

Submission
No 206

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

Name: Judy McHutchison

Date Received: 18 November 2024

Dear Committee

I am fortunate to live on a large property next to a bush land reserve within close proximity to Oatley Park.

Over the years I've developed a close affinity with the wild life, particularly the bird life.

It is of enormous distress to me that cats come on to my property hunting blue tongue lizards, and birds etc.

On my property, over the years I've found the bodies of magpies, lorikeets, rosellas and even possums that appear to have been killed by cats.

Cats hide and linger around the birdbath that I maintain to ensure the birds have a reliable water supply.

Currently cats do not often come during the day as I always chased them. However, they continue to come at night I often see them crawling along my balcony.

I am often woken at night by the nightmarish sound of birds whose nests have been invaded by a cat. Cats can climb, they are amazing climbers. It is very traumatic lying in bed at night listening to these sounds and being helpless to intervene.

I am also subjected to the terrified cries from birds being attacked in local bushland reserves including Oatley Park.

I cannot continue to live here and worry about the birds that are used to my yard being a safe daytime haven. Apparently I have no legal right to insist that the next owner does not own a cat.

You will have information from people that know, more than me, what to do to reduce this holocaust.

However, as I previously suggested to George's River Council. In green zones don't allow any more cats to be bred or purchased. Existing cats need to be registered and once they die no more cats.

Hoping to see some swift and effective action on this matter.

Regards

Judy McHutchison