

Submission
No 191

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Byron Environment Centre Inc (BEC)

Date Received: 22 November 2024

Submission

- 1) Cats should be restricted to their owners properties
- 2) If outside of their owners properties, then cats should be treated the same as dogs and be under the control of their owner when in a public place
- 3) When development is adjacent to Environmentally protected land, Councils use of Planning Instruments such as DA Conditions of Consent and Restrictive Covenants on private land, prohibiting the keeping of cats, and Wildlife Protection Area zones prohibiting cats on public roads and reserves (under the Companion Animals Act), should be mandatory Council actions.
- 4) Move the NSW Govt guidelines to Councils from "guidelines" to mandatory re "NSW Government. NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. Developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands. Guidelines for consent and planning authorities" (attached), and with a State Govt directive for them to be core development restrictions of Council DA Consents -

"Developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands. Guidelines for consent and planning authorities:

2.4 Pests, weeds and edge effects

Aim

Adjoining or nearby development does not:

- lead to increased impacts from invasive species (weeds and pests), domestic pets and stock

The management of companion animals, such as cats and dogs, and stock is a particular challenge for developments close to NPWS land. NPWS recommends that planning authorities investigate all available options for minimising the risks from domestic pets and stock that may arise from new development. This includes educational tools (such as signage), compliance (such as regular council patrols), physical controls (such as fencing), and other options (such as restrictive covenants where legally possible)."

- 5) Insert into the EP&A Act - Mandatory Restrictions, and Mandatory Management, on the keeping of cats
- 6) Enact that Councils act with compliance actions on public complaints on breaches of cat prohibitions, on subdivisions where DA, or Restrictive Covenant, or Wildlife Protection Area cat prohibitions, are to protect existing urban, and adjacent environmentally protected, wildlife populations and habitat
- 7) Open the NSW Pet Registry registration details of cats to allow open public access, so that unregistered cats can be reported
- 8) Cease allowing the present Registration of cats to address's where the keeping of cats is prohibited by DA Consent Condition or a Restrictive Covenant.
- 9) With millions of native animals killed by cats annually, cats should be moved to a categorisation as a Key Threatening Process under The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act