

Submission
No 226

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

Name: Sue Proust
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I am a resident of Camden Head, on the mid north coast. I have seen cats roaming around our neighbourhood. There is a nature reserve very close to the houses and roaming cats can and do easily roam the reserve. The reserve is home to two species of bandicoots, swamp wallabies and many other native mammals. There are also many native bird and reptile species on the reserve. When there were two cats next door, roaming everywhere, nearly all the reptile species disappeared from our back yard. We did speak to the owners, but to no avail.

So, I am very concerned about the impact roaming pet cats are having on our native wildlife and support legislation to enable our local government to pass laws forbidding owners allowing their cats to roam unrestricted. If their backyard is not secure, then they should be kept indoors or have a secure outdoor exercise yard.

Figures I have seen suggest that 96 million native animals are killed each year by roaming pet cats. This is clearly unsustainable and needs urgent action. Keeping cats confined indoors would also be better for the cats. They would live longer, being less likely to be run over or catch diseases.

I ask that the government and the Animal Welfare Committee amend the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998, so that local governments are able to enforce anti-roaming laws. This happens in nearly every other state. Funding should be made available as well for compliance, education, desexing and registration. In WA, Tasmania, ACT and SA desexing is mandatory at 4 months. That should be the case in NSW as well.

Kind Regards,

Sue Proust