

Submission
No 203

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

Name: Matthew Ross
Date Received: 15 November 2024

As a resident of Lake Haven, I am very concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife. I have seen first hand in Lake Haven domestic cats and feral cats having litter after litter of kittens. We are up to about our 5th litter walking the streets and using my back yard as one of their walk ways.

In my back yard we use to have Satin Bowerbirds visit blue face honey eaters Rosellas we use to have the Great Egret visit and native duck would be seen in many backyards Rainbow Lorikeet use to regularly Crested pigeon.

Now we just have cats and the crow was in fact the last victim in the last week I have found a number of Rainbow Lorikeet and Crested pigeon dead native birds in my backyard and only one thing leaves a mess like that

In my area there are Swift Parrots and Regent honeyeater also squirrel Gliders as well so think of the impact very clearly my Council is useless i have reported this for years and they have done nothing please lift your game please do something more

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.

The most successful predators in my backyard are 4 feral cats . 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 can't change the nature of cats, but we can change the culture that allows pet cats to roam and kill. 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. we also need council that are willing to do something about the issue as well I have tried and tried and tried without success to get them to do anything

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 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. You need to fine them and make them pay tough penalty are needed we are seeing extinction at an alarming rate as i mentioned I have critically endangered species in my area

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.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Ross