

**Submission
No 133**

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

Name: Mr Brian McDonald

Date Received: 22 November 2024

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to make the following submission to your committee for consideration.

My basic concerns relate to the protection of our environment and the rights of residents within the urban areas to protect their property and enjoyment of the fauna and flora on their own property and within nearby bushland, without neighbouring owner's "killing machine" namely their cats from entering their properties and public bushland/s.

My submission is as follows:-

Title	Mr
First name	Brian
Last name	McDonald

Subject	Keeping of cats
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I am deeply concerned at the continuing failure of previous and this Government in the control of cats.

Any responsible pet owner would ensure that their pet would not be harmed or do harm and thus ensure their pets was kept inside their boundaries of their properties.

Cats are naturally hunters and killers/ they do so for pleasure and would be considered to be one of the worst pest to our natural environment.

I was a cat lover in my younger days but my past and recent experiences has changed due to the irresponsibility of some owners.

Local Government have not been able to collect spray cats due to the failure of the wording within the Companion animals Act, and thus concerned residents affected by cats had no where to go for help.

We raised our four daughters when we lived opposite Stringy Bark Creek bushland in Lane Cove North. We had planted our garden with native plants and provided garden pools suitable to encourage frogs and lizards (at great expense).

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As a result we had the pleasure of a pet blue tongue lizard, water dragons and frogs together with a family of spotted pardalopes, Living opposite in the bushland.

We were so proud of our garden and so enjoyed the fauna visiting our property from the bushland.

This enjoyment ceased when new neighbours moved in next door with five(5) cats that were allowed to roam the streets, bushland and our property. The new owners had no respect for other residents or the bushland.

Regularly, during the day we would observe their cats exiting the bushland with native fauna in their mouths.

We lost our lizards, frogs, pardalopes and other fauna from the bushland and our property.

A polite approach to our neighbours, resulted in being told "where to go" and that their cats can roam 3 km away, if they wish.

We had to put up with their cats occupying our property 24/7.

The matter came to a head when unbeknown to us, Our neighbour sent a letter of complaint to my employer, General Manager, Lane Cove Council with a vet bill for \$700+ and requirement that I was to pay the bill.

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After an investigation, no action was taken but mud sticks.

We believe their cat was most likely injured by a car on either the side or front road/s adjoining our property and had come into our property where it spent most of its time and where they had found him injured and thus made the assumption that we had injured their cat.

After this event the neighbour gave us hell, particularly with missive/ noise from a radio on their window sill, at all hours of the night etc.

We have since downsized and moved to Willoughby, where once again we have planted native plants only to be foiled by a nearby neighbours cat scaring away and catching birds on our property, leaving feathers and parts of the birds etc. in our garden.

We recently installed a skylight in our attic to provide ventilation

and thus maintain the house cool in summer. However to leave our roof skylight open for removal of heat in summer is no longer possible as a neighbours' cat gained access and was found in the roof space about a week later, very dusty and hungry. The neighbour refuses to confine their cat to within their property.

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As a term leader and Senior Environmental Health and Building surveyor at nearby Local Councils, I had the misfortune of dealing with many similar cases together with residents placing poison baits in both their properties as well as public property, in order to kill their neighbouring cats, as Councils had no powers to require cat owners to kept their cats within their own properties. The real concern and dander occurred when baits were placed or found in a public place where children could have access.

I feel I must urge you strongly to amend the companion animals act and impose a law that requires all pets/ animals be kept within their owners property, unless outside under control, so as not to be harmed or do any harm. This is what is currently required of a dog owner. It is hard to understand why the same should not also apply to cats or any other animal. It is just common sense.

Please give positive consideration to my request as I have spoken to many other people with the same stories and concerns.

Thank you

I would like a response Yes

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