

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

The system is failing. Rescues and animals welfare organisations need more support to take in animals that are homeless. They are homeless due to human error, not their own. Rescues are overrun, some needing to close their doors, due to systemic issues that lead to animals being dumped.

With time and commitment, some homeless cats can be socialised. I speak from experience. I have been caring for 10 homeless cats for over 18months. I have connected with carers and AWL to ensure all 10 cats are in good health and all have been desexed. Of those ten, five already have homes. Another two are currently engaging with me and seeking pats and comfort- these might be taken in by rescues to find homes, once kitten season slows down. This might not be until winter next year, but I am in it for the long haul. Another two watch me closely, slow blinking as I talk to them, and showing signs of trust building. I honestly believe that in time, my dedication to these furry friends in need, will lead to them living safe, comfortable, lives with loving humans.

We must prioritise cat welfare and support humane management practices, including funded desexing programs, education, and funding for animal rescues. Along with housing options that support pet ownership. We need fix the system, not support inhumane pain and death.

Anyone who has shared their life with a cat knows they are loving, intelligent, and social animals who deserve kindness, not persecution. Yet powerful organisations and the government are pushing measures that would cause more violence and suffering for cats.

Cats in NSW are being unfairly demonised and targeted by cruel methods like baiting, trapping, and mandatory containment-practices that are not only ineffective but lead to unnecessary suffering. The Invasive Species Council is pushing for lethal controls despite a lack of evidence that these measures work. There are much better ways to support cat control, without torturing animals that have already been abandoned by human.

Again, I call for a change in practice, and for a strong humane support system to be built in its place. Please decide with compassion for these sweet, connected, and courageous cats in need.