

Submission
No 308

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 November 2024

Partially
Confidential

NSW Legislative Council
Animal Welfare Committee

21 November 2024

Dear Committee

Inquiry into the management of cat populations of NSW

As a Sydney resident I am deeply concerned about the impact of pet cats upon NSW native wildlife populations, in addition to the impact of feral cats.

I am aware of the scientific research about the impact of pet and feral cats. Pet cats kill up to 96 million of native animals each year in NSW. Pet cats kill up to 323 million native animals annually. These are shocking figures considering the parlous state of many native Australian animal populations, which include numerous species that are vulnerable and endangered.

Unfortunately the great majority of pet cat owners in NSW allow their cats to roam outside of their homes.

It is alarming, and respectfully absurd, that NSW state laws prevent local Councils from requiring and enforcing containment of pet cats.

Laws that require cats to be contained to property would also benefit:

- a. Public health – Stopping pet cats from roaming would greatly reduce cat borne diseases. Cat-borne diseases cause an estimated 550 deaths and 8,500 hospitalisations from acute infections and increased rates of car accidents, suicides and mental illness in infected people.
- b. Pet cats – Pet cats live up to ten years longer when contained indoors, and shielded from the risks of car accidents, dog attacks and injuries.

I respectfully urge the Committee to make the following recommendations:

1. That legislation is urgently amended so that Local Councils have the power to pass laws containing pet cats to owners' properties 24 hours a day, and enforce the same.
2. Funding to be promptly provided to boost compliance including by providing rebates to help contain cats, education and for registration, identification and de-sexing.

3. Further to 2), the NSW government should provide funding and contributions up to at least \$10 million, as it would be unreasonable, and undermine the reforms if Local Councils were forced to shoulder the costs.
4. De-sexing should be required and mandatory across the state by 4 months of age, consistent with requirements in other states and territories.
5. All local councils should develop companion animal management plans to protect wildlife.
6. Resources should be developed and made available to educate the public on responsible pet cat ownership.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,