

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 20 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Amendments to this Act have the potential to be a win/win for both companion cats and the protection of species affected by cats as predators.

I am a resident of East Maitland adjacent to a nature reserve, and am very aware of the impact roaming pet cats have on our native wildlife. 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. It is estimated that in NSW, approximately 96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles are killed by roaming pet cats every year – no wonder when about 70% of cat owners still allow their pets to roam.

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. This will not only benefit wildlife, but also pet cats. Cats that are kept at home have a longer life span than cats that roam which are often injured or killed through fighting, car accidents and disease.

This reform also requires funding for education, and 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.

I am 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,