

Submission
No 109

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 11 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

11 November 2024

Animal Welfare Committee

NSW Legislative Council

Re: Submission to Inquiry into the management of cat populations in New South Wales

- Pets provide great comfort, fun and mental health benefits to their owners, and pet ownership should be encouraged.
- **The current requirements on cat owners with respect to managing their cat/s in NSW are insufficient. NSW needs to introduce cat ownership laws that:**
 - apply to the same conditions on cats/cat owners that already apply to dogs/dog owners;
 - mirror those that have been introduced for cats in Victoria;
 - require all cats to be registered and microchipped;
 - require that cats must be contained within their owner's property unless on a leash meaning that they should be required to be kept locked up at night and not be allowed to trespass on neighbouring properties; and
 - require cat owners to keep their cats quiet.
- **We are being tormented by neighbour-owned cats, and the Council says they can do little, as the current NSW laws regarding cats are insufficient.**
 - There are no requirements for cats to be contained within their owner's property. This means that cats are being let out by irresponsible owners to roam neighbourhoods day and night and kill large amounts of local wildlife.
 - Four neighbour's cats are invading our yard and killing wildlife: We have fostered an environment to encourage wildlife on our property over many years. Four different cats are now stalking and killing wildlife in our yard on a regular basis, including possums, birds, blue tongues and other lizards and frogs. Most of the wildlife has disappeared from our yard. These cats belong to neighbours and are not strays.
 - These cats fight on our property and wake us at night: The cats also fight in our yard and wake us up early in the morning. I am on a breast cancer treatment journey and need good sleep.

- Even when they are asked, some cat owners refuse to control their cats.
- Cats have other anti-social behaviours like marking their territories and leaving stinking smells on neighbours' properties and verandas.
- Council Rangers say the current rules for cat ownership are insufficient, and rangers do not have sufficient powers to address cats who roam outside their owner's property, who disturb neighbours or invade neighbours' properties or roam public land and bush reserves and which kill wildlife.
- With the population in Sydney and NSW increasing significantly, there is more pet ownership. Rules for cats need to be updated to be comparable to the requirement for dogs, to ensure that cat owners are being responsible in their pet management, and to ensure cats are not a menace to native wildlife and to neighbours.

Thank you for conducting this inquiry. It would be great to have improved laws to protect wildlife and ensure cat owners manage their pets appropriately.