

**Submission
No 129**

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

Name: David Wrenford
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Good afternoon

I understand an enquiry is being undertaken regarding cats.

As a former cat owner, I understand the joy that they can bring their owners.

My former cat, though well loved and fed, had the natural instinct to kill.

This included feral rabbits which I didn't mind, but it also killed native birds.

Despite my efforts with an attached bell, the cat would pounce on top of native birds as they tried to take off.

I tried various forms of punishment, but the cat would then kill the birds where I couldn't see him.

I no longer have a cat and now live adjacent to Conimbla National Park. On our property we have recorded 88 species of native birds.

We have seen feral cats in our area, their scats, and the decimated remains of native birds on our property.

The National Park is also affected by many feral animals – pigs, deer, foxes, cats, goats – that I have seen.

Feral cats and pet cats have the instinct and need to kill for food and fun.

They will also happily interbreed.

There are spray units available that recognise cats and spray a poison on the cats. They then lick this and die.

They would be most effective on properties which are affected by cats.

I have tried trapping them, but this has been unsuccessful.

Local Land Services funds an aerial shooting campaign which is effective and costly.

In between shoots, the feral animals are able to breed up again.

It seems to me to be very wise to keep pet cats inside or in large cages, or caged corridors.

This will contribute to protecting our beautiful native species.

Kind Regards,

David Wrenford