

Submission  
No 251

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 22 November 2024

---

Partially  
Confidential

Uncontrolled domestic cats pose an extremely high risk to native animals. As with each feral cat, a domestic cat may kill several hundred native mammals and/or birds during its lifetime. The figures in Australia:

Free-roaming cats, both feral and pet, are highly efficient predators. On top of the 27 native species that cats helped push into extinction since colonisation, including the pig-footed bandicoot and the Macquarie Island parakeet, they now imperil at least another 123 nationally threatened species.

On average, cats kill 2.92 million mammals, 1.67 million reptiles, 1.09 million birds, 0.26 million frogs and 2.97 million invertebrates every 24 hours.

The stats are scary, and cats will continue to drive species toward extinction unless we intervene. Even a single cat can do a lot of damage. Source: Invasive Species Council.

#### Roaming pet cats

On average, each roaming pet cat kills 110 native animals per year, including 40 reptiles, 38 birds, and 32 mammals. Source: Wildlife Research 47(8) 523-539 <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR19174>

#### Feral cats

Feral cats kill about 2 billion native and non-native animals each year, including 1.9 million reptiles, 1.2 million birds, 3.2 million mammals, and 3 million invertebrates.

<https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/impact-of-feral-cats-in-australia/>

#### Extinct species

Feral cats have directly contributed to the extinction of more than 20 Australian mammals, including the rusty numbat, the desert bandicoot, and the broad-faced potoroo.

#### Threatened species

Cats imperil at least 123 nationally threatened species.

No domestic cat should be allowed out at night or given the opportunity to kill vulnerable native animals. If we claim to be proud Australians, control domestic cats and encourage the recovery of threatened and vulnerable native animals across this country.