

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 5 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

I live in BROKEN HILL. I am very concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife, and the sleep patterns of myself and neighbors. I therefore support sensible amendments to the law to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats, bringing NSW into line with almost every other state.

Other people's cats freely roam up and down my driveway 24 / 7. There're abundant cats roaming our streets and everyone's yards. I have trapped quite a few, and taken them to the pound, to find that many of them are pets, which are sent back home to roam my yard and keep me awake again as they hunt my native garden for wildlife prey.

Wildlife has it particularly tough out this way, as there are many times through the years when there is very little vegetation to hide in from these predators.

Dog's natural instinct is to bark and alert us when intruders come into the yard, including cats. If the dogs are outside barking, they awaken neighbors at night, or during the day if on nightshift. I keep my dog inside at night to ensure he doesn't awake the neighbors if roaming cats get him barking. That means I am awoken and have to check for intruders, just to find (swear word) cats. Most cat owners still allow their pets to roam. We 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 and leave us to sleep peacefully through the night.

This reform should be accompanied by funding for education, compliance and to make desexing and registration easier. We also need clear rules around desexing by 4 months of age to prevent unwanted breeding and requirements for all local governments to develop and implement companion animal management plans.

I am therefore calling on the NSW Government and the Animal Welfare committee 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.

State government funding of a minimum of \$9 million to fund compliance, education, desexing, identification and registration programs.

Thank you for your time,

Yours sincerely,

