



Inquiry into the management of cat populations in New South Wales

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the Animal Welfare Committee inquire into and report on the management of cat populations in New South Wales, and in particular:

- (a) the impact of cats on threatened native animals in metropolitan and regional settings
- (b) the effectiveness of cat containment policies including potential barriers
- (c) welfare outcomes for cats under contained conditions
- (d) the effectiveness of community education programs and responsible pet ownership initiatives
- (e) implications for local councils in implementing and enforcing cat containment policies
- (f) the effectiveness and benefits to implementing large scale cat desexing programs
- (g) the impact of potential cat containment measures on the pound system
- (h) the outcomes of similar policies on cat containment in other Australian states or territories
- (i) options for reducing the feral cat population
- (j) any other related matters.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 21 September 2023.¹
The inquiry commenced on 11 October 2024.

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 10 October 2023, Item 29.

Committee membership

Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Bob Nanva MLC	Australian Labor Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Robert Borsak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	
Ms Abigail Boyd MLC*	The Greens	
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals	
Ms Sue Higginson MLC*	The Greens	
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Ms Abigail Boyd MLC is a participating member from 11 October 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.

* Ms Sue Higginson MLC is a participating member from 30 October 2024 for the duration of the inquiry.