

Submission
No 240

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

I am making a submission with regards to Law Reform to Cat Management.

My concerns about the current Cat Management laws are as follows:

- Pet cats which roam freely outside kill an estimated 323 million native Australian animals and an additional 223 non-native animals annually. Of this 65 million native animals are killed in the Greater Sydney area;

- the Blue Mountains are part of the Greater World Heritage area and we should be doing everything in our power to protect fauna and flora;

- Roaming cats are a direct threat to threatened species, which are found in our local area - such as Blue Mountains water skink, eastern pygmy possum and glossy black cockatoo;

- the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 doesn't allow local councils the flexibility to introduce cat containment policies, in consult with the local community, that meet the needs of our area and protect local wildlife;

- Cat containment and responsible pet ownership policies would require cat owners to keep their pet within the bounds of their property, as is currently the case with dogs and other pets;

- Local Government Association of NSW supports "Amendments to Legislation to enable councils to more effectively manage the nuisance effects of cats on residents and wildlife - the streamlining of animal registration and limiting the roaming of cats beyond the owner's property;

- Cats kept safely at home live up to 10 years longer. RSPCA reports that 2 in 3 cat owners have lost a cat to a roaming-related incident and 1 in 3 to a car accident;

I hope that, with the above amendments made to the Law, the residents, including cat owners and their cats, and the wildlife in the area, will be able to live a safer, healthier and better life than is currently the case. This would enhance all council areas that are able to adopt these changes.