

Submission
No 241

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

I am writing to express my support for policies that prioritise the welfare of cats and implement humane management practices. Cats are beloved companions - vital members of many households - and it is crucial that we adopt measures to ensure their well-being and safety while addressing overpopulation and stray cat management responsibly.

Specifically, I urge you to consider the following points:

1. Accessible and affordable desexing services: Many cat owners and communities struggle with the costs of desexing. Providing subsidized or free programs through government funding would make a significant difference in controlling overpopulation.
2. Community education: Raising awareness about the importance of desexing, responsible pet ownership, and humane practices will help create long-term cultural change.
3. Support for no-kill rescues: Funding and resources should be directed toward no-kill rescue organizations that actively promote and conduct desexing programs.
4. Legislation for TNR programs: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs are a proven, humane method to manage and reduce stray cat populations. Implementing legislation to support TNR initiatives will protect both cats and local ecosystems.
5. Protecting managed colonies: Existing, well-managed colonies provide a humane solution for unowned cats. These colonies should be protected, not penalised.
6. Stricter breeding regulations: Overbreeding contributes significantly to cat overpopulation. Stricter controls and penalties for irresponsible breeding practices could alleviate this issue.
7. Mandatory desexing, microchipping, and registration: These measures promote accountability and responsibility among pet owners, ensuring fewer cats are abandoned or lost.

These initiatives are not only vital for the welfare of our feline companions but also for the sustainability of our communities. I hope you will take these points into consideration to implement policies that reflect compassion and responsibility. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,