

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear government,

As a resident of Nambucca Heads, I am very concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife. I am cat owner and now keep my 2 cats indoors as I found out about their impact.

I 100% 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.

I've heard that in NSW, approximately 96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year – with about 110 native animals killed by each roaming, hunting pet cat. Unfortunately about 70% of cat owners still allow their pets to roam. I used to be one of them!!

It's not the cats fault they are the worlds best predator, but in this country, with no natural predator to eat them. But what we can change is the social acceptance that allows pet cats to roam and kill, and that starts with the law. 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.

This will also benefit pet cats. Cats that are kept at home are happy and can live up to 10 years longer than cats that roam which are often injured or killed through fighting, car accidents and disease.

This reform should be accompanied by funding for education, compliance and to make desexing free and registration easier.

I'm a big fan of mandatory desexing of existing cats and I think we can come up with affordable ways where vet nurses go around in mobile vans to peoples streets (like mobile libraries) and desex tom cats (a cheaper, easier procedure). I think the government can afford this!!

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.

Requirements for all local governments to develop companion animal management plans to

protect wildlife, as is required in Victoria.

Development of a state-wide web resource for responsible pet ownership.

Making desexing mandatory state-wide by 4 months of age, as is required in WA, Tasmania, ACT and SA.

Let's do this. It will be great for everyone!!