

Submission
No 351

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

It is very important to provide subsidised desexing programs as it ensures that people with limited income can help ensure that dumped and feral cats cannot keep reproducing and compounding the issue with increasing feral cat population. I own property in rural Bathurst region, my parents live there 2/3rd of the week and we have noticed a number of cats being dumped in the area. One of our neighbours rescues as many as possible and we help with food and desexing when funds are available. This year DIVA has helped with a large number of desexing and we noticed drop of kittens until a car has been observed in the area and soon several female cats on heat were roaming the area. Not many people are aware of subsidised desexing and also many aren't eligible. This should be available to anyone who wants to help stray cats however due to current financial crisis cannot afford to do so. I believe we pay enough in taxes and in council rates for the government to do more in helping to lower the stray cat population because quite frankly current \$300+ for unsubsidised desexing is huge amount of money. I have 3 cats, all adopted strays, my sister has 4 of the same and it is not as much the feeding but the vet bills if any of them get sick. We also live in the Campbelltown area, and the local council does hardly anything to help with the exploding feral cat colonies that are in the area. The individuals that help have limited financial resources so can only arrange few cats to desex and in the meantime more cats are dumped. It is high area of people on the dole and the first to suffer are the cats. I firmly believe that the government should be doing more to help, not just in the regional areas but also in the cities. The less number of cats that can reproduce means less cats in the long term. I would rather my taxes went to pay to desex a stray cat than to feed overindulged fat assed politicians.