

Submission
No 312

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

Subject: Inquiry into the Management of Cat Populations

Dear members of Parliament,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed "control" of stray cat populations in New South Wales. I believe that these drastic measures are both cruel and ineffective.

I urge the committee to consider the following:

- * **The Ineffectiveness of Lethal Control:** Historical evidence demonstrates that lethal control methods have failed to significantly reduce feral cat populations. In fact, such methods can often lead to an increase in population numbers due to the vacuum effect.

- * **The Importance of Humane Solutions:** Community cat programs, which focus on trap-neuter-return (TNR) and rehoming, have proven to be effective in managing feral cat populations humanely. These programs reduce suffering, improve public health, and protect wildlife.

- * **The Role of Education and Responsible Pet Ownership:** Educating the public about responsible pet ownership, including the importance of desexing, microchipping, and keeping cats indoors or in secure enclosures, is crucial in reducing the number of stray cats.

- * **The Impact on Wildlife:** While cats can have a negative impact on native wildlife, habitat loss and degradation are the primary threats to biodiversity. Addressing these underlying issues, such as restoring habitat and creating wildlife corridors, is essential for long-term conservation.

I strongly urge the committee to prioritise humane, science-based solutions to manage cat populations in New South Wales. By investing in TNR programs, education, and habitat restoration, we can create a more compassionate and sustainable future for both cats and wildlife.

All life deserves a chance, we can help and make a change without killing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,