

**Submission
No 136**

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

Name: Thomas Angelo
Date Received: 18 November 2024

TO: Members of the NSW Legislative Council

As a resident of NSW, a bush regeneration volunteer, and birdwatcher, I'm extremely concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on Australian native wildlife.

Specifically, I urge you to support amendments to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level, bringing NSW into line with almost every other state.

As you may know, in NSW alone, approximately 100 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year. Unfortunately, despite that staggering death toll, about 70% of NSW cat owners still allow their pet cats to roam free.

As a volunteer for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, I've seen firsthand the carnage roaming and feral cats wreak on native reptiles, birds, and marsupials in our parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Given NSW's and Australia's rising tide of native animal extinctions, we simply cannot afford to allow millions of these invasive predators to continue to kill our wildlife at will.

By their nature, cats are extremely effective predators. They cannot be trained not to kill. We therefore urgently need responsible pet ownership, and this starts with clear rules to ensure pet owners keep cats contained to their property to save our native wildlife.

NSW also need requirements for all local governments to develop companion animal management plans to protect wildlife, as is already required in Victoria, and to make desexing mandatory state-wide by 4 months of age, as is required in WA, Tasmania, ACT and SA.

Thank you for your consideration and continuing public service.

Yours sincerely,