

Submission  
No 45

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

**Organisation:** Illawarra Cat Rescue Support

**Date Received:** 13 November 2024

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This submission relates to the roles of Councils in cat management as the Council LGA I am in refuses to take in cats or do anything at all with cats and has done so for 15 years. We are a local Rehoming Organisation with no funding and operate voluntarily. If there are cat issues in the Shellharbour Council LGA and people call the council for assistance, they are told on the phone that "We do not take in cats and they are allowed to roam".

They have passed on my details for cat issues in the LGA, instead of fulfilling their role to the community.

Councils receive funding for animal management from the OLG NSW for pet registrations, however none of this goes to managing any issues. They rarely take in any dogs, ignore nuisance cat complaints from the community, and it is the local rehoming organisations who do all the work for no funding whatsoever.

The Animal Welfare League - Illawarra do major work for cat management in the Illawarra and have received some funding from Wollongong Council however Shellharbour have not contributed at all.

Local Rehoming Organisations, the AWL and the Animal Justice Party met with Shellharbour Council Mayor and management, and we were advised they are working towards organising cat management arrangements, however on recent follow ups, the response (attached) admits they believe they have no responsibilities under any Legislation to manage cats.

I also refer to the attached OLG memo (21-05 / 23 April 2021 / A719010) to Councils about their responsibilities to manage cats.

The Companion Animals Act and any legislation in development needs to include stronger requirements around the roles and responsibilities of Councils.

If Councils such as Shellharbour Council, continue to refuse to do anything in relation to cat management, the funding from the OLG should not be provided to them and should be provided to the Rehoming Organisations in that LGA who are doing the cat management.