

Submission
No 279

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Domestic cats are mistakenly thought to be benign bed warmers. It's to forget they are predators who have a devastating impact on suburban wildlife that already face a precarious survival thanks to loss of native vegetation and safe habitat. For example, while walking in a local bush reserve, I was distressed to be approached by an obviously well cared for domestic cat (a very fluffy Persian) that led me to the disembowelled remains of a blue tongue lizard, its catch of the day. The cat is well known in our area and seen frequently stalking in this reserve, but the owners have resisted requests to contain it.

I am a cat lover but not a cat owner because I live in one of Sydney's bushy suburbs and I value the endemic wildlife. Yet even in my own garden I have twice found a neighbourhood cat in the process of killing a native chick. We used to have Eastern Water Dragons in our native garden. They disappeared after neighbours moved in 8 years ago with pet cats that I often catch prowling through our garden. Approaches to the neighbours, letter drops by Council, and social media messaging do not convince these people that their cute ball of fluff could do harm. They refuse to contain the cat either at night or during the day.

We need legislated 24/7 cat containment across the State.

There are many examples of domestic cats living comfortable and happy lives in suitable domestic enclosures. It is the owners who are resistant to curtailing the opportunities their cats have to predate the native wildlife. Legislation for 24/7 cat containment would give vulnerable native wildlife a chance.

Please vote to support the legislation for 24/7 cat containment throughout NSW.