

**Submission  
No 163**

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

**Name:** Alice Baker  
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As a Wires volunteer I see numerous birds, gliders and small mammals taken by pet and feral cats, you only have to check the Wires data base to see the numbers and many are never reported as they are not found or people do not bother to report. Some areas in Sawtell, in particular are worse than others and even if one cat was stopped by changing the laws it would benefit, many birds, in particular.

In our area most of the cats roam, especially at night, as pet owners do not believe their well fed animals will eat our wildlife and most deny it was their cats even when their cats brought the bird/animal in to them. One lady was feeding a feral cat who killed the bird, dead in the box, she called me out to collect, at night. As I had been feeding chicks, all day, I was less than impressed.

We have so many people moving to the country, their cats kill our rare fruit doves, many other, rarely seen, but supposedly common birds, that I have seen killed such as a Cat birds, Bar shouldered doves, Wonga pigeons (no longer any near where I live) often chased into windows or clear glass around pools and killed. Cats have wiped out populations of Bandicoots from our area. When one Bandicoot joey is brought in by the cat people often do not look to see how many the mother dropped and later ring in with more dead or dying joeys to be collected.

If you want a cat you either keep it indoors or have a cage attached to the house - it can be done. If people want a cat it needs to be microchipped, registered, desexed before six months or it is already producing unwanted kittens, it needs to be kept in the house or cage. I have had a lady, from Sawtell Road, ring me upset about having to take the birds her neighbours cats maul to the vets on more than one occasion. The cat owners did not care she informed me. This is so hard for someone who loves their wildlife and plants native plants.

How can wildlife volunteers follow the releasing authorities requests to release bird/animals near where found when they have been in care following cat attacks.

I ask the NSW Government and the Animal Welfare committee to support our native wildlife and amend the NSW companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local government to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level.

I know this will need funding as local governments will need assistance but our wildlife is worth protecting, should not your grandchildren have the joy of seeing a real Noisy Pitta, Sooty Oystercatcher, Squirrel Glider, with it's lovely brushy tail, not a picture in a book, pictures just not do those creatures justice.

Please help us to keep our wildlife safe and give us all a better future.

Thank you,  
Alice Baker,