

**Submission
No 210**

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

Name: Kate McLaren
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Thank you for considering the impact and management of domestic and feral cats.

Action is critical in New South Wales as cats are killing wildlife in shocking numbers.

In my yard in East Tamworth, I have had bird feathers, bird carcasses and local cats hunting. I approached the owner of the cat which hunted on a daily basis to ask if she could keep her cat inside or in an outdoor enclosed run and was told that 'cats hunt and furthermore that her cat was being attacked by birds. She had no interest in keeping her cat contained.

Education of cat owners is paramount as is desexing cats to reduce numbers and microchipping to identify owners.

I grew up having pet cats but when I realised their impact on native animals, I decided to no longer own a cat. My children and grandchildren own cats but keep them indoors as much loved pets. Teaching cat owners ways to provide mental stimulation and exercise is critical for the cat's well-being. It must also be easy for cat owners to purchase and construct outdoor enclosed runs.

To my surprise, on my rural conservation property, feral cats are at times present.

When I purchased chickens, I set up a fox trap next to the chicken coop. Within a week, I captured 2 feral cats. I have established an ongoing feral program to reduce ferals be they cats, foxes, pigs, goats/ deer. Because the cost and time to control ferals is considerable, people may not develop a feral control plan.

I believe it is essential that we support native fauna and flora by protecting habitat and that adequate, effective legislation support our unique part of our planet. Managing cat movement and decreasing cat population is vital for the health of our native animals.

Thank you for addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

Kate McLaren

