

Submission
No 275

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

(a) the impact of cats on threatened native animals in metropolitan and regional settings

I live in regional south east nsw, and am a volunteer wildlife rescue & rehabilitation. I work fulltime, and outside business hours I dedicated my time to helping my local wildlife. Many calls are at night time to animals mauled or killed by uncontained domestic cats. Animals I have attended include microbats, gliders (feathertail, sugar, and squirrel), baby possums (ringtail & brushtail), and many bird varieties.

I find this totally unacceptable from a wildlife cruelty issue, as well as the terrible impacts it has on our local vets (who treat these maimed animals), as well as the volunteer wellbeing.

(b) the effectiveness of cat containment policies including potential barriers

Current policies are totally ineffective. Other than cost barriers to cat owners, many cat owners do not believe cats should be contained. I think this attitude is ignorant, and the only way for local government to enforce cat containment measures, is for the NSW Govt. to grow a set of balls, and change legislation.

(c) welfare outcomes for cats under contained conditions

Only positive. Cats don't need to roam, which can result in injury from fighting or being hit by cars; as well as catching disease from catching wildlife.

(d) the effectiveness of community education programs and responsible pet ownership initiatives

May have some impact. Most irresponsible cat owners I know, can't be convinced. The only thing that may deter them, is financial penalty.

(e) implications for local councils in implementing and enforcing cat containment policies

My council (Eurobodalla SC) has tried multiple times to pass stricter cat containment measures, unsuccessfully. Most recently was last year.

(f) the effectiveness and benefits to implementing large scale cat desexing programs

I believe this would be effective, and also have positive flow on effects for the overwhelmed cat rescue sector.

(g) the impact of potential cat containment measures on the pound system

The pound system would require greater support, and expansion.

(h) the outcomes of similar policies on cat containment in other Australian states or territories

Victoria had had excellent cat containment measures for many decades. NSW should take a leaf out of their book.

(i) options for reducing the feral cat population

More financial incentives, such as a bounty and formal reduction programs.

(j) any other related matters.

None I can add