidents and near misses. The intersection is heavily used by school children. "My overwhelming feeling is the relief knowing that my kids will be able to cross the road safely on their way to school, and to know that the constant car accidents will stop," Mika Ryan, who spearheaded the residents' campaign, said. "I love that Council listened to the grassroots and responded. This will save countless people so much heartache, and it possibly will save lives as well." Cr Simmonds said the cash would allow Council engineers to immediately start investigating and designing traffic and pedestrian improvements. "I look forward to working with residents on the design options," he said.  
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Orienteer Caroline Pigerre is off to Hungary for a major competition.

PICTURE: AAP/RICHARD WALKER

## Hobby takes star to Hungary

CAROLINE Pigerre's weekend hobby has turned into serious competition after she was selected for the Australian team competing at the Junior World Orienteering Championships in July. The 19-year-old Chapel Hill university student will

travel to Hungary to compete in races lasting anywhere from 13 minutes to an hour. She is the only Queensland representative. Ms Pigerre said she loved orienteering because it challenged her mentally as well as physically.

"It's a sport where you can get good results without being the fastest runner, because you have to make sure you're running in the right direction," she said. "The terrain is going to be very different because the forest we'll be running in

has sand dunes with plantations on top. "The team is travelling to Hungary a week or so early to do some final preparations to get used to how it is mapped." She was sure their mix of talents would serve them well. -Elyse Heyn

## Suburbs top house price growth list

THREE of Brisbane's top five suburbs for median price rises are in the west. CoreLogic data revealed Auchenflower, Ashgrove and Indooroopilly were among suburbs with the highest median value growth over the past 12 months. Auchenflower sits at number two on the list, with its median value rising by 21.1 per cent, with Ashgrove at 18.5 per cent. Indooroopilly experienced growth of 15 per cent. McGrath Real Estate Agents sales agent Reuben Packer-Hill said those suburbs had been overlooked for some time and now that surrounding suburbs were becoming more expensive, buyers were looking for nearby alternatives. "Some of those suburbs in the western corridor have been undervalued and underperformed so it was about time people realised how great some of those suburbs are," Mr Packer-Hill said. "People have traditionally looked in closer suburbs (and) we've seen prices in suburbs like Paddington rise over the past five to 10 years, so as people look for better value for money they've stepped the next suburb over."

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