

Submission  
No 227

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

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Emma Hurst, Robert Borsak, Wes Fang, and Aileen MacDonald,

Our native wildlife needs us to manage our roaming pet cats much better. It is just not good enough to expect cats to stop killing rapacious amounts of wildlife when they are let outside.

We cannot afford their slaughter, so we must keep them inside, and that means improving our laws, to punish irresponsible owners who will allow their cats outside.

I expect local governments to be able to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats, its such a local level enforcement issue, why is NSW still sitting on its hands on this issue?!

Cats in NSW kill ~96 million native mammals, birds and reptiles each year – that a shocking 110 native animals (average) killed by each roaming pet cat.

The 70% of cat owners still allow their pets to roam need to be regulated into respecting their environment a bit better.

Responsible pet ownership starts with clear rules to ensure pet owners keep cats inside their homes at all times.

Cats that are kept at home are happy, and can live up to 10 years longer than cats that roam.

We'll need education, compliance, easier desexing and registration.

We need clear rules around desexing from 4 months of age and requirements for all local governments to develop and implement companion animal management plans.

I ask you to support:

Amendments to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 to enable local governments to enforce anti-roaming laws for pet cats at a local level, bringing NSW into line with almost every other state.

State government funding of a minimum of \$9 million to fund compliance, education, desexing, identification and registration programs.

Requirements for all local governments to develop companion animal management plans to protect wildlife, as is required in Victoria.

Development of a state-wide web resource for responsible pet ownership.

Making desexing mandatory state-wide by 4 months of age, as is required in WA, Tasmania, ACT and SA.

Thank you for your time and effort,

Olivier La Mer-Adair