

**Submission
No 152**

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

Name: Roger Griffiths
Date Received: 11 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Just last week I was out on the local Berger Road Lake Reserve, South Windsor (Hawkesbury Council) trying to monitor birds, being especially on the lookout for summer visitors that have recently arrived. The data that I collect is fed into a database for future scientists in decades to come to ponder what bird species were and were not in this vicinity in 2024. In the decades to come scientists will have the information to see what has changed. What species have increased and what species have decreased over the years.

Now some small birds were calling out in alarm and I wondered what the cause of the commotion could be. Perhaps, a Pied Currawong, Australian Raven or something else. Then suddenly bursting out of cover and running away from me was a domestic cat! My heart sank. I thought it looked guilty and I wondered what it had been up to. This is not the first time this cat has been sighted on this reserve, but I groan at the damage that it must be attempting to inflict upon the small creatures on this reserve, including birds.

Now my wife and I have done several house sits in Victoria. In addition to the house, caring for cats is involved. The first time we did a house sit it was a pleasant surprise to find a cat cage in the backyard, and to be informed that the cats are by law not allowed off the property. Yes, on this issue of cat control I thought that Victoria is being more responsible than us in NSW.

If someone wants a cat, that's fine by me, but letting it freely roam off their own property into our general environment is not being responsible. It indicates ignorance of what damage a cat can inflict, or a lack of responsibility for the cat, or both. Either way our human activities regarding cats need to be refined in order to preserve our small creatures including our birds.

It delights me that something is being considered on the subject of how to reduce environmental damage by roaming domestic cats in NSW.

I will be delighted to hear of positive actions taken in the weeks to come to minimize the challenge of domestic cats roaming free in NSW. I will be delighted to record more birds in the Reserves in the years to come

Thank you for the work that you are doing to consider this issue.

Your Sincerely

Roger Griffiths