

Submission  
No 208

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

**Name:** Alana Parkins and family

**Date Received:** 18 November 2024

---

I and my family are very lucky to live in a small coastal village of Black Head on the mid North Coast of NSW. We love that we have an abundance of vegetation that supports a wide variety of native animals. I have been involved with the local wildlife rescue group FAWNA for more than 20 years. One of the major causes of predation and death of small mammals, like sugar gliders and feather tail possums, birds, especially ground dwelling birds and nectar eating birds that feed in domestic gardens, and lizards, like land mullets, the world's largest Skink, is roaming cats. Changing the law to protect native animals should have happened years ago. The date on the current legislation tells the story. 26 years old and way out of date for the current level of cat ownership in urban areas.

I love my cat Mitzi, a rescue cat that is now 10 years old. I have trained it to go outside the house on a lead. It doesn't know how to kill because it has never had the opportunity. He is a beautiful healthy companion that is cared for and protected. Statistically, and in all likelihood Mitzi will have a long and happy life.

In the past I have complained to my local council about neighbours cats that roam into my garden and kill. The response is "Cat's are allowed to Roam". This is crazy! I work hard at providing good native habitat in my garden and I control my cat. Why shouldn't other cat owners do the same and take responsibility for their pets.

It's hard to imagine that cat owners don't know any better but I bet there are a lot that have headed the governments message. Cats can roam and kill with no responsibility for their owners. Imagine if this was the same for dogs. This message needs to change and it needs to be shouted from the roof tops.

Amendments to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level will bring NSW into line with other states. Council will cry poor as far as compliance so there needs to be a mechanism to support local government to develop an action plan to implement the legislation. The estimate of \$9 million will save 96 million native animals. That's less than 11c per native animal.

Mitzi, is a Doll-face Persian and is desexed and registered. It's not that hard!

Kind Regards,

Alana Parkins and family, and Mitzi

