

Submission
No 334

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

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I am very concerned that the proposal could result in exacerbating the views of some in our society that cats are bad and deserve to be killed or maimed, or even tortured.

Cats are already maligned as evil (especially black cats) and are often associated with the feminine. There is a well established psychological association between psychopaths and a hatred of cats, especially those who go onto rape, and even murder women. There is a pattern of such individuals starting as children with the torture and killing of cats. Surely we do not want our children growing up thinking that it is ok and possibly good to hurt a cat.

We all know that problems with cats in the community or natural areas are a product of irresponsible human behaviour. Without human intervention they would not even exist in Australia, let alone deliberately bred for profit or ego and irresponsibly released into the community or nature. We need to take responsibility for our role in creating the problem we now have.

I therefore implore the Government to carefully consider the message that is sent to the community and society at large and to look seriously at ways to reduce numbers through desexing programs and controlled breeding and selling of cats and kittens. Is it possible to have desexing programs in national parks and other natural/wilderness areas? This needs to be considered albeit a slower and more expensive way to control the problem. Encouraging or condoning violence toward any creature is morally wrong and is a huge backward step for modern Australia.