

Submission
No 254

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

Name: Ms Susan Tanner
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Dear members of The NSW Government,

Re Controlling Cats in NSW

Firstly thank you for addressing this important issue!

Secondly I am a cat owner and passionate about animal rights and protecting our unique native animals and reptiles and birds.

I suggest that this important issue, to be effective in control, needs to be tackled in several ways:

1) Breeders of cats must ensure their kittens are registered at point of sale or at birth.

Legislation needs to be passed to allow fines for breeders who do not comply. All kittens must be microchipped.

2) Owners must register their ownership and provide proof of desexing of their cat to the registry. This does involve admin by NSW Government. Again fines need to apply if the cat is not desexed.

3) Councils and Government must make it mandatory that ALL cats are locked up at night so they don't kill wildlife. (We have lots of birds and possums in my suburb). This must include cats in rural areas especially. New owners could be made to sign a contract that they agree to this and are aware there is a fine if they don't comply.

4) All cats need to wear collars with ID and bells.

5) If Council patrol for stray cats they must be allowed to catch them and euthanise after allowing time for owners to contact.

6) Vets must also be given some responsibility to ensure cats in their patient list are desexed.

7) National Parks and Wildlife Rangers need to be given permission and direction to trap feral cats and euthanise them. * AWC (Australian Wildlife Conservancy) have valuable information on the predatory behaviour of feral cats. Please liaise with this organisation.

Finally MONEY needs to be spent on the issue of feral cats and stray cats. The NSW Government Budget must allocate funds.

In short EVERYONE, from breeders, pet shops, cat owners, councils and National Parks and Wildlife must take more responsibility for reducing stray and feral cats.

A public educational campaign to show the devastating impact of feral cats and abandoned cats would help. Translate into all our migrant languages too!

You need to be militant about this issue. Like parking or speeding fines. Half hearted efforts will not do the job.

All best

Yours sincerely,

Susan Tanner