

Submission
No 213

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

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Submission: Thanks for accepting this submission. I am very lucky to be back onto Brisbane Water National Park. It is an incredible wildlife haven, and over the years I have had many native animals visit my property..... echidnas, antechinus, and I even have a Brown Tree Snake living in my roof. I treasure the wildlife here, across NSW, and all of Australia.

I am also sadly aware that Australia is an 'award winner' in terms of small mammal extinctions - mainly due to land clearing, and ceaseless predation by introduced predators - particularly cats!

The problem here requires two solutions:

1) Laws need to be introduced in NSW to enforce that domestic cats are NOT allowed to roam outside the house, particularly in areas where there is close proximity to native animal species. NSW can and SHOULD create laws enforcing this.

2) I strongly support the release of Gene-Drive for Cats, to safely and humanely eliminate **feral** cats from NSW, and indeed the whole of Australia. Gene Drive is a unique tool developed by the CSIRO that will - when released - collapse feral cat populations by progressively turning the entire cat feral cohort male! No females... no more feral cats! NSW should work with the Federal Government to at least trial GDfC in a secure location, with an aim to release it nationwide. I firmly believe that if this is NOT done soon, then we will suffer more extinctions of our unique and irreplaceable wildlife. CGfC has strong community support, is cheap to deploy, secure, humane and would be incredibly effective. Why aren't we doing this now!

More Here: <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2022/june/feral-cats-gene-drive>

Thanks & Regards..... Anthony Learmonth