

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Hi there,

This is a submission on the inquiry into the management of cat populations.

It is true that cat populations are causing destruction to ecosystems in Australia and needs addressing. With Australia among the leading countries for plant and animal extinction however, the severity of our biodiversity can hardly all be blamed on cat populations without recognising the devastating affect humans have in comparison with land clearing for agriculture, housing and mining.

If we are going to focus on managing cat populations, I believe it should be done in the most efficient, moral and sustainable way.

Enforced containment laws in local councils have been proven to be ineffective by actually increasing neighbourly complaints which hence has a domino affect increasing impoundment, therefor euthanasia rates which is left for our veterinarians to perform. Veterinarian's sign up to save animals, not kill healthy ones.

Baiting also poses a threat to other animals, especially natives and is painful for the victim.

The fact of the matter is that yes something needs to be done to manage cat populations. The above options may have been the most logical choices once upon a time however they are purely temporary solutions to a prolonging and growing issue.

But with growing research there is evidence to suggest that community cat programs that focus on rehoming, targeted desexing and community education we can effectively reduce stray cat populations which make up most of the cat population.

This is a long-term solution that rather than focusing on killing cats that have already been born, we can prevent the cats from being born in the first place. This is a pro-active approach that focuses on prevention rather than reaction.

Thank you