

Submission  
No 257

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

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## Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations

*Regarding the impact of cats on threatened native animals in metropolitan and regional settings.*

I think cats have been unfairly represented as being a big contributor to the loss of native birds and animals as shown in the report written by Professor Jacqui Rand of The University of Queensland. The amount of wildlife killed on our roads or dying because of loss of habitat is a bigger cause for concern. Killing cats will not solve the problem.

*The effectiveness of cat containment policies including potential barriers.*

I originally thought that legislated cat containment would be the answer, but it just hasn't worked in real-time applications. Many factors have contributed including lack of finances for some owners, some cats not actually being "owned" but still being fed by someone. This policy was adopted in Yarra Ranges, Vic and was documented to be unsuccessful.

*Welfare outcomes for cats under contained conditions.*

It seems under cat containment schemes that more cats were euthanised.

*The effectiveness of community education programs and responsible pet ownership initiatives.*

Education is always key. Helping owners to understand how important desexing is paramount. Encouraging adoption from pounds and rescue groups all helps. Helping people understand that a local homeless cat population will not be solved by just killing them all.

*The effectiveness of and benefits to implementing large scale cat desexing programs.*

Proactive community cat programs have been scientifically proven to reduce stray cat populations.

Always look for the kind solution, do not blame the cats, look at the science and implement the ideas that we know can work for example TNR (trap, neuter and return), community education and subsidised or free de-sexing for the disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your time.

Melinda Dillon