

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Hi Legislative Assembly,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of the Wollondilly electoral district.

I am asking for 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.

I am horrified at what we've seen in our own backyard because pet cats are allowed to roam. Here are just some examples:

- I've been woken at 5.30am to the sound of a wattle bird being attacked. The bird was feeding on a bottlebrush flower in my front yard and a pet cat hunted it. I raced out of bed and managed to make enough noise to scare the cat away then went outside just in time to watch the bleeding bird die in front of me.

- In my backyard I captured a photo on my wildlife camera of a limp ringtail possum being carried in the mouth of a neighbour's cat.

- I've picked up the remains of countless rosellas in the neighbourhood - these birds feed on the ground so cats love stalking them and I'm an unwanted expert of the signature signs a cat has killed another rosella (foxes eat, roaming domestic cats kill for fun).

- I've walked outside to water some plants and spotted a cat in my backyard obsessing over something on the ground. Turns out the cat was playing with an echidna that was trying to burrow and protect itself.

- I've seen a cat climb a neighbour's wire fence to chase a fledgling wattle bird (fledgling means it's still learning to fly). The cat only scratched the bird and it lost some feathers. I got the bird to a local vet but it still died the next morning.

I COULD GO ON AND ON with my own horrible examples.

Humans have created this problem and it seems my problem is far from isolated with bucket loads of professional research on this topic so easy to find and stories often in the news.

The problem is never going to get better without your intervention.

I'm sure you don't even read this but I made the effort to send this email because amendments to the law to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats is extremely important to me.

Why is NSW so slow to do anything? Why are we not setting the standards instead of me begging you to do the bare minimum and at least copy other states.

My cat lived a happy life indoors. I loved my cat dearly. It's humans that are the problem and most cats owners still allow their pets to roam - this is irresponsible cat ownership. Rules are needed to ensure pet owners keep cats contained to their property to save our native wildlife - it is your job to set this standard requirement.

This reform should be accompanied by funding for education and ensuring compliance! I emphasise COMPLIANCE because we have a shonky building industry that should be enough proof of how pointless regulations are without enforcement of compliance.

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 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 and actively enforce a companion animal management plans to protect native wildlife

Cats kill for fun! Hunting is the nature of a cat so without containment you are turning a blind eye to the daily death toll of our wildlife because of cats. Our wildlife cannot speak up in this human process so take it from me - they are defenceless and loosing their lives daily against the horrifying number of roaming domestic cats.

It's not too much to ask for NSW to set boundaries on these killers. I am ashamed the majority of cat owners haven't taken responsibility on their own and NSW has been so slow to do anything about this problem.

Yours sincerely,