

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Cats have a right to be treated humanely. If cats are properly looked after by humans they should pose no threat to wildlife.

I believe that it is important that they are mandatorily de-sexed and microchipped, kept indoors at night, and be required to wear collars with bells. With these measures in place wildlife and native birds are protected.

There is a very real and deeply concerning problem of wildlife extinction in this country, but harming other animals is not the solution. It is the people who acquire cats and then mistreat them or dump them which leads to the problem of feral cats.

Just as all animals (including humans) kill other animals for food, if cats are left on the streets to fend for themselves, they have no choice but to do what they need to do to survive. Making sure there are significant penalties for people who allow cats to become feral would be a much more effective measure to save wildlife.

Kitten farms should also be stopped (clearly for humane reasons) and to reduce the feral cat population that will inevitably increase as a result of thousands of baby animals adding to the mix, when there are almost always countless numbers of rescue cats that need rehoming.

Finally, I have been a cat and dog owner for most of my life, and while the wonders of dog ownership are universally celebrated, it is important for non cat owners to know that cats are incredibly loving, affectionate and cherished companions for many in our communities across NSW.

Thank you.