

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I wish to express my deep concern and strong condemnation of the practice of killing feral cats as a method of population control. While I understand the challenges posed by feral cat populations, including their impact on wildlife and ecosystems, lethal control methods are neither humane nor effective in the long term.

Feral cats, like all animals, deserve to be treated with compassion and respect. Killing these animals fails to address the root cause of overpopulation and ignores the ethical responsibility we have toward sentient creatures. Studies have shown that culling is a short-sighted approach that often leads to the “vacuum effect,” where other cats move into the area, perpetuating the cycle of overpopulation.

I strongly advocate for the implementation of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs as an ethical, non-lethal alternative. TNR has proven to be the most effective and humane method for controlling feral cat populations. By trapping feral cats, neutering or spaying them, and then releasing them back to their original territory, TNR prevents further breeding, stabilising and gradually reducing the population over time. In addition, neutered cats are less likely to display aggressive territorial behaviour, leading to a more harmonious coexistence with humans and wildlife.

Furthermore, where possible, I urge the authorities and animal welfare organisations to invest in rehoming initiatives. Many feral cats, especially kittens, can be socialised and adopted into loving homes, giving them a second chance at life.

In conclusion, I implore decision-makers to abandon inhumane killing practices and adopt more compassionate, long-term solutions such as TNR and rehoming. These approaches not only respect the lives of feral cats but also contribute to more sustainable and ethical population management.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.