

Submission
No 224

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

Name: Jane Lemann
Date Received: 11 November 2024

Submission to Cat Enquiry NSW

This follows 1572 responses to the draft updated abatement plan for predation by feral cats. 11.12.23 and the THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN for predation by feral cats 2008 among numerous other studies.

Hopefully this Government will actually fund and do something about the problem this time.

Responsible cat ownership must mean cat containment.

I feel very strongly that it is high time the NSW Government made it possible for council rangers to remove cats from public places. For years I have been campaigning for, not only Feral Cat Control, but for Domestic Cat Control.

I am a bush regenerator and custodian of a Land for Wildlife property and over the last 30 years have seen the numbers of species and populations of our wild life decrease at an alarming rate due to the predation of cats and foxes.

I and a team of volunteers have worked every week for 32 years to restore a State and Nationally Endangered Ecological Community- Mount Gibraltar Forest, in an urban reserve only to find that neighbourhood cats are not only destroying the wildlife web but breeding in the Reserve and thereby multiplying the damage. Apart from pleading with neighbours we have no means of protecting what has been declared a protected community.

Unrestrained domestic cats feed the population of stray and feral cats and increase their genetic vigour.

The shocking statistics should be enough alone to make the Government take action and budget appropriately.

Predation by cats *Felix cattus* is a Key Threatening Process for native creatures.

RSPCA reports that cats will roam up to 30 square kilometres in a night. All cats carry the disease *Toxoplasmosis* which affects native animals, lambs and humans.

There needs to be a long term and consistent approach to cat control.

The NSW Government should be supporting the huge team of volunteers and professionals doing their best to conserve Australia's biodiversity for the long term well-being of the planet, instead we have been met with numerous well paid studies and no action.

There needs to be clear Timelines for Legislation; Funding; Research and On-ground control programs

I suggest that steps are taken towards the following points: leading to responsible pet ownership and biodiversity protection.

1. The Companion Animals Act and subsequent boards/committees/reviews should have wildlife representatives with the primary objective of reducing the cat problem
2. Domestic cats should be kept confined
3. That cats are prohibited in public places, parks and reserves. That council rangers or contractors are authorised to remove uncontained cats and that any unidentified impounded cat is euthanased.
4. Cats other than licensed breeders should be desexed
5. Domestic cats should be microchipped for identification
6. That there is a limit of two domestic cats per household
7. That all feral animal programs include control of cats
8. That NSW Government supports and funds cat control programs and research.

Jane Lemann OAM