

**Submission
No 17**

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

Name: Mrs Jo-anne Wright

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Hi, I am founder of a volunteer group that helps to find missing pets on the Central Coast of N.S.W as well as a foster carer for cats.

I feel cats have been poorly represented and are a forgotten species. They are being blamed for the death of wildlife which has now placed a bounty on their heads.

By bounty I mean the Grooming bait stations that this government has approved of.

A bait made out of 1080 which is a horrendous way to die. yet N.S.W and the Australian government feel it is justified.

We have helped many owners with lost cats as well as helped dumped cats thrown away like yesterday's garbage and those hit and killed on our roads.

It is about time this Government puts a curfew on cats and to totally ban them from being outside unless in a cat enclosure.

We ourselves have cats as well as foster cats and we have two large enclosures to make sure they are safe.

Every day you see on every lost and found page a deceased cat. This would not happen if owners were made to keep them inside.

Desexing programs run by the local councils need to come into effect.

These are left to rescue groups who do their best but cannot keep up with the demands. The population of cats will only increase if the government does not step in to help with curb this situation.

TNR needs to be brought in to help those thousands of strays cats that are out there.

Every single stray or so-called feral cat is out there because a human let them down.

Agencies like the RSPCA and the AWL do not do enough to help with hoarding situations they leave it to rescue groups to deal with or say it is legal for cats to roam.

If you take a cat into the pounds and they can't find a chip again they say return it as cats are allowed to roam. This has to stop. Why are cats allowed to roam but dogs aren't. For a cat lover this seems unfair and the law has to change.

It is about time a stand alone cat sanctuary was built and it is about time the welfare of cats was thought of.

Baiting, killing cats is not the answer. Desexing is.