

**Submission
No 164**

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

Name: Rosie Connor
Date Received: 10 November 2024

Re cat containment legislation

As a resident of Kangaroo Valley (Shoalhaven electorate NSW), I am writing to express my concern about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife. Australian wildlife is precious and vulnerable. Kangaroo Valley in particular has a delicate ecosystem including the southern most population of brush tailed rock wallabies in New South Wales. Roaming pet cats present an enormous threat to the last remaining rock wallabies (there are less than forty individuals left in the valley). Wallaby joeys stashed in rock crevices are regularly slaughtered by cats as well as foxes and dogs, and this has decimated the population; <https://www.rockwallaby.org.au/our-work/predator-control-brush-tailed-rock-wallaby/>.

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. 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.

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 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 states
- 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.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie

Rosie Connor