

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 1 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I believe NSW urgently needs improved legislation around cat management and ownership. Cats of all status, including owned pets, semi-wild-living stray cats and wild-living feral cats, are known to be one of the biggest threats to wildlife in this country. My recommendations are as follows:

- Revoke the right of cats to roam freely as is currently allowed by the NSW Companion Animals Act.
- Require local council animal facilities to accept stray cats brought in by members of the public.
- Enable local governments to enact and enforce anti-roaming / cat containment by-laws or regulations at a local level.
- Support local councils, community groups and landholders to trap and humanely euthanise stray cats via financial support and advice.
- Rule out any support for trap-neuter-release programs, which perpetuate the problem of semi-wild living populations of cats.
- Make desexing of owned cats mandatory in NSW for all except registered breeders.
- Encourage the voluntary containment of cats to owners' properties via a statewide campaign promoting the benefits of containment to cats' health and longevity.

I also submit the following published studies and resources to inform the review, if they are not already:

<https://invasives.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Fact-sheet-Impact-of-pet-cats-on-Australian-wildlife.pdf>

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/publications-and-tools/the-impact-of-cats-in-australia>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717302719?via%3Dihub>

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.