

**Submission
No 273**

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

Name: Mr Dave Livett
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Re: Management of Feral Cat Populations in NSW

I understand that the solution the government proposes is to authorise widespread killing of feral cat populations and mandatory containment of domestic cats.

I totally disagree with this and believe it would be both cruel, unethical and ineffective. The only (and most humane) way to fix it is by education programs, subsidised de-sexing of cats, a system of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), and increased funding to animal shelters.

I ask the committee to consider the following:

The word used is 'killing': what exactly does it mean? Poisoning? (Fraught with every kind of risk to other animals, including natives, also children and adults, especially in urban areas). Cruel methods of trapping, starvation, shooting, gassing? How will this be policed? Who will carry it out? Does the legislation authorise random killing by any member of the public or any council worker who finds a stray cat?

One glance at social media platforms will show you how many 'Lost Cats' there are in any given week. These are cats that escape by accident from loving owners who urgently want them back. Are they to be subject to random killing by neighbours or council workers?

Most people are less likely to report feral colonies or individual stray cats if they believe their report will result in the kind of 'killing' mentioned above.

Studies have shown that such eradication methods only work on islands where no new introductions are possible while the eradication is under way. How could they work for any length of time if people go on abandoning unneutered cats as they do at present – because they do not understand the importance of desexing or cannot afford it?

Ask any vet and you will hear that there are many people in NSW doing everything they can, from volunteer work to charitable donations, to help cats, who are strays for no reason except human carelessness and long-term council inaction.

I ask the committee members to make the decision to produce the desired results in the most humane and effective way; by education programs, subsidised de-sexing of cats, a system of T-N-R and proper and adequate funding to animal shelters.

Yours faithfully,
David Livett