

Submission  
No 56

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

**Organisation:** Friends of the Pound (Tweed) Inc.

**Date Received:** 20 November 2024

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On behalf of the Friends of the Pound (Tweed) Inc. who are an established not for profit animal rescue organisation located in the Tweed Shire part of the Northern Rivers in New South Wales. I would like to state that ALL CATS are not feral there are owned cats, abandoned cats and community owned cats then there are the cats who have been left undesexed to fend for themselves by irresponsible owners and this is where the problem lays. Cats have a role to play in our society as companions to members of the community who are lonely and need a pet to care for, families with children, pets make children better people or as a companion to other cats or dogs or as working cats to control vermin. What our organisation has been doing constantly for the past nine years and will continue to do is offer LOW COST DESEXING to members of the public in our shire and what we have found is that many of the residents in our shire are taking up our offer resulting in a manageable number of unwanted kittens being born, we fund these desexing programs with donated money via grant applications, but if local governments made it mandatory that all cats should be desexed FREE the problem of stray cats would be resolved. We do not need KILL programs but we do need responsible pet programs such as desexing and indoor housing. We DO NOT SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN DRAFT THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN (TAP) for predation by feral cats, with its proposal to reclassify stray cats under the feral cat class, with intentions for ALL stray cats to be poisoned, shot, trapped and culled like feral cats - this will halt ALL rescue efforts for stray (semi owned/ colony) cats & more.