

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

As a resident & volunteer, of over 6 decades, who works for several community environmental groups on the Pittwater peninsula, (& vets in Aust and overseas) I have seen the destruction that feral animals and domestic pets are doing in both the bushland and beaches.

The Pittwater area still has much native wildlife (marine & land) to protect, on this ecologically precious, narrow peninsula - many Sydney suburbs have already lost their native fauna entirely. Development pressure and the accompanying people and their pets are rapidly destroying our fauna - both dogs and cats & other ferals are culprits - but as cats are toothed & clawed carnivores by preference, they are the perfect nocturnal predators who are indiscriminate killing machines for our native fauna. Their owners are usually oblivious to this fact or willfully ignorant.

It is therefore incumbent upon local and state govt to have the necessary power to (preferably) severely limit their ownership, (as some councils & states have done with some rodent species) AND make it mandatory to keep all cats inside both day and night.

Over the years, we have witnessed endangered powerful owl fledgling chicks, & other native birds, ringtail possums, & bandicoots, all being attacked by both feral and domestic cats. They are agile, and can get to almost any prey quickly & silently - trees, burrows, beaches, inlets (penguins, sick baby seals etc), nest boxes, rooves etc.

Please give Council the ability to enforce strict observance of a law to ensure cats are kept entirely indoors. This would save thousands of native birds and animals.

Feral cats need to be culled, as foxes, wild pigs, deer etc are. This is crucial if we are to protect our rapidly dwindling Australian fauna.

There are so many pressures on our native flora and fauna currently. This one simple, relatively cheap change of policy to allow Councils to enforce keeping cats indoors day & night, would make such a difference. There would obviously need to be funding for compliance officers - bearing in mind that cats are very difficult to catch - but this would be a step in the right direction.