

Submission
No 508

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Please repeal the "cats are free to roam" legislation. Council pounds use this as an excuse not to assist people who have found a stray cat. It will take 20 years to get this terrible problem under control even if you implement good policies immediately.

Find a way to offer free desexing on a large sale across all areas but initially target the lower income suburbs (especially those with large populations of immigrants as they do not understand the issue surrounding allowing their cats to breed uncontrolled,)

Remove the charge for registering a cat. Remove the two step process for lifetime registration. Once your cat is chipped and on the database it should be for the life of the cat.

Enforce fines for abandoning cats for example people that move house and leave behind 3.4 or more undesexed cats to become the problem of neighbours. This is where councils are negligent as they then enforce the "cats are free to roam" rule.

Follow up on people who abandon cats (if it can be adequately shown that the cats were in their care) and issue fines for abandonment. This could easily be done through Service NSW in the same way that parking fines etc are handled. This is another area where Councils are negligent. If you try to take a cat to a pound that you have been feeding to gain its confidence so you can catch and help. Council pounds will then deem the cat as "owned by you" as you have supplied it with food. Yet no penalty exists for those who abandon.