

**Submission  
No 278**

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

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Why do we continue to punish others for our own mistakes? Cats and all other "feral" animals didn't just appear out of thin air. WE brought them here. WE failed to desex them. WE released them. What on earth do you expect any animal to do in the wild but try to survive?

Lets be realistic. This proposal has absolutely nothing to do with saving native animals and the environment, because we wouldn't be living on the continent with the highest rate of deforestation if it were. That would have been stopped long ago. No, this is about profits. The poor, poor farmers suffering crop/"live stock" loss (sarcasm). If this proposal were in the name of saving native animals and the environment, this is where we'd realistically start. Our out of date, out of touch farming system is the root cause of the issue. It needs to be completely redesigned.

The damages caused by cats (and all other "feral" animals) are insignificant in comparison to the damages caused by the farming industry. You can't have mass deforestation and drained rivers and expect native animals to somehow come out unscathed. You also can't have rain either, but hey, I digress.

If farmers really want to protect crops and "live stock", obviously mindlessly releasing baits and hunting isn't the answer. Nor is this an area they have any right being involved with in any case, given their monetary motivations and therefor lack of concern for the animal's welfare.

The ONLY method that should be considered in regards to reducing the numbers of "feral" animals is virally vectored immunocontraception. I believe we're already trailing or about to do so with mice populations to avoid mice plagues.

This should also be handled entirely by those trained in animal welfare.

Yes, it will be costly to target every specific breed of "feral" animal. But again, this is an issue we created in the first place. It's our responsibility to contribute to a non-lethal solution.