

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Hi

I would like to make a couple of comments on the issue of cat containment.

I live in Woronora Heights in the south of Sydney. I live on the bush above the Woronora river.

There are at least 4 cats that roam within a couple of blocks. I have approached one of the owners who informed me that her cat didn't kill other animals as it was too old. And yet it still heads into the bush each day. While I cannot prove that this one cat is killing small animals, all research would indicate that it is. The owner is in denial. From other comments I've heard, this is a fairly common attitude.

Many cat owners believe that fitting a cat with a bell will stop the killing. Not so. When I moved to where I am now there was a cat with a bell that "nested" in the base of a grevillia and killed the birds when they came in for nectar. Another owner in denial.

Recently there was a proposal in my area to convert water board land into housing blocks. This was prevented, as the land in question was deemed to be "a wild life corridor" and yet we allow cats to roam within this area. This would seem somewhat hypocritical. Protect the wildlife from people and their buildings but continue to allow the cats to roam at will and kill the wildlife.

There is a tremendous amount of well researched and verified data indicating the damage that cats do. I won't repeat it.

Pet owners need to take responsibility for their animals and the state needs to ensure they are provided with clear guidelines on how to protect the community, the environment and the pets themselves. Owning a pet is a responsibility and cat owners need to accept that responsibility and mitigate the damage their pets are currently inflicting on the Australian environment.

Therefore to me it is obvious that NSW needs to introduce cat containment laws preventing cats from roaming freely.

I am aware that feral cats and foxes also play a part in the destruction of native species but that is a different issue as the control of feral animals is a completely different problem that has to be managed differently. There are programs in place to attempt to exterminate foxes and feral cats.

Controlling the damage caused by domestic cats must be managed somehow and I believe containment laws are part of the solution.

Thanks

