

**Submission
No 146**

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

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I have lived on the beautiful bush/suburb interface of the harbour foreshore for 48 years, and volunteer in two separate bush care groups in Mosman once a month. I am proud of the effect 12-17 years of this work has helped to return habitat for small birds, reptiles and smaller marsupials to my sites.

I am dismayed when I see cats allowed to roam at night, and I have even seen cats sitting in the bush during the day stalking small birds. I have nothing against cats, I have been a cat owner for a lot of my life. I will not get a cat again, as I am unable to contain it to my house and property. People say bells do the trick, but cats are stealthy and quick, and bells aren't loud enough.

Please enact legislation to compel owners to keep their cats confined. Even with legislation, we know there will not be 100% compliance, but if the legislation is accompanied by robust policing, and regulations requiring de-sexing, it is a start. Cat registration would help. I don't know why we have to register dogs, which largely stay in the company of their owners, and don't require cat owners to register (and de-sex) their cats.

We are so fortunate to have the preserved bushland around the foreshore, and in many beautiful parks and reserves in Sydney. There are many people who volunteer their time to restore and look after these areas to encourage wildlife back to places they have been pushed out of. Please place some value on this work by making everyone responsible for their pet animals, both unconfined cats, and people who allow their dogs to go bashing through the bush chasing water dragons or rabbits with no thought given to what the vegetation is hiding... small birds nests, and safe sheltering places for other creatures, and delicate plants trying to compete with weeds.

If every individual citizen took responsibility for care of our environment, even in small ways in their own locale... we are then all doing something that we can do, to cushion our own environments from dramatic change.

From little things big things grow.

Please bring NSW into line with other states with their management of companion animals. Now.

Kind regards,

Diana

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