

Submission
No 221

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

Name: Walter and Margaret Lamond

Date Received: 20 November 2024

Management of cat populations in New South Wales

Please bring the Committee's attention to our submission that is as follows:

These questions need to be addressed:

1. What is it about cats that mandates their maintenance of the right to wander at will, wherever they are inclined.?
2. Who would suffer, including cats and their owners, if cats were to be restrained 24/7.?
3. Why is cat's promulgation of toxoplasmosis disregarded?
4. Why don't they come under the provision of the Biosecurity Act (2015) NSW. ? This act mandates "Every person has a duty to manage biosecurity risks under their control, ensuring they do not spread infectious diseases".
5. Is there a better and/or cheaper method of protecting a diverse range of threatened creatures than imposing a continuous curfew on cats.?

General Comment:

ACT Government is progressively implementing the banning of cats moving beyond the boundaries of each suburban allotment. Those suburbs already restricted have not reflected any diminishing of property values. There is strong community support for this initiative.

The issue of toxoplasmosis is a reality for us. Personal pathology sampling of Walter revealed the presence of toxoplasmosis in his blood. This occurrence was attributed to unrestrained cats wandering onto our suburban back yard and defecating amongst our vegetables.

When our children were small, it was a necessity at night to cover their sand pit with a sheet of galvanised iron to prevent it being fouled by cats.

Our own use of an infra red camera overnight for a week on the fringe of the Wanda Wetlands detected only domestic cats on the prowl. Frequent observation in this area during daylight shows the presence of koalas, echidnas, lace monitors, land mullet (large skinks), plus a variety of snakes and avians such as Tawny Frogmouths.

Walter Lamond Margaret Lamond OAM

This is a personal submission. We are affiliated with our local Landcare but this is not a submission on their behalf.

We do not have affiliations with any political party nor any pecuniary interest in the outcome of the inquiry.